is acting with a fairness and moderation that cannot but appeal to general approval. The life agents too have made known their views to the Royal Commission and through the press, and have stated their case with force and dignity. But let neither officers nor agents grow weary in well doing. While Ottawa has not yet experienced Albany's demogogic clamor in insurance affairs there are "irresponsibles" in the House who will doubtless endeavour to fan to a flame any sparks of misunderstanding or discontent regarding present insurance methods. No efforts should be spared to educate the public to a recognition of the fact that drastic legislation is not a cure-all for possible irregularities and shortcomings. Certain it is that laws of a general nature are necessary and to be desired—and should be consistently and strongly enforced—but the prime necessity after all is for a management that shall have efficiency, energy and probity. And of these the greatest is probity. More and more this is being recognized, and if new legislative enactments will but make for increased publicity rather than irksome restraint, the outcome of the Commission's labors will be of widespread and lasting benefit.

It behooves the life companies, collectively as well as individually, to carry on the education of the public as to right views on these matters. That a clear presentation of facts to the insuring public beings direct response is markedly illustrated by the experience of companies during the past year with regard to lapses. It is a regrettable fact that owing to newspaper agitation over the border and nearer home many holders of policies—especially contracts for small amounts—allowed their insurance to lapse. As a consequence it is to be feared that the lapse ratio of business in the Dominion will for 1906, be rather larger than usual. Recognizing the danger to be guarded against, some companies determined upon special efforts to offset it. Letters were written to agents making clear the points to be emphasized, lapsed policy-holders were communicated with systematically from head office, and no efforts were spared to make clear the essential soundness of life insurance, and the advantages to be gained by reviving policies. The result in one company that has been heard from was a marked reduction from the already low lapse ratios of preceding years. This, during a period of unusual storm and stress, is direct evidence of the value of continued educative effort.

A short but forceful booklet of "Comments upon Insurance Legislation," by Mr. L. Goldman, managing director of the North American Life, is certain to be of use in rightly influencing the opinions of the everyday citizen.

Mr. Goldman's closing paragraph sums the case up well. He urges that we in Canada "exercise some little common sense, and while perhaps legislation of some kind is inevitable, and necessary under certain conditions, we want to avoid having too much paternalism."

LATEST BANKING PROFITS.

Since September, eight important banks have reported their earnings. Though these eight are less than one-quarter of the whole number of banks, they control, when combined, not far from one-half the total banking assets of the country. It will be interesting, therefore, to compare the results now presented with previous results shown by the same institutions. Among them, it will be noticed, are the Bank of Montreal and the Canadian Bank of Commerce, the country's largest two banks. The showing in profits is as follows:

Profits—Year ended		1906.	1905.	1904.
			$	$
Bank of Montreal....	Oct 31	1,797,976	1,638,659	1,609,208
Can. Bank of Com...	Nov. 30	1,741,126	1,376,167	1,124,973
Bank of Toronto.....	Nov. 30	544,295	464,896	445,426
Bank of Hamilton...	Nov. 30	371,251	357,273	†335,513
Molsons Bank......	Sep. 30	434,568	399,274	457,290
Bank of Ottawa.. ..	Nov. 30	425,239	360,187	357,684
East'n Townships Bk.	Nov. 15	279,610	317,279	306,969
Banque d'Hochelaga.	Nov. 30	347,504	*314,660	§295,357
		$5,941,669	$5,228,395	4,932,400

*Profits 18 months, $471,992. Two-thirds of $471,992 = $314,660.
†Year ended May 31.
§Year ended May 31.

The gain in profits, 1906 over 1905, is about 14 p.c., a little over one-half of the total increase being contributed by the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Over 1904, the gain is a little better than 20 p.c. It will be noticed from the foot note that the 1905 profits of the Banque d'Hochelaga are arbitrarily fixed. Prior to that year this bank ended its fiscal year on 31st May. The report for 30th November, 1905, covers 18 months. The amount set down, $314,660, was arrived at by taking ⅔ of the profits shown for the 18 months.

To make the comparison more complete two other tables, showing the growth of the stockholders' capital and of the total assets, are given:

Stockholders' Capital (Capital, Rest and Undivided Profits).		1906.	1905.	1904.
		$	$	$
Bk of Montreal as at.	Oct. 31	25,559,832	25,201,855	24,583,196
Can. Bank of Com. "	Nov. 30	15,103,562	14,558,871	12,228,726
Bank of Toronto.. "	Nov. 30	8,460,108	7,428,217	6,413,284
Bank of Hamilton. "	Nov. 30	*5,050,000	4,906,891	†4,297,061
Molsons Bank "	Sep. 30	6,026,987	6,031,418	6,037,077
Bank of Ottawa... "	Nov. 30	6,236,513	5,144,020	5,073,332
E. Towns'ps Bk... "	Nov. 15	4,868,540	4,124,566	4,002,558
Ban. d'Hochelaga. "	Nov. 30	3,619,710	3,472,992	†3,220,999
		$74,925,252	$70,868,830	$65,856,233

†May 31.
*Estimated.