

The marked feature of British banking during 1919 has been the continuance of amalgamations. At the end of 1918 there were only 34 banking institutions in England, or about one to every 1,300,000 inhabitants, as compared with 19 in Canada, or one to every 450,000. In other words, if we were on a parity with England, we should have only seven parent banks in the Dominion. The British Government realizes that we have entered upon an era of great industrial combinations and that these can only be safely financed by like consolidations of banking interests. The United States Government, which has hitherto opposed all mergers, has awakened to the needs of the times. In addition to the creation of the Federal Reserve system, it is now encouraging its great banks to establish branches abroad and, through its State Department, Consuls, Trade Commissioners and official publications, is affording them every assistance in its power.

In entering upon our second half century, we are confronted with many problems, which we are confident can be successfully met. We have a notable record behind us, and I believe a still greater one lies before us.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The following were elected Directors for the ensuing year:

Sir Herbert S. Holt, K.B.	C. E. Neill
E. L. Pease	Sir Mortimer Davis
Jas. Redmond	G. H. Duggan
G. R. Crowe	C. C. Blackadar
D. K. Elliott	John T. Ross
Hon. W. H. Thorne	R. MacD. Paterson
Hugh Paton	W. H. McWilliams
A. J. Brown, K.C.	Capt. Wm. Robinson
W. J. Sheppard	A. McTavish Campbell
C. S. Wilcox	Robt. Adair
A. E. Dyment	T. Sherman Rogers, K.C.

At a subsequent meeting of the Directors, Sir Herbert S. Holt was unanimously re-elected President, and Mr. E. L. Pease, Vice-President and Managing Director.

#### THE PROBLEMS OF BANK MANAGEMENT.

"The great product of a banking institution is service—not service of one class or community or country, but service of all classes, in every community in every country. A moment's thought will disclose how complete, how extensive, service must be under such circumstances, and remembering that, in the final analysis, service is a matter of individual application within a bank to a multitude of transactions for individuals outside the bank, you can understand how exacting the business is of bringing an organization into co-operation with your customers.

"The fundamental thing in bank management

is so to select your administrative officers and so to establish their relations with other employees that without loss of dignity in either division of the staff, there may be created an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation. The moment employees are convinced that advancement depends upon ability and accomplishment, and not upon favor or influence, then and only then, has a foundation been laid for an effective and enduring institution."

#### A VAST AND VARIOUS COUNTRY

The vastness of Canada and the diversity of its different sections, and the great distances which separate them, create the most formidable of our country's national problems. Said a Canadian public man, in conversation recently on some of Canada's national problems: "There are more people in the West who know and understand the East than there are people in the East who know and understand the West—that is because many people in the West have come from the East. But however high you may place the number of such people there is still ample room left for asking how many people in the West understand Quebec. It may, indeed, well be asked how many people in Ontario understand Quebec. Without going any further into that it is no more than the plain truth to say that there are people in Eastern Canada who do not know any more of Western Canada than many of the Japanese know."

It takes about six days and six nights to travel from one ocean coast of Canada to the other. But in Great Britain a public man can make a speech in the south of England in the morning and repeat it in the capital of Scotland on the same day. The penalty of Canada's vastness is that it is difficult to create a common public opinion in Canada, to say nothing of the difficulty of concentrating it so as to make it effective at the national capital. The problem of education in national affairs is one of immense difficulty. But it is for every true Canadian to regard this problem as one of the difficulties which exist in the world only to be overcome.

The political movement in the organized farmers will prove its worth by the manner in which it tackles this problem. The goal towards which every true Canadian works is Canadian national unity. The old political partyism thrives by fostering sectionalism and pandering to prejudice and playing into the hands of special privilege. Self-interested desires and any class seeking its own advantage by means of injustices to any other class are hostile to the spirit of the New National Policy, which is based on justice and a recognition of the equal rights of all Canadians.—Grain Growers.