ELECTRICITY FOR THE FARM

The Hon. Adam Beck Details the Uses Power Can Be Put To.

A despatch from Guelph says: A cream separator was operated twice a day by Hydro-electric power in the dairy section at the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, and attracted a great deal of attention. The machine is so simple that it can be attached to any electric light fixture. There are also pictures on show demonstrating the uses to which electricity can be put on the farm. The pictures were gathered by Hon. Adam Beck during his travels in Europe.

The uses to which electricity can be adapted on the farm were explained to over a thousand interested listeners from rural parts at a public meeting in the City Hall, by Hon. Adam Beck.

Professor G. C. Creelman, President of the O. A. C., presented the case of his college before the farmers, urging them to avail themselves of it, and to spread its influence. He also urged the crying need of the college for greater facilities and more extended accommodation and more money from the Government.

The Minister of Power promised the audience that within a few years his department would have 1,000 miles of low voltage lines through Ontario, and country farms for eight miles all along these lines could be served by power. Mr. Beck told of what he had seen of the operation of electricity on farms in European countries. Plowing, thrashing, milking cows, and many other operations were included. He promised the farmers that in Ontario all these things could be done by Hydro-electric power, and that the use of electricity would be a great economy. An experiment had been tried at Ingersoll of filling a silo by electric power, which showed that the electric operation cost $32 less than the same operation by steam power.

A STRIKING DIFFERENCE.

The striking difference in the price received by the farmer for his beef and those paid by the consumer was pointed out in an address on the economical feeding of beef cattle by Prof. J. H. Grisdale, Director of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Ottawa, who also gave some instances to show how many farmers make little out of their beef cattle. It cost the farmers from six to ten cents, live weight, to produce them. This cost includes feeding, care, stabling, and all other items of expense. For this the farmers receive from four to eight cents a pound from the butchers, leaving a balance on the wrong side. At the same time the consumer pays from six to twenty-five cents a pound for the same meat. The lecturer said he could not account for the difference in price, but believed the butchers might. Nevertheless, farmers could make a good profit from beef, in spite of the differences, by care and economical feeding.

SEED GRAIN MEN.

Mr. L. H. Newman, B. S. A., of Ottawa, Secretary of the Canadian Seed Grain Growers' Association, outlined the aims and work of the association, which were, briefly, to encourage the production and distribution of the best stock seed through the country. "It is our aim," he said, "to put the handling of the registered seed on a high commercial basis. We wish to increase the supply of real good seed in Canada. We have in Ontario this year a little over 3,000 bushels of registered seed. Many times this quantity are required, and it shall be our aim to work towards increasing this supply in future years."

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

Two hundred women from all parts of Wellington County held a meeting in connection with the Winter Fair for the purpose of discussing the work carried on by the Women's Institute of the county. G. A. Putnam, of Toronto, superintendent of women's institutes, who presided, spoke of the value of the institutes from a community and co-operative standpoint, and referred to the good work carried on along the lines of sanitation of schools and the distribution of good seeds. Next year, he said, the convention would be extended by inviting neighboring counties to send delegates.

BOTH HELD LIABLE.

Painters and Advertising Company Caused Death of Cattle.

A despatch from Ottawa says: An advertising company who put up a sign in a farmer's field and the company who painted the sign were held equally liable by Judge Gunn on Wednesday for damages because the plaintiff's cattle died as the result of imbibing poison from some of the paint pots left in the field after the work was done. The company erecting the sign had never obtained permission to do so.

MONTREAL BRANCHING OUT.

Estimates for 1912 One Million in Excess of Previous Year.

A despatch from Montreal says: According to the civic estimates tabulated at the City Hall at noon on Friday by Mr. Pelletier, the city comptroller, the city will spend more than a million dollars in excess of last year. Next year's total expenditure on revenue account is placed at $8,185,000, against $7,005,285 placed in the estimates last year.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Canada Maintains Twenty-two Coast Stations.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Development of wireless telegraphy in Canada is indicated in a report just issued respecting radio-telegraphic stations. On the Pacific Coast there are nine stations, and on the Atlantic thirteen. The cost of maintenance of the former stations was $30,964, while the revenue was but $3,108. A total of 40,074 messages were transmitted on the east coast, maintenance of stations cost $44,524 and messages totalled $49,339.

UP GO FARES.

British Railways Increase Excursion and Commutation Rates.

A despatch from London says: It has been decided by practically all the railways in Great Britain to increase the excursion and commutation fares by from 7 to 10 per cent. on Jan. 1. This increase is made necessary, they claim, by the raising of the wages of their employes.

ROYALTY WAS IN DANGER

Duke and Duchess of Fife and Two Daughters in Steamship Wreck.

A despatch from Gibraltar says: The P. and O. steamship Delhi, bound for Egypt, ran ashore on Wednesday two miles south of Cape Spartel, which is on the northeast coast of Morocco. A number of British Royalties were on board the steamer, including the Princess Royal, Louise Victoria, sister of King George V., her husband, the Duke of Fife, and their two daughters, Princess Alexandra and Princess Maud. The passenger list also included Lord and Lady Kinnaird, Sir Thomas Erskine Holland and Sir Lewis and Lady Molesworth. The Delhi was bound from London to Bombay. The Royal passengers were en route to Egypt, and she had about 100 saloon passengers. Fortunately the Delhi is fitted with wireless, and was able speedily to summon aid from Gibraltar and Tangier. Several warships were soon on the spot, and in spite of the extremely rough weather all the passengers were rescued.

The landing of the passengers was a dangerous undertaking, and all concerned were extremely anxious. The waves were tremendous and the surf boats were constantly threatened with swamping. The Royal Princess and her daughters suffered like the rest. An eye-witness of the landing on the beach at Cape Spartel says one boat capsized in the surf and all the occupants were drenched to the skin. Princess Alexandra, one of the daughters of the Duchess of Fife, was narrowly saved from drowning by a sailor, who grabbed her by the shoulders and held her up until the two were dragged ashore. The Duchess of Fife and her two daughters, after borrowing some clothes at the lighthouse, rode to Tangier on horseback.

One of the launches of the French cruiser Friant, which had rendered the bravest of services in taking off the women and children, was swamped and sank. Six of the crew were drowned. The others struggled ashore in an exhausted condition. Several attempts of boats that went to the assistance of the Delhi were baffled by the tremendous seas. It is doubtful if the ship can be saved, but if the gale abates the specie, mails and cargo may be landed.

MAKING SAFE INVESTMENTS

ON RELATIVE AMOUNT OF NET QUICK ASSETS DEPENDS SAFETY OF MOST INDUSTRIAL BONDS.

In Canada where Banking System is Superior Current Assets Need Not Exceed Current Liabilities by so Great Proportion as in States—Bond Issue to be Safe Should Not Exceed Amount of Net Quick Assets Unless Real Estate is Considerable.

The articles contributed by "Investor" are for the sole purpose of guiding prospective investors, and, if possible of saving them from losing money through placing it in "wild-cat" enterprises. The impartial and reliable character of the information may be relied upon. The writer of these articles and the publisher of this paper have no interests to serve in connection with this matter other than those of the reader.

(By "Investor.")

The importance of current assets having a substantial margin in excess of current liabilities is, of course, apparent when considering the accounts of an industrial company with a view to investing in its bonds. We read last week that this excess is called "net quick assets," and saw that it had an important bearing on the value of the bonds of any company whose land holdings had a less value than the amount of bonds outstanding.

For an industrial bond to be safe net quick assets, however, should do more than merely exist. They must be examined with reference to their relation to several other items to which they should bear a definite proportion.

The following is a balance sheet of an industrial company whose bonds are considered a sound investment and is chosen as an illustration chiefly because of the simplicity of its arrangement. It has added interest by being the statement of an operating company and not merely a form got up for purpose of illustration. If the inexperienced reader will follow the explanations carefully the next balance sheet he examines in connection with a bond offering will doubtless have added interest.

ASSETS.

Property:—		
Real Estate, Buildings, Machinery, etc.		$1,994,803
Patents, Trademarks and Goodwill		182,485
Investments		11,421
CURRENT ASSETS.		
Accounts and Bills Receivable	$724,046	
Inventory Stock-in-Trade	951,856	
Inventory Supplies	81,435	
Cash on Hand and in Bank	53,782	
		$1,811,119
		$3,999,828

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock		$1,500,000
Bonds		1,051,200
CURRENT LIABILITIES.		
Interest accrued	$ 31,536	
Accounts and Bills Payable	109,670	
Bank Advances	905,930	
		1,047,136
Surplus		401,492
		$3,999,828

In this case current assets amount to $1,811,119 and current liabilities to $1,047,136, leaving a balance—net quick assets—to the amount of $763,983. Now in the United States where, owing to the defects of the banking system, it is dangerous to owe the banks much, it is a rule that to put a company in good shape its current assets should amount to at least double its current liabilities. In Canada the banker of such a company would be deeply concerned in its welfare. He would be anxious for the company to do well and therefore there would be a very remote possibility of the company having to pay off its advances when they matured, if that were at an inconvenient time. There is, as a result, no danger of inability to renew maturing notes such as occurred in the United States in 1907, and which caused most of the industrial failures of that year there. So in Canada, unless bank advances form an inconsiderable part of the total liabilities, the proportion between current assets and current liabilities need not be so great as two to one, although, of course, the greater the proportion is the better. Where bank loans are secured by such stable commodities as grain, iron, steel, etc, and form a substantial part of the current liabilities, the proportion of current loans to current liabilities may fall to one and a half to one without misgiving. In the above instance the proportion is one and three-quarters to one.

The proportion between net quick assets and bonded debt is a most important consideration. Where a company has no real estate the bonded debt of a company should never exceed the net quick assets. Where there is real estate of value the bonded debt should not exceed two-thirds the value of the real estate plus the net quick assets, and here again the greater the excess of these two over bonded debt the better. In the case of the balance sheet given above, real estate, buildings, machinery, etc., amount to $1,994,803, of which—owing to the nature of this particular business — the greater proportion is of value in case of forced liquidation. Ordinarily, however, probably under 25 per cent. of the real estate, buildings and machinery account represents the value of the land. Taking arbetrarily only 20 per cent. in this case, we have net quick assets of $763,983 plus value of land $398,960, or $1,162,943 behind the $1,051,200 of bonds outstanding, leaving a margin of over 10 per cent. Some companies do better than this, however. A recent issue of bonds, in addition to real estate of considerably greater value than the bond issue had net quick assets over ten per cent in excess of the amount of bonds.

PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES OF AMERICA.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese and Other Produce at Home and Abroad.

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Dec. 19.—Flour—Winter wheat, 90 per cent. patents, $3.45 to $3.50, seaboard. Manitoba flours—First patents, $5.50; second patents, $5; and strong bakers', $4.80, on track, Toronto.

Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.08 Bay ports; No. 2 Northern at $1.05, and No. 3 at $1.01, Bay ports.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 white, red and mixed, new, 88 to 89c, outside.

Peas—Good shipping peas, $1.05 to $1.10, outside.

Oats—Car lots of No. 2 Ontario, 43 to 43 1-2c, and of No. 3 at 42 to 42 1-2c; on track, Toronto, 46 to 46 1-2c; No. 2 Western Canada oats, 46c, and feed, 44c, Bay ports.

Barley—The market is very dull, with trade about over.

Corn—No. 3 American yellow quoted at 67 1-2 to 68c, Toronto freight.

Rye—93c, outside, for No. 2.

Buckwheat—60 to 61c, outside.

Bran—Manitoba bran, $24, in bags, Toronto freights. Shorts, $25.50 to $26.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—Winter stock, $3 to $4.50 per barrel.

Beans—Small lots of hand-picked, $2.30 to $2.35 per bushel.

Honey—Extracted, in tins, 11 to 12c per lb. Combs, $2.50 to $2.75.

Baled hay—No. 1 at $16 to $17, on track, nd No. 2 at $14 to $14.50.

Baled straw—$7.50 to $8, on track, Toronto.

Potatoes—Car lots, in bags, quoted at $1.30, and Delawares at $1.35. Out of store, $1.45 to $1.50.

Poultry—Wholesale prices of dressed poultry:—Chickens, 12 to 13c per lb; fowl, 9 to 11c; ducks, 12 to 14c; geese, 11 to 12c; turkeys, 18 to 20c. Live poultry, about 2c lower than the above.

BUTTER, EGGS, CHEESE.

Butter—Dairy, choice, in wrappers, 26 to 28c; store lots, 23 to 25c; and inferior, tubs, 17 to 18c. Creamery quoted at 31 to 32c for rolls, and 28 to 29c for solids, per lb.

Eggs—Strictly new-laid, 45c, delivered here, and fresh at 27 to 28c per dozen, in case lots.

Cheese—Large quoted at 15 1-2c, and twins at 15 3-4c per lb.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Bacon—Long clear, 11 1-2 to 11 3-4c per lb., in case lots. Pork, short cut, $22.50; do., mess, $19.50 to $20. Hams—Medium to light, 16 to 16 1-2c; heavy, 14 to 14 1-2c; rolls, 10 3-4 to 11c; breakfast bacon, 16 to 17c; backs, 19 to 20c.

Lard—Tierces, 11 3-4c; tubs, 12c; pails, 12 1-4c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Dec. 19.—Oats — Canadian Western, No. 2, 47 1-2c; do., No. 3, 46c; extra No. 1 feed, 46 to 46 1-2c;; No. 2 local white, 46 1-2c; No. 3 do., 45 1-2c; No. 4 do., 44 1-2c. Barley—Manitoba feed, 64c; malting, 96c to $1. Buckwheat, No. 2, 65 to 66c. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, $5.60; seconds, $5.10; strong bakers', $4.90; Winter patents, choice, $4.75 to $5; straight rollers, $4.25 to $4.40; do., bags, $1.95 to $2.05. Rolled oats—Barrels, $5; bags, 90 lbs., $2.37 1-2. Bran—$23; shorts, $25; middlings, $27 to $28; mouillie, $29 to $34. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, $15 to $15.50. Cheese—Finest Westerns, 14 1-2 to 14 3-4c; finest Easterns, 13 7-8 to 14 1-4c. Butter—Choicest creamery, 30 1-2 to 31 1-2c; seconds, 29 to 30c. Eggs—Fresh, 60c; selected, 30 to 31c; No. 1 stock, 26 to 27c. Potatoes—Per bag, car lots, $1.25 to $1.27 1-2.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Minneapolis, Dec. 19.—Wheat—December, $1.00 1-2; May, $1.05 1-8; July, $1.06 1-4 to $1.06 3-8; No. 1 hard, $1.01 5-8; No. 1 Northern, $1.01 1-8; No. 2 Northern, 98 5-8 to 99 1-8c; No. 3 wheat, 95 5-8 to 98 5-8c. No. 3 yellow corn, 55 to 56c. No. 3 white oats, 50 to 54c. No. 2 rye, 85 to 86c. Bran, $23 to $23.50. Flour—First patents, $4.30 to $5.10; second patents, $4.40 to $4.70; first clears, $3.50 to $3.65; second clears, $2.20 to $2.60.

Buffalo, Dec. 19.—Spring wheat—No. 1 Northern, carloads store, $1.13; Winter, No. 2 red, 98 1-2c; No. 3 red, 96 1-2c; No. 2 white, 98 1-2c. Corn—No. 2 yellow, 64 3-4c; No. 4 yellow, 62 3-4c, all on track, through billed. Oats—No. 2 white, 52 1-4c; No. 3 white, 51 3-4c; No. 4 white, 50 3-4c. Barley—Malting, $1.18 to $1.25. Rye—No. 2, track, $1.05, through billed.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Montreal, Dec. 19.—Butchers' cattle, choice, $6.25 to $6.35; do., medium, $4.50 to $5.50; do., common, $3 to $4; canners, $1.75 to $2.50; butchers' cattle, choice cows, $5.25 to $5.50; do., medium, $4.50 to $5; do., bulls, $3.50 to $4.50; milkers, choice, each, $75; do., common and medium, each, $50 to $60; springers, $50 to $40. Sheep, ewes, $3.75 to $4; bucks and culls, $3.25 to $3.50; lambs, $3.75 to $6. Hogs, f.o.b., $6.50 to $6.80; calves, $3 to $14.

Toronto, Dec. 19.—Butcher cattle of ordinary good to choice weight sold from $5.65 to $6, with extra choice Christmas cattle not uncommon sales at $6.10 to $6.50. Lambs were much firmer at $5.25 to $6 for the choicest ones. Sheep and hogs were unchanged.

The House of Lords rejected the naval prize bill.

HIS MAJESTY IN INDIA

Reviews 50,000 British and Native Troops and Held an Investiture.

A despatch from Delhi, British India, says: King George, on Thursday, reviewed 50,000 British and native troops. His Majesty held an investiture in the Royal Camp at night, bestowing orders on ninety-three Knights and two hundred Companions. The Queen witnessed both the review and the bestowal of orders.

TENT GUTTED BY FIRE.

King George and Queen Mary were much concerned during the investiture of the King-Emperor, when a large tent adjacent to the Royal shamiana was gutted by fire, according to a despatch to the Central News. The Royal quarters were in considerable danger for a time, and great excitement prevailed.

THE NEWS IN A PARAGRAPH

HAPPENINGS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE IN A NUTSHELL.

Canada, the Empire and the World in General Before Your Eyes.

CANADA.

Mr. J. C. Eaton has given $25,000 to the Winnipeg General Hospital.

The penitentiary statistics show a large number of convicts under twenty years of age.

The Berlin Board of Trade is agitating the question of the development of New Ontario.

Perrin's confectionery works at London, Ont., were damaged by fire on Saturday morning.

The Berlin waterworks yielded a net profit of $14,170 during the year.

The Railway Commission is making rules for the inspection and testing of railway engines.

Sir William Mackenzie is reported to have bought a tract of oil lands in New Brunswick.

The announcement of new telephone rates in Winnipeg has aroused a storm of opposition.

In an official report, Dr. Rutherford, livestock commissioner, strongly recommends the establishment of municipal abattoirs.

The Government will probably make Saskatoon or vicinity the eastern terminus of the Hudson Bay Railway.

The contract has been signed for the building of the St. John Valley, N. B., Railway, from Grand Falls to St. John. It will be operated by the I. C. R.

Montreal proposes a civic pension for firemen, police, clerks and permanent employes of the Roads Department, to which they contribute one per cent. of their wages.

Canadian trade with the United States increased over $61,000,000 during the last fiscal year; with Germany it increased $2,280,000, and with France $1,726,000. The increase with Britain was only a little over two millions.

According to C. C. Castle, Dominion Warehouse Commissioner, there is from 30 to 40 per cent. of the Western Canada crop still unthreshed in the fields. Threshing still continues in many sections of the Prairie Provinces and, given fair weather conditions, the grain will be cleaned up by February.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The House of Lords passed the national insurance bill on Friday.

The threatened strike on British railways has been averted by an amicable settlement.

The War Office has offered prizes for competition by military aeroplanes, the contest to be open to the world.

The Labor party in New Zealand has gained the balance of power at the polls and a dissolution may follow.

The British Government has intimated its determination not to issue tenders for army and navy contracts to the indicted United States meat packers.

GENERAL.

Delhi will henceforth be the capital of the Indian Empire and seat of central government.

The King and Queen laid at Delhi, on Friday, the foundation stone of the new Government buildings.

Restrictions on the production and distribution of opium, morphia and cocaine were agreed to at The Hague conference.

BRITISH SPIES SENTENCED.

Max Schultz and Accomplices Get Penal Servitude.

A despatch from Leipsic, Germany, says: Heavy punishments were meted out on Wednesday to the British spies arrested at Hamburg on March 18, and who had been on trial behind closed doors before the Imperial Court for several days. Max Schultz, an English ship broker, was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. One of his associates, an engineer named Wulff, was sent to jail for two years; a merchant named Von Maack and Max Schultz's housekeeper each received three years.

MAN KILLED WITH AXE.

Daniel Reynolds Uses Weapon on Culbert After a Quarrel.

A despatch from London, Ont., says: Daniel Reynolds, a junk dealer of Hamilton road, killed a man named Fred. Culbert, outside of Graham's Hotel at Pottersburg at 9.30 o'clock on Thursday night. The men, it is said, were quarrelling over a gun belonging to Reynolds, when the latter seized an axe and brought it down on Culbert's head with such force that Culbert was instantly killed. The victim was about thirty years old, and the prisoner gives his age as thirty-seven.

HOME RULE BILL DRAFTED.

But Will Not be Made Public Until the New Year.

A despatch from London says: Replying to a question by Waldorf Astor, Unionist member for Plymouth, in the House of Commons, on Wednesday night, Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland, said the Home Rule Bill had been drafted, but would not be made public before the adjournment of Parliament for the Christmas holidays.

THE BEST SECURITY FOR YOUR MONEY IS BONDS

¶ There are, broadly speaking, two classes of investments: speculative investments, which may or may not pay interest and may appreciate or depreciate in value.

¶ And there are Bonds—Bonds are mortgages split up into denominations of $100 or upwards. We continually have Bonds, the security of which is beyond question, which pay as high as 6 per cent. interest. They are the standard form of investment. They are purchased by Banks, Insurance Companies and chartered institutions, because the Government recognizes that they offer the maximum of safety with a profitable rate of interest.

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