

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

ANNUAL MEETING; ADDRESS BY MR. B. E. WALKER,
GENERAL MANAGER.

The thirty-eighth annual meeting of the Canadian Bank of Commerce was held in Toronto, on 10th inst. The attendance of prominent shareholders was unusually large, every part of Canada being represented. The chair was taken by the Hon. Geo. A. Cox, president.

The report opens with the Profit and Loss Account statement which gives the net profits of the year as \$1,124,973. This sum added to the balance of \$165,559, brought from last year, made a total of \$1,290,532, the distribution of which was as follows: Two dividends at rate of 7 per cent. per annum took \$609,000; \$127,806 was written off Bank Premises Account; to Pension was transferred \$25,000 (as an annual contribution), and \$500,000 was transferred to Rest Account. These payments and transfers left a balance of \$28,726 to be carried forward to next year.

This shows the results of last year to have been even more satisfactory than usual. During the year the Bank has opened new branches as follows:—In the City of Winnipeg, a branch on Ross Avenue and another on Portage Avenue; in the Northwest Territories, at Lloydminster in Saskatchewan, Moosejaw in Assiniboia and Nanton in Alberta. Since the close of the Bank's year, a branch has been opened at Claresholm in Alberta, and arrangements made to open one at Melfort in Saskatchewan. Reference was made to the circular announcing the increase of the capital by \$1,300,000, so as to raise it to \$10,000,000, and it was stated that the entire assets of the Bank have been, as usual, carefully re-valued, and all bad and doubtful debts amply provided for.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The following is a synopsis of the General Statement up to 30th Nov., 1904, compared with a previous year:—

	Nov. 30, 1904.	Nov. 30, 1902.
	\$	\$
Capital paid up.....	8,700,000	8,000,000
Reserve Fund.....	3,500,000	2,500,000
Circulation.....	7,680,947	7,368,042
Deposits.....	70,469,351	53,923,287
Current loans and discounts.....	51,458,163	46,990,539

In 1902 the total assets were \$72,825,632, in 1904 they amounted to \$91,055,798.

Senator Cox in moving the adoption of the Report explained that, whereas in 1903 there was a fall in the market prices of securities, in 1904 there was a rise in bond values so that the bank having sold a good many securities the profits of 1904

have to some extent gained at the expense of 1903. He referred to the bank building bank premises on an extensive scale as called for by the needs of the times. The increase of deposits by \$7,675,000, and much smaller increase in current loans and discounts showed that the demands of merchants and manufacturers are not increasing as rapidly as in other years, hence the increase in funds is represented by call loans, by increased balances at the disposal of our London and United States agencies, by securities and by cash.

Mr. Robt. Kilgour compared the present condition of the bank with its state in 1894. Then the bank had 43 branches, now it has 112; with proportionate increase in the staff. Vice-President Kilgour said: "For this most gratifying increase in assets and business, the shareholders are indebted not alone to the splendid services of the president, general manager and assistant general manager, but also to the loyalty and most efficient work of the staff."

ADDRESS OF MR. B. E. WALKER.

A distinguishing feature in the annual meetings of the Canadian Bank of Commerce is the Address of the general manager, which, this year is one of especial interest and eminent ability. It opens with a broad generalization of much importance and weight.

"The year 1904 began with the feeling that our prosperity had for the moment reached its maximum, and had been checked in some respects; and that while prosperity would doubtless continue, it might do so only on a somewhat lessened scale. At the end of the year, although many unfavourable features which could not have been foretold have appeared, we are more confident as to the immediate future than we were a year ago."

That is the keynote of the address, which throughout has a hopeful, but not oversanguine tone. The course of the London money market was sketched in relation to the effect of the war upon rates.

"Money rates have remained comparatively high, and each short period of ease has made plain the fact that there is no lack of securities awaiting a favourable moment for flotation. Naturally the investor has become unusually exacting, and British municipalities which have been freely mortgaging the future to buy franchises, and Colonial and other Governments desirous of making ambitious public improvements, are discovering great difficulty in obtaining money. By comparison, this has had the effect of improving the credit of Canada for securities of a high class, but the price, owing to the higher interest expectation in London, is often less than the investors on this side are willing to pay.

The business and political developments of the