The average increase as shown by above amounts to over 50 per cent.

The net profits were $119,760, which is about 9.21 per cent. on the paid-up capital, which is an excellent result for the second year of a new bank. The profits were distributed as follows:—Four quarterly dividends absorbed $65,000; $25,000 was transferred to reserve fund, $20,000 was held as reserve for rebate of interest on bills discounted, $5,000 was written off bank premises, these payments and transfers left $4,760 to be added to balance at credit of profit and loss, the amount of which carried forward is $6,112.

The Sovereign Bank opened 12 branches last year, all of which are stated to have "come up to expectation;" that they have proved satisfactory is striking testimony to the enlarged financial resources of Canada, and the activity of its business in agricultural districts.

The report calls attention to the immediately available assets being 54 per cent. of the bank's entire liabilities to the public, which exhibits a strong position and prudent management.

Mr. D. M. Stewart, general manager, delivered a very optimistic address in which he spoke of the Sovereign Bank being "a distinct benefit to the public." It has encouraged thrift among all classes who never kept savings accounts before, and in rural districts the bank has given better banking facilities and afforded the public a much greater measure of security for their savings than they ever before enjoyed. The vigorous efforts made by this new bank to obtain business by bringing itself into public notice have been satirized, but the success which has resulted from this persistent publicity amply justifies the more modern methods it has adopted. There are some few left, who cling to the ways of by-gone times when advertising was deemed too undignified for a bank. Such Rip Van Winkles belong to the sleepy past. The men of to-day, who are ambitious of success, must adopt the business ways of to-day by keeping in constant touch with the public through the press. To this policy the Sovereign Bank owes its rapid acquisition of business which has been developed by enterprizing yet conservative management.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO INSURANCE ACT.

In our last issue we give the details of a Bill introduced into the Senate by Hon. J. K. Kerr, K.C., entitled, "As Act to amend the Insurance Act." In connection with this the record of THE CHRONICLE was narrated as a constant opponent of the assessment system. The extreme undesirability of the government recognizing this system was shown, and we have the satisfaction of finding our views endorsed unanimously by the Canadian Life Officers Association, which has concluded that the proposed legislation is extremely prejudical to the interests of sound life assurance in the Dominion.

The following reasons are given :—

1. The Bill is introduced on behalf of, and can apply to the business of only one institution, the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Company of New York, formerly known as the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association of New York; yet it has been framed in such a way as to give the impression that it is of general import. This Association considers that the introduction into the General Insurance Act of provisions such as are contained in the Bill in question, giving power to change the amount of the policy, alter the premium, and entirely reform the contract, would convey an erroneous impression to the Canadian insuring public, and to the insuring public of other countries where our Canadian companies are seeking business, in regard to the stability and standing of our regular companies, and of life assurance in general in Canada.

2. The Association is also of the opinion that the General Insurance Act should not be made the vehicle to give relief to any one institution in particular. If this be allowed to be done in the case under consideration, it would appear that it may form a dangerous precedent.

3. The members of the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association would respectfully express their regret that there has been included in the General Insurance Act legislation dealing with Assessment Assurance, inasmuch as it has afforded an opportunity for those who advocate Assessment Assurance to urge that that class of insurance and regular life assurance, being legalized by the same Act, were in fact the same, and, as a consequence, many people have been deceived thereby. Should further legislation on the subject of Assessment Assurance be introduced into the General Insurance Act as proposed, it appears to this Association that it will have the effect of aggravating this impropriety.

4. The Association ventures to suggest that whatever legislation Parliament deems it advisable to grant in the premises, such legislation should be in the nature of a private Bill, so that it will be unmistakably known to apply only to the society seeking it—the *Mutual Reserve*, and thus, that sound life assurance shall not be injured or prejudiced thereby.

EMPLOYERS LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

The above corporation have recently leased a new suite of offices in addition to their old ones in the British Empire building in this city. This has become necessary owing to the growth of the business, and the consequent increase of the staff. The new offices are being furnished and equipped in an up-to-date manner.

PERSONALS.

MR. J. W. MACKENZIE, manager of the Maryland Casualty Company, was in Montreal this week. He proposes leaving for the Pacific Coast early next week, on a business trip, where he will meet an official of the Company from the Head Office, who is coming to Canada to meet the Canadian agents. Mr MacKenzie informs us that the premium income in Canada this year will show a large increase.

DR. DRUMMOND, Montreal, so famous for his Habitant poems paid us a visit this week, and took much interest in the library of THE CHRONICLE.

MR. FRED. SPARLING, secretary of the National Life, has been in Montreal this week, on the business of the company.