

Should the assets of a Canadian Bank (including the rest) be insufficient to meet the claims of creditors (chiefly holders of notes and depositors) the shareholders would be liable for an amount up to the nominal par value of their holdings, to meet the deficiency. But it is important to note that this double liability call is only made "as a last resort"—in cases where a Bank has suspended payment, and is in process of being wound up. In point of fact, this double liability clause has only been enforced on one occasion in Canada, in the case of the defunct Ontario Bank, where a call of 95 p.c. has now been made upon the shareholders in order to meet the difference between the Bank's assets and its liabilities. The existence of a large reserve does not, of course, obviate the double liability "as a last resort," but it certainly does minimise the danger of it being enforced since in case of necessity, the reserve is available to meet obligations in addition to the Bank's other assets. And in proportion as his bank's position is fortified by a reserve, so is the shareholder likely to be free from uneasiness regarding the double liability.—Ed]

Financial and General.

THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT purpose passing this Session a graduated income tax, ranging from 6d. on incomes of £400 a year to 1s. 2d. on incomes exceeding £2,000, with £300 exemption.

PROPOSED NEW BANK.—Application is to be made at the forthcoming session of Parliament for an act of incorporation of a new bank to be called "The Anglo-Canadian Bank." Its head office will be in Montreal.

LA BANQUE DE ST. HYACINTHE.—The liquidation of this Bank has been authorized to pay a dividend of 45 cents on the dollar upon the original amount of the deposits in the Bank when it suspended and upon the amount of the various claims which have been filed with the liquidator. The dividend will be paid November 19.

DORCHESTER ELECTRIC COMPANY IN QUEBEC.—The Dorchester Electric Company has been granted permission to carry on business in the City of Quebec, under certain stipulations; one being that it must not sell out to any other company without the consent of the City Council.

BANK OF ENGLAND'S RETURN.—The Bank of England's return this week shows steady improvement in the Bank's position. The reserve is up to £22,976,000, a gain of nearly £900,000 on the week and the proportion to liabilities is practically at 52 per cent., a gain of nearly three points upon last week when the ratio was 49½ per cent. A fortnight ago the ratio was only 46½ p.c. Both reserve and ratio now compare favourably with last year.

BANK CLEARINGS IN THE UNITED STATES.—Bank exchanges this week make a slightly more favourable showing than a week ago, the total at all leading cities in the United States aggregating \$2,984,118,641, a decrease of only 6.8 per cent. compared with last year, but a gain of 11.5 per cent. compared with 1906. The improvement, however, is due to the fact that last year and in 1906

the week contained only five business days. Even with the extra day, some of the cities that showed gains last week report decreases this week. The decrease at New York city, where the extreme dullness in the financial and speculative markets continues to exert an adverse effect on the volume of bank clearings, still accounts for most of the losses in the total, for at numerous cities outside that centre the returns make a fairly satisfactory comparison with earlier corresponding periods. Average daily bank exchanges for the year to date are compared below for three years:

	1910.	1909.	1906.
November...	\$573,410,000	\$683,584,000	\$526,565,000
October...	474,380,000	549,124,000	492,164,000
Third Quarter...	413,336,000	471,356,000	451,375,000
Second Quarter...	473,073,000	482,616,000	457,380,000
First Quarter...	553,619,000	460,638,000	515,398,000

CANADIAN FAILURES IN OCTOBER.—Commercial insolvencies in the Dominion of Canada during October, as reported by R. G. Dun & Co., were 130 with liabilities amounting to \$947,499, which compare very favourably with 150 involving \$1,352,180 in the same month a year ago and 129 for \$1,075,451 in 1908. Compared with last year there is marked improvement in both the manufacturing and trading classes, but in brokers and transporters while the number is less there is some increase in amount. Manufacturing deficits numbered 33 and involved \$272,662, a decided improvement over the 35 for \$306,378 of the same month last year and the 33 for \$423,487 in 1908. In the comparison with last year the trading class makes an even better showing—94 suspensions with defaulted indebtedness of \$424,837 against 117 with liabilities of \$808,222, but compared with the 90 for \$612,164 of 1908, although there is pronounced decrease in the amount of liabilities, there is some gain in number. In addition to the above there were also three suspensions in the class embracing brokers and transporters, which involved \$150,000. Last year in this class there were 8 failures for \$147,580 and in 1908, 6 for \$39,800. Thus on the whole the returns for October are exceptionally satisfactory, and they may be considered as reflecting the prosperous business conditions in practically every section of the Dominion.

Insurance Items.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER J. V. Barry, of Michigan, has resigned to become manager of the new publicity bureau recently organized by the casualty companies with headquarters at Detroit. He is succeeded by Deputy Insurance Commissioner Marion O. Rowland.

THE PACIFIC COAST FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY of Vancouver, B.C., will enter the United States making its deposit in New York early next year. It will be, New York advises state, under the management of President Amonson, of the People's National Fire Insurance Company.

DEFALCATIONS IN SEPTEMBER.—The records of the Fidelity Department of the Fidelity & Casualty Company of New York, show the following defalcations during the month of September:—