be found in the fact that the percentage of population engaged in the production of foodstuffs is not increasing in the same ratio as is that of manufacturing wage earners and salaried officials. This view, he said, is supported by figures showing conditions in the United States, where the number of farm families indicates an increase of only 11 per cent. between 1900 and 1910, while the artisan and clerical classes have increased practically 30 per cent. in the same period. A similar condition of affairs obtains in Canada as regards the five eastern provinces, and while, in the Northwest, the rural population is relatively large and grows apace, mixed farming has not yet been generally resorted to. The exports of dairy products from older Canada to the newer Western Canada were this year not less than $3,000,000, while New Zealand and the United States supplied these commodities to the extent of an additional $1,000,000.

QUESTIONABLE FLOTATIONS AND REAL ESTATE SPECULATION.

But while the speakers found that present circumstances generally are such as make for prosperity and further rapid progress, they drew attention to several financial developments which are less satisfactory. Mr. Angus pointedly warned Canadian municipalities that they will for the immediate future have to pay a higher rate of interest upon their loans in London than formerly. He regretted also the fact that some Canadian industrial securities offered on the London market were "of a distinctly questionable character, unsound or highly speculative and calculated to reflect injuriously on Canadian credit," and expressed the opinion—in which most Canadians outside real estate offices will cordially agree—that the speculation in suburban real estate lots is surely overdone. Mr. Meredith also had some wise words to say in regard to financial prospects. While disclaiming any share in the pessimistic views which have been lately spread with a certain amount of industry in various quarters, Mr. Meredith emphasised the fact that at the present time caution is more essential that it has been for some time past, if the preference for Canadian securities is to be maintained:—

It is clear any ill-advised move on our part, any undue speculation, or the flotation of doubtful schemes which may have the effect of causing distrust abroad and so prevent the free flow of capital into Canada, cannot but have a serious effect on business generally, and bring about a check to our prosperity. It must not be forgotten that there are countries other than our own seeking capital, and offering possibly quite as attractive terms, and that once a stream is turned in another direction, a long time may elapse before it returns to its former channels.

MR. MEREDITH ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT.

While the two speeches named naturally are of the widest interest, a number of important developments affecting the Bank took place at Monday's meeting. Following the lamented death of Sir Edward Clouston, to whom high and fitting tributes were paid by both the President and General Manager, the vacancy on the directorate was filled and the opportunity taken to enlarge the board from 12 to 14. The new directors elected were Messrs. C. B. Gordon, Huntly Drummond and Forbes Angus, and their appointment is interesting since it represents the introduction of a distinctly younger element on the directorate than has been there hitherto. Subsequent to the annual meeting, Mr. H. V. Meredith, general manager, was elected vice-president in succession to the late Sir Edward Clouston. The appointment is a natural one, but it may also be said to be a most fitting and desirable one. Since his appointment as general manager twelve months ago, Mr. Meredith's work has justified the highest expectations which had been formed regarding it, and there will be many cordial congratulations to him on its recognition by appointment to further high office.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

Two interesting points regarding the Bank's balance sheet, which has been previously noticed in our columns, are that the slight decrease in non-interest bearing deposits this year in comparison with 1911 is due to the withdrawal of a special deposit, and part of the increase in interest bearing deposits is also of a temporary character. However, the ordinary savings deposits have grown in a highly satisfactory manner. The decrease in current loans refers entirely to foreign current loans, there having been an increase of some $1,600,000 in the Bank's current loans in Canada.

Following is a comparison of the leading items of the bank's balance sheet for the last three years:—

	1912. $	1911. $	1910. $
Capital Stock	16,000,000	14,887,570	14,400,000
Rest	16,000,000	15,000,000	12,000,000
Circulation	16,131,862	15,914,654	14,502,591
Deposits (not bearing interest)	45,338,955	46,187,555	43,425,978
Deposits (bearing interest)	141,970,011	135,538,261	154,117,878
Total Liabilities to Public	203,563,201	197,816,157	212,168,686
Specie and Legals	19,311,086	19,344,656	21,798,760
Call Loans Abroad	55,158,633	42,602,772	61,918,750
Bank Balances Abroad	14,133,604	17,975,274	17,214,648
Total of Quick Assets	113,651,121	104,445,885	126,764,806
Current loans and discounts	118,869,751	121,053,066	112,087,982
Total Assets	236,927,519	229,920,420	239,892,330

Gross earnings for November, of Illinois Traction amounted to $861,156, as compared with $640,510 for the corresponding month of last year. Total expenses and taxes were $358,996, as against $347,351 for November, 1911, while net earnings came to $309,875, compared with $286,881 for November of the previous year. Following are comparisons of the ten months ended October 31:—

	1912.	1911.
Total gross earnings	$6,010,948	$5,623,806
Total expenses and taxes	3,533,622	3,370,441
Net earnings	$2,413,460	$2,186,683