

results have not been of a character commensurate either with the immense amount of capital spent upon them or with the very excellent service which they give the public. These poor financial results from electrification have acted as a very considerable deterrent upon any spirit of enterprise in the way of electrification which might otherwise have been shown by the big English lines. How far this lack of financial success is due to the chronic state of London locomotion, which would not be tolerated for a week in a fourth rate town on your side of the Atlantic, it is impossible to say, but it is at any rate noteworthy that up to the present we have had no serious proposals on this side for the electrification of main lines. Canada's wealth of water power has often been the theme of enthusiastic pens; such a scheme as that now announced enables one to appreciate the signal advantages in this respect which she enjoys in comparison with the Old Country. METRO.

THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Seventy-Seventh Annual Report in Keeping with the Past Record of this Leading Banking Institution.

The Bank of Nova Scotia is now well into the fourth quarter-century of its career of steady and solid growth. With a rest fund of \$5,400,000 supporting a paid-up capital of \$3,000,000, its position is a notably strong one, well justifying its yearly dividends of 12 per cent. to shareholders.

During 1908 the profits were \$559,577; this sum with the balance brought forward from 1907, giving the directors \$630,741 for allocation. Of this amount, \$360,000 was paid in dividends, \$100,000 written off bank premises, \$15,000 added to officers' pension fund, and \$100,000 appropriated as provision for anticipated loss in connection with the liquidation of the Ontario and Sovereign Banks—the Bank of Nova Scotia having assumed with other institutions the guaranteeing of the public against loss in these instances.

Loans "secured by grain and other staple commodities" have decreased but little during the year; current loans as a whole show a slight increase, when time loans secured by bonds, debentures, etc., are included. Total deposits have grown from about \$27,500,000 to over \$32,000,000 during the year. Circulation of nearly \$2,000,000 at the year-end was somewhat greater than at the close of 1907—crop-moving activity playing its part in this respect.

As last year, the bank's balance sheet bears the certificate of two chartered accountants of Edinburgh; and, as last year, it may be remarked in passing that their signatures will be considered by many as superfluous when appended to a statement signed by so competent and conservative a general manager as Mr. H. C. McLeod has proved himself to be.

Since removing its executive offices to Toronto, the Bank of Nova Scotia has more and more made itself felt as a factor of great importance in the agricultural, commercial and financial progress of the Dominion. And its activities are more than domestic in extent; well organized branch systems in Newfoundland and the West Indies enable this bank to play no unimportant part in inter-Imperial business development.

Prominent Topics.

Lake Superior Corporation.

There is practically no change in the situation since last week. A directors' meeting was held at Philadelphia on Wednesday, when ordinary routine business was transacted. Mr. Robert Fleming and his associates have not yet formulated their plans. The reports from the management continue satisfactory. The million dollar loan of the Canadian Improvement Company guaranteed by the Ontario Government has been paid. The Hon Mr. Matheson accompanied by Mr. Hearst went to New York to complete the necessary details in connection with the matter, and having accomplished it returned to Toronto on Wednesday evening. All of the loans and notes of the Canadian Improvement Company are now paid.

Circular to Mexican Power Shareholders.

Three directors of the Bank of Montreal—Sir Geo. Drummond, Mr. James Ross and Senator Robert Mackay—have signed a circular that is being sent to all shareholders of the Mexican Power Company, urging the defeat of the Mexican Tramways' lease proposition. Especial importance attaches to this action, in that the two former gentlemen are ex-presidents of the Power Company.

The circular points out that the gross earnings of the company have increased from \$1,027,000 (gold) in 1906 to \$2,938,000 in 1908, and estimates that by 1913 they will have increased to over \$5,000,000 annually. From this showing the conclusion is expressed that all necessary extensions by the company can be financed and carried out independently, and that "while desiring intimate and friendly relations with the Tramways' Company, it need fear nothing from an unfriendly attitude on their part." The action of the directors in opposing the terms of the proposed lease is strongly supported by the circular, and shareholders are urged therein to send proxies for the annual meeting (February 17th) in favour of the nominees of the present board, or else to those signing the circular on behalf of a special committee of shareholders.

Crown Reserve's Annual Report.

At the annual meeting of the Crown Reserve Mining Company, held in Montreal on Wednesday of this week, the president, Lieut.-Col. Carson, made the announcement that in future the mine would pay dividends at the rate of 6 per cent. per quarter, or 24 per cent. per annum, with such additional bonuses as might seem justified. The results of the year's operations were detailed by Mr. Cohn, manager of the mine, who said that the output during 1908 had been 650 tons, which produced 1,798,954 ounces of silver, with a total value of \$910,350.

Against this were charges totalling \$241,600, leaving net profit for the year of \$668,750, to which was added \$32,130 derived from the sale of stock to provide working capital. Dividends were paid to the amount of \$353,765, leaving a surplus of \$347,115. The total marketing expenses,