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On another page of this issue will be found the report of the directors and the balance sheet presented at the ninth annual general meeting of the London & British North American Co., Ltd., held in London on July 28th, 1920. The improvement in the earnings of the company for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1920, compared with the previous fiscal year, shows an increase in profit from £16,068 to £20,-752. This increased earnings enabled the company to pay a dividend of 3 per cent, less income tax on the £150,000 ordinary shares outstanding (as against 21/2 per cent the previous year), after paying the usual preferred dividends of £11,250, charging off depreciation of furniture and fittings, £249, and transferring to reserve for taxation in Canada and London, £3,645.

The directors record with deep regret the death of Mr. Marlborough R. Pryor, who has been chairman of the company from its inception, and has so ably directed the general financial policy of the company. The late Mr. Pryor was chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sun Insurance Office, and was associated with a large number of exceptionally strong British financial institutions, yet had found time to take a deep interest in the London &

British North America Co.

The outstanding feature of the balance sheet is the heavy increase in cash on deposit and in hand, which, at March 31st, 1920, totalled £51,107, as against £15,281 the previous year. Including investments, which are generally war loan and national war bonds, being remarkably liquid, the items of cash and investments total £154,188, as compared with total assets and liabilities of £474,522. Some doubt as to general European conditions, and perhaps some hesitancy with regard to Western Canadian mortgage conditions are perhaps responsible for this exceedingly liquid condition. The company certainly is in a very strong position, when a change in policy seems advisable to the directors to expand in a notable way.

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