

PROVINCIAL BANK'S STATEMENT.

The annual report of the Provincial Bank of Canada for 1914 suggests that the French-Canadian community, among whom the Bank principally finds its clientele, continued to enjoy last year a very fair degree of prosperity. At all events, this Bank was able to carry on extended operations with profit to itself, it being one of the few Canadian institutions to report larger profits than in 1913. The Bank confines its operations to the three provinces of Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick, and has sixty-nine offices, no fewer than ten having been opened during the past year.

The following figures show the leading items of the Bank's newly published balance sheet in comparison with 1913:—

	1914	1913
Capital paid up.....	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Reserve Fund.....	650,000	625,000
Circulation.....	1,156,878	1,146,923
Deposits.....	9,189,703	8,821,908
Liabilities to public.....	11,820,921	11,394,496
Call loans.....	1,712,152	1,792,981
Quick Assets.....	7,366,661	7,456,698
Current Loans.....	5,878,814	5,406,246
Total Assets.....	13,484,821	13,032,370

Deposits showed the very satisfactory increase of \$350,000 compared with an advance of \$200,000 in 1913. The Bank's commercial customers were well looked after, loans to them showing an increase of about \$85,000 in comparison with the close of 1913, while municipal and school district loans are almost \$400,000 higher. At the same time the Bank maintained a strong reserve position. Cash holdings at December 31 were equal to 25 per cent. of liabilities to the public and total quick assets at \$7,366,661 are in a proportion of over 62 per cent. to liabilities to the public.

Profits were \$194,215, an increase of just over \$4,000 on 1913, when they were \$190,126. A seven per cent. dividend was paid, against six per cent. last year, absorbing \$70,000; \$25,000 was carried to reserve making the reserve fund \$650,000, a proportion of 65 per cent. to the paid-up capital; \$77,365 was set aside to cover depreciation in securities owned by the Bank, and after making other allocations, including \$5,000 to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, the increased balance of \$13,900 is carried forward.

Mr. Tancrede Bienvenu continues as the general manager of this Bank.

SUN LIFE'S GOOD YEAR.

The Sun Life of Canada's results for 1914 now published show that this Company enjoyed a very satisfactory year's business in spite of adverse conditions. Total paid-for new business during the year was \$32,167,339, Canadian business being \$15,988,430, an increase over 1913 of \$388,666. Business in force at December 31, 1914, was \$218,299,835, an increase for the year of \$15,935,839.

Cash income for the year from premiums, interest, rents, etc., totalled \$15,052,275, an increase over 1913 of \$1,055,874. Payments to policyholders were \$6,161,287. Surplus earned during the year was \$1,676,208, of which \$861,763 was distributed to policyholders entitled to participate in 1914, and \$777,036 added to the undistributed profits, making the surplus at December 31, 1914, over all liabilities and capital, \$6,503,794. Total assets at the close of the year were \$64,187,656, an increase over 1913 of \$8,461,309. Altogether an excellent exhibit.

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD

(Specially compiled for The Chronicle.)

BUCKINGHAM, QUE.—Martin block destroyed, January 25. Loss, \$25,000.

KENORA, ONT.—H. Hillyard's opera house, damaged, January 22. Loss, \$4,000.

St. CATHARINE'S, ONT.—T. Brett's house, George Street, damaged, January 24. Loss, \$1,000.

Miss Thompson's millinery store, St. Paul Street, and Devor's shoe store adjoining, damaged, January 25. Loss, \$6,000, partly insured.

NELSON, B.C.—Trinity Methodist Church gutted, January 24. Loss, \$35,000 with \$17,000 insurance.

MONTREAL.—W. Weir's house at 611 Alma Street damaged, January 26. Origin, overheated stove.

L. Beauchamp's house, 634 de Gaspe Street, damaged, January 26.

Stable near incline railway, destroyed with five houses, property of M. Monogue, January 24.

NEW DUBLIN, ONT.—C. Bolton's farm house destroyed with contents, January 27. Origin, kitchen stove.

BIGGAR, SASK.—Harvey & Large's pool rooms, and Miller Bros.' general store burned, January 22. Loss, \$15,000.

INDIAN HEAD, SASK.—Elevator of Winnipeg Elevator Company, destroyed with 30,000 bushels of grain, January 22.

HAMILTON, ONT.—Sir J. M. Gibson's residence damaged, January 20. Loss unknown. Origin, defective grate.

Vacant house at 25 Erie Avenue, owned by A. Miller, damaged, January 20. Loss, unknown.

WINNIPEG.—Belmont hotel, Main Street, destroyed, January 27. Loss, \$40,000 with \$10,000 insurance on building.

TORONTO.—Factory of Rudd Paper Box Company, Richmond Street West, gutted, January 27. Loss, \$175,000 with \$108,000 insurance.

Langley's Cleaning Works, 280 Sumach Street, damaged, January 26. Loss, \$700. Origin, explosion.

OGOMA, SASK.—New England hotel, R. W. Bradley's harness shop, Dr. Paterson's drug store, C. Gow & Co., D. Rowat's butcher shop and A. Kilpatrick's bakery destroyed, January 27.

LONDON, ONT.—Dundas Street stores occupied by R. J. Gregory, photographer, Raphael & Co., women's outfitters, Thomas Outfitting Co., and W. J. Wray, jeweller, damaged, January 26. Loss, \$15,000.

WAR TIME RISKS.

At the present time the question of insurance is one of especial importance to everyone, for the risks of death have been increased even in the case of non-combatants, and, as has been pointed out by more than one expert in the insurance world, a life policy is one of the few securities whose value has increased rather than diminished since the outbreak of war. With the difficulty of realising stocks, or other property, in the event of the death of the head of the family, except at considerable sacrifice, the advantage of having a fixed sum in ready money immediately available has been greatly increased, and, as an investment, an addition to one's insurance is, just now, confidently to be recommended, while those who have not so safeguarded those dependent upon them should remedy their omission as soon as possible.