

ber 31, 1913, to \$118,279. Last June the announcement was made that in the course of re-organization the bondholders would be given 6 per cent. preferred stock with a bonus of common stock in lieu of their defaulted bonds. The Union Trust Company at December 31, 1912, also held for the I.O.F. \$28,519 par value of the Lake Superior bonds, and apparently added \$25,000 par value of notes to them last year. For these notes, as for the bonds, preferred stock is now to be exchanged, but in the proportion of 95 per cent. of the face value. Altogether, the I.O.F. has had to cut a loss of something over \$130,000 on this particular investment since December 31, 1912.

AN OFFSET.

However, by way of offset to this, the I.O.F. is able to report a better financial return from its white elephant Temple. Its value as at December 31 last was written down to \$800,000, and rents last year showed an increase from \$8,871 to \$12,167—giving the magnificent return of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the investment. With results like that accruing, it doesn't much matter that the receipts of the year 1913 on management account were \$115,674 short of the net general management expenses of the Order, making a total deficit on this account at December 31 last of \$325,736.

OCCIDENTAL FIRE NOW CONTROLLED BY NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE.

Negotiations for the purchase of the Occidental Fire Insurance Company, which we understood some months ago were in progress, by the North British & Mercantile, has now been consummated.

The Occidental will continue to transact business under its own name. The company was incorporated in 1901 with an authorized capital of \$500,000, the amount paid thereon in cash being \$169,073. A Dominion charter was secured in 1908. The statement for the year ending December 31st, 1913, shows total assets of \$356,195. Of this amount \$167,613 was invested in first mortgages on real estate, cash in banks \$62,619, bonds and debentures \$70,390. The balance included accrued interest, agents' balances and office furniture. The surplus over liabilities and capital amounted to \$70,785. The total net cash received for premiums amounted to \$168,454, while the total expenditure, including losses, \$84,625, amounted to \$159,066. This latter amount also includes dividends paid stockholders at 10 per cent. \$15,442. The head office of the company is at Wawanesa, Man., the manager being Mr. A. F. Kempton. While the company cannot boast of having made very wonderful progress, its financial position has been considered satisfactory, and its treatment of policyholders always inspired confidence. The Occidental should have a bright future in Canada, and its policyholders should be well satisfied with the guarantee of the North British & Mercantile Insurance Company.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The report for the half-year ended May 30th last of the Bank of British North America shows increased profits over the corresponding period of 1913. Including \$108,438 brought forward from the last account, profits are \$463,965, an increase of about \$10,000 over the corresponding period. An interim dividend of 40 shillings per share less income tax is payable on October 3rd next, leaving a balance of \$237,597 to be carried forward.

This Bank's generous policy in providing for its staff is well known. The following half-yearly appropriations for their benefit are now made from the profit and loss account:—Officers' widows and orphans fund, \$3,862; life insurance fund, \$973; pension fund, \$26,378.

The balance sheet of the Bank as at May 30 last shows total assets of \$59,976,859. Holdings of gold and Dominion notes were then \$3,750,739; Canadian call and short loans, \$1,640,083; foreign call loans, \$5,741,467; current loans and discounts in Canada, \$29,155,612; foreign current loans and discounts, \$7,271,251. On the liability side of the account, notes in circulation were \$3,849,210; non-interest bearing deposits, \$15,033,968; and interest-bearing deposits, \$25,640,235.

This old-established Bank, deservedly held in the highest esteem, continues to make steady progress under the general management of Mr. H. B. Mackenzie.

THE AUGUST BANK STATEMENT.

Striking changes are shown in the bank statement for August, which was issued yesterday. Circulation is reported at August 31 as \$114,551,525, an increase of practically \$20,000,000 over the end of July figures. The normal demand for crop movement would account probably for this large expansion only in part; the emergency arrangements which were made by the Dominion Government to cope with the financial situation developed as a result of the war being, also, it may be presumed, a most important factor in this large increase.

A heavy decrease in foreign call loans to \$96,495,473 or by \$29,000,000 reflects the calling of funds in New York and London in the early days of the month. This calling followed one of about eleven millions in the last days of July. Concurrently with this decrease in foreign call loans, the banks' specie holdings were added to by \$15,000,000, bringing them up to \$66,448,942.

In notice deposits there was an important falling off of nearly \$12,000,000 to \$659,399,151. This is the first important decrease in this item for about a year. Canadian current loans are down by about $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions to \$836,574,099.

Ames-Holden-McCready has deferred the usual quarterly payment on the preferred stock due in October.

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Dominion Steel has deferred its preferred dividend due in October. New business arising out of the war is said to be promising.

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William Baker, a Walkerville lad supposed to be mentally unbalanced, has confessed to being the firebug responsible for a number of small fires discovered recently in the town.