

## THE TRUST & LOAN COMPANY OF CANADA.

The last two or three years have, as is well known, constituted a singularly trying period for all corporations transacting a loan business in Canada. Strongly adverse circumstances of various kinds have had to be contended with, not the least being illjudged legislation of a character inimical to the companies' interests and of doubtful value to the community at large. In such circumstances, it is particularly gratifying to find that at the last annual meeting of the Trust & Loan Company of Canada, the President (Col. the Hon. Sidney Peel), who presided over the meeting in the course of a few days' leave of absence from the Front, was able to state that he did not think the Company had ever had a clearer or more satisfactory balance sheet than this year's, or one which the shareholders could read with more satisfaction and hope for the future. This statement constitutes admirable testimony to the care and zeal with which the affairs of the Company in Canada have been administered throughout a very trying period, while equally it forms strong evidence of the soundness and conservatism which has marked the policy of the Company in past years. The Trust & Loan Company is held in the highest esteem throughout the Dominion and its successful steering through circumstances of difficulty will be a source of satisfaction not only to shareholders but to all who are brought into contact with it, and appreciate its courteous dealings.

Throughout the war period those in responsible charge of the Trust and Loan Company have naturally felt it incumbent upon them to maintain a very strong cash position to meet possible emergencies. Accordingly, investments in Canada have been to a certain extent reduced, approximately \$450,000 of debentures have been paid off and the Company had in hand at March 31st last about \$150,000 in cash and \$1,840,000 of short-dated British Treasury bills, which are as good as cash. Such a position is undoubtedly a very fine one. With practically \$2,000,000 of ready cash at hand, the Company would appear to be in a position of perfect security against any possible emergency, while obviously it will be able to take full advantage of the various opportunities of investment that arise in due course, when the danger of emergencies has passed.

### THE HALF-YEAR'S RESULTS.

The half-year, which was concluded on March 31st last, may be considered a satisfactory one. The interest account in Canada stands at approximately \$647,670, a figure naturally somewhat lower than at the corresponding date of 1915, owing to the pursuance of the policy, already alluded to, of mobilisation of cash resources. This policy also accounts for a decline in the net profits for the half-year, which approximated \$294,015, about \$11,000 less than in the corresponding half-year of 1915. The Company's mortgages in Canada were at March 31st last \$15,570,323, and it may be noted that the Company is also a large holder, through its Statutory Reserve Fund, of Canadian

railway mortgage debenture stocks and of a considerable amount of school debentures.

From the half-year's profits the usual allocation is made to the Statutory Reserve Fund, viz., the moiety of profits in excess of 6 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital. This allocation absorbs about \$102,000. There is then left at the credit of revenue, including \$15,025 brought forward from the previous half-year, a sum of \$207,030. Of this amount \$3,125 goes to the Special Reserve Account, bringing this with other additions up to \$650,000 (£130,000). The combined reserves of the Company now stand at over \$2,900,000, being over 96 per cent. of the paid-up capital—a valuable indication of the conservative lines along which the Company's management consistently moves. After providing for income tax and other allocations, a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. for the half-year, making 10 per cent. for the year is paid, a balance of \$20,240 being carried forward to the current half-year's accounts.

At the recent annual meeting, fitting reference was made to the work of the Company's officers in Canada, where the Company is admirably served. Col. L. Edye, of Montreal, is Chief Commissioner for Canada and a director of the Company, and Mr. R. C. Young, an Assistant Commissioner of the Company, manager at Montreal.

### PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce publishes the following summary of Canadian crop conditions:—

"Throughout the Dominion seeding has been completed, but under conditions not as favourable as those of last year. In the grain-growing provinces the acreage under crop is approximately 20 per cent. less than a year ago, the summer fallow and plowed land under seed being appreciably less than usual, while there is an increase of seeding on disked stubble. In dry seasons the latter practice results in a lower yield, but this year the conditions of moisture are very favourable and a promising start for the crop is ensured. Weather conditions during May were generally normal. The reduction in the acreage sown in the Western Provinces is not a matter of regret, inasmuch as the increase in 1915 was unusually large, owing to the special effort to increase production for that season and to the greater preparation in the way of summer-fallowing and cultivation made possible by the light crop of 1914. This season the acreage seeded is normal.

"In Ontario the fall wheat outlook is more than usually favourable, but the weather has very seriously retarded the sowing of other grains. On May 15th only half the ordinary amount of seeding had been done and during the remainder of the month but little more was accomplished, in consequence of which mixed grains will be sown to be cut green for feeding live stock. Clover and alfalfa crops are very promising, as are the pastures. At present it is more profitable to feed live stock than to sell the grain, of which there is a plentiful supply on hand. With the exception of the Eastern Townships where intermittent rains and inclement weather have, especially in low-lying lands, seriously retarded seeding, the Quebec crop situation is satisfactory. In all districts the abundance of moisture and cool weather have given promise of unusually heavy grass and hay crops."