

# THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

Head Office : TORONTO

Paid-up Capital, \$15,000,000; Reserve Fund, \$12,500,000

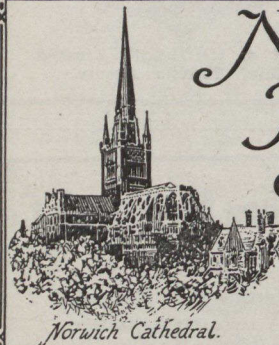
SIR EDMUND WALKER, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L. .... President.  
ALEXANDER LAIRD ..... General Manager.  
JOHN AIRD ..... Assistant General Manager.

Branches in every Province of Canada and in the United States, England and Mexico.

## Travellers' Cheques

The Travellers' Cheques issued by this Bank are a very convenient form in which to provide funds when travelling. They are issued in denominations of \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$200 and the exact amount payable in the principal countries of the world is shown on the face of each cheque.

These cheques may be used to pay Hotels, Railway and Steamship Companies, Ticket and Tourist Agencies and leading merchants, etc. Each purchaser of these cheques is provided with a list of the Bank's principal paying agents and correspondents throughout the world. They are issued by every branch of the Bank.



**NORWICH UNION  
FIRE INSURANCE  
SOCIETY LIMITED**

*Norwich, England*

:: Insurance Against ::  
Fire - Accident and Sickness - Employer's Liability - Plate Glass  
Head Office for Canada  
**Norwich Union Building**  
12-14 Wellington St. East, Toronto

J. W. FLAVELLE, President  
W. E. RUNDLE, General Manager

Z. A. LASH, K. C., } Vice-  
E. R. WOOD, } Presidents

## The Safety of Trust Funds

THE greatest precaution should be taken to safeguard funds that are held in trust. This company is prepared to offer to trustees and fiduciary officers many helpful conveniences and much valuable assistance.

**National Trust  
Company Limited**

TORONTO

Montreal

Winnipeg

Edmonton

Saskatoon

Regina

## THE STEEL CO. OF CANADA LIMITED

PIG IRON BAR IRON BAR STEEL  
RAILWAY TRACK EQUIPMENT

Bolts and Nuts, Nails, Screws, Wire and Fencing

HAMILTON TORONTO MONTREAL WINNIPEG

IN ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS PLEASE MENTION "THE CANADIAN COURIER."

draw on this fund if no circulation has been issued against it. Under the old act banks could allow their circulation to exceed the amount of their paid-up capital to the extent of 15 per cent. of total of their paid-up capital and reserve. But interest at 5 per cent. was charged on this 15 per cent. surplus amount, and the new measure, providing a cheaper method of extending the circulation of their respective banks, meets the approval of bankers in general. Another clause is that providing for an outside inspection of the banks. This last clause is perhaps the most important item in the whole new bill. The main point set forth therein is, that the shareholders of each bank shall appoint an outside auditor who shall look into the affairs of their respective banks. Some banks have already been practising this, but the new act makes the practice compulsory. Mr. White held that although it is possible for the directors to appoint an auditor themselves, friendly to their interests, public opinion would demand the requisition of an auditor of good standing, and, moreover, it would be preferable to have a man who was acquainted with the banks' affairs to some extent than to have one who, being strange to the institution's methods, might pass something.

A number of less important clauses are included in the bill; among these are those relating to a more severe supervision of new banks, extension of existing banks' charters to July 1st, 1923, and penalties for directors' negligence.

## On and Off the Exchange.

### New Director for Molsons Bank Board.

MR. C. B. GORDON'S resignation from the Molsons Bank Board, recently, has left a vacancy there. Mr. W. A. Black, of Montreal, recently of Winnipeg, has been appointed to fill the vacant place.

Mr. Black is general manager of the Ogilvie Milling Co., of Montreal, and is also connected with various other industries and activities. He is a member of the Winnipeg Board of Trade; a councillor of Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange; a director of Home Savings and Investment Co.; also a managing director of Kaministiquia Power Co.; president Manitoba Cold Storage Co., and vice-president of Keystone Transportation Co.

Although only fifty years of age, Mr. Black's appointment to its board gives the Molsons Bank a man of wide experience and great business ability. He is famed over the Dominion for his keen and expert knowledge of the grain business.

For some years at the beginning of his career he was connected with the traffic departments of G. T. and C. P. Railways. In 1882 he entered the service of the Ogilvie Flour Mills, in Winnipeg, and in 1902 was appointed general manager of the western division. In 1910 his election as a director was followed in 1911 by his appointment as general manager of the whole great concern.

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### Bank of Ottawa.

LAST year the Bank of Ottawa began paying dividends at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum. This indicates that the directors were certain of the bank's prosperity. This prosperity is reflected in their annual report issued last week. The net profits for the year ending November 30th were \$640,220, being about 17 per cent. on their paid-up capital. In 1908 the earnings were 14.32; in 1909, 13.85; in 1910, 15.21; and in 1911, 17.00. This steady progress reflects great credit upon the management.

The balance carried forward to Profit and Loss Account is \$269,559. With the premiums on new stock the Rest Account now stands at \$4,325,480, which is \$500,000 more than the paid-up capital. Deposits increased over \$3,000,000 as compared with last year.

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### Union Bank Progress.

ON December 17th the annual meeting of the Union Bank was held in Winnipeg. This is the first meeting of the bank that has been held in this city. Previous to this year, since the founding of the bank in 1865, the head office was in the city of Quebec, and meetings were held there. Owing to the predominance of the bank's interests and branches lying in the west, the head office was moved to Winnipeg early in the current year.

The president, Mr. John Galt, stated that the bank had had a very profitable year, the net profits being \$706,832, or 14 per cent. on the paid-up capital. As compared to 1911 figures this shows a decided increase, last year's figures being \$662,437. The bank has assets amounting to \$70,000,000, and the liabilities come to just a little over \$60,000,000.

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### Merchants Bank Statement.

WHEN Sir Montagu Allan read the annual statement of the above bank at the forty-ninth annual meeting of the institution, at its head office, in Montreal, on December 18th, the earnings of the operations for the year were shown to be in excess of those of 1911.

Net profits for 1912 were \$1,338,844, as against \$1,179,581 for 1911. Percentage on capital earned this year was 20.9 and last year 19.66. Deposits amounted to \$61,663,000, and \$148,718 was credited to Profit and Loss account. Our Canadian banks seem to be making progress, and this institution has increased its earning powers steadily since 1908.

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### Are Our Banks Too Greedy?

THOSE who think the banking system of Canada breeds monopoly, that the rate of interest on deposits is too low, and that the banks should pay a tax on their circulation, should read what a United States financier said in New York last week:

"We have a bank failure every four days. During the twenty-year period, 1890-1910, nearly 400 of our national banks became insolvent. Nearly 1,400 state and private banks and trust companies failed. That is, in the United States we have an annual average of about twenty failures of national banks, and of about seventy banks other than national. No other civilized country in the world has such a record. During that period Canada had only seven bank failures, while Great Britain, France and Germany and other civilized countries hardly know what a bank failure is."

The speaker, Mr. McLeary, formerly congressman from Minnesota, says that the enormous losses in United States panics are due to their weak banks, which are a "series," not a "system," as they are in Canada.