

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA—Continued.

Endeavoring to keep pace with the development of the Dominion the Directors under the authority of By-law No. 27, authorizing an increase in the Capital Stock of the Bank, have made an issue of \$1,000,000 additional stock which has been allotted to the shareholders of record on the 30th April, 1910, at a premium of 100 per cent.

The Bank has suffered a grievous loss through the death of our much respected colleague, Mr. Charles Cockshutt, who was elected a Director on 15th June, 1904, and died on 9th February, 1910.

The vacancy on the board occasioned by Mr. Cockshutt's death has been filled by the appointment of Mr. W. J. Gage, now President of the Board of Trade of the City of Toronto.

The Head Office and Branches of the Bank have been carefully inspected during the year and your Directors have much pleasure in again bearing testimony to the faithful and efficient manner in which the staff have performed their duties.

D.R. WILKIE, President.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Since our last meeting we had the great misfortune to lose our esteemed colleague, the late Mr. Charles Cockshutt, who passed away after months of painless illness on the 9th of February last. Mr. Cockshutt's death was not only a severe blow to all those who have been associated with him in the administration of the Bank for the past six years, but it has deprived the Bank of the services of a devoted, unselfish, hard-working Director.

The vacancy occasioned by Mr. Cockshutt's death has been filled by the appointment of Mr. W. J. Gage, who, besides bringing to our councils many excellent qualifications and great experience in business affairs, has been for years a substantial shareholder.

The recent increase in the issued capital of the Bank by \$1,000,000 is the result of mature deliberation. The last issue was made in 1906, when the capital of the Bank stood at \$4,000,000, and the Deposits and Circulation at \$31,500,000. To-day our Capital stands at \$5,000,000 with Deposits and Circulation at \$45,000,000, with evidences of still further increase in deposits and circulation to come. We think, therefore, in the interest of the Shareholders and of the public, for whose profit and convenience we were brought into existence, that the time has come to avail ourselves in part of the policy approved of by you on 22nd May, 1907. At the Annual Meeting, held on that date, I spoke as follows:

"There can be no question that additional bank capital to keep pace with the development of the resources of the country is needed; there can be no doubt that such additional capital can be supplied more economically by the financial institutions at present in existence than by new organizations. The wonderful development of the resources of the North-West and of British Columbia, coupled with large immigration from the mother country and from the United States, and the demands of the additional population upon the manufacturing institutions of the country require a corresponding addition to the banking capital of the Dominion. It is, moreover, an obligation on the part of the older institutions to do their full share in supplying the needful. We have been in the van in the development of the North-West and of British Columbia, without failing to do our duty to the older Provinces; it now becomes necessary for us to look to the future and to be qualified by way of capital and enterprise to remain in the front rank. To that end we have thought it advisable to ask you for your approval of a by-law authorizing additions to the Capital Stock from time to time."

The increase in Deposits and Circulation during the past year has been from \$39,400,000 to \$45,300,000.

The opening of eighteen new Branches within the year has entailed considerable extra expense, which has been provided for out of the profits of the year. Profits have also suffered from the low rates of interest upon call money which has prevailed in the great reserve centres. There is every indication of better rates in the near future, the result of greater activity in trade and of increasing confidence in the financial situation. Canada, however, has no reason to complain; the neglect of railway and industrial securities in the United States, coupled with the political unrest in Great Britain, has brought enormous sums to Canada for investment, which are assisting in the development and utilization of our great natural resources.

Taking the figures which appear in the returns of the Chartered Banks to the Dominion Government as an index

of commercial development, we find that the total assets of these institutions have grown from \$951,053,557 in 1907 to \$1,182,850,000 in 1910 (30th April). The circulation of Bank Notes has grown from \$72,840,909 to \$78,776,000, and public deposits in Canada from \$574,588,438 to \$768,000,000. Current loans, representing for the greater part loans to merchants, manufacturers and agriculturists (irrespective of loans on stocks, bonds and debentures) have grown from \$586,149,738 in 1907 to \$638,000,000 in 1910 (30th April).

It is estimated by Government and railway officials that there is now under crop in the three North-West Provinces no less than 14,850,000 acres, as compared with 12,465,237 acres in 1909. The total yield of agricultural products in these three Provinces in 1909 is valued at \$192,838,000. May we not reasonably look for a yield for 1910 of the value of \$225,000,000, and yet only six per cent. of the arable lands in these Provinces are under cultivation. Farm lands under cultivation in the three Provinces mentioned are valued by the statisticians at \$23 per acre. The cash value of these lands is, therefore, no less than \$341,550,000.

The value of the wheat harvest in the North-West Provinces in 1909 was \$121,560,000, as against in the rest of the Dominion only \$19,760,000. On the other hand, the value of all field crops in Ontario for the same year was \$200,398,000, as compared with \$193,000,000 in the three North-West Provinces. The field crops of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces yielded \$140,000,000. The eastern Provinces are, therefore, so far as the value of field crops is concerned, still considerably in advance of our great West. The total value of the field crops of all Canada for 1909 was estimated at \$533,000,000, the product of 30,065,000 acres of cultivated land, as compared with \$432,500,000 in 1908, the product of 27,505,000 acres.

In 1909, over and above the value of agricultural products, fisheries yielded \$25,450,000, and minerals \$90,378,000 of which \$12,382,000 was the product of the silver mines of Cobalt. It is regrettable to note that the gold of British Columbia and the Yukon, and the bulk of the silver of Cobalt and British Columbia still find their way to the smelters, assay offices and mints of the United States, instead of being refined in Canada. Last year we exported of cattle and their products over \$51,000,000. Our total exports from all Canada were \$242,693,000, of which \$28,957,000 were manufactured goods, and our total imports \$298,206,000, of which \$186,172,545 were manufactured goods.

BANK PREMISES.

The responsibility of providing suitable premises for the Bank over the vast territory in which we are represented is a serious problem, and will continue to be so, in view of the fact that in the majority of localities it is more economical for the Bank to provide its own premises than to rent from outsiders, who naturally look for a more substantial return upon their investments in a new country than would satisfy the Bank upon a similar investment of its own Capital. We have, however, nothing to apologize for. Our Bank premises are a sound investment, and yield a handsome return upon their book value. We expended during the year upon new premises \$248,851.67. The amount beyond the \$200,000 has been provided for out of the profits for the year. At the moment premises are under construction at Cranbrook, Kenora, Prince Albert, Wetaskiwin, South Woodside and Humberstone.

The Shareholders of the Bank now number 1,327, as compared with 1,302 in 1909.

It will perhaps interest you to know that we have at the moment 102 branches and sub-branches, extending from Quebec to Victoria.

Our staff numbers 65, as compared with 59 in 1909.

RENEWAL OF BANK CHARTERS.

It was fully expected that the decennial revision of bank charters would have taken place during the recent session of the Dominion Parliament, but the demands of public business did not permit of this being done. The existing charters run until 1st July, 1911, so that it will be necessary to dispose of the matter during the course of the next session of Parliament. It is not expected that any radical changes will be made in the terms of the charters, unless in the direction of providing additional safeguards in the incorporation and establishment of new institutions.

The population of Canada, which was estimated at 7,145,040 in 1909, is now estimated as on 31st March, 1910, at 7,489,781, and it is to be noted that the increase by way of immigration consists in the main of the most desirable class of settlers.