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F. WILSON-SMITH,
Proprietor.ARTHUR H. ROWLAND,
Editor.

Office:

406-408 LAKE OF THE WOODS BUILDING,
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THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

While the Canadian Bank of Commerce has only recently crossed the meridian into its second half-century of service, in more than one province, through its absorption of earlier-established institutions, its roots go back to the beginning of Canadian banking. It is well-known that for many years, this Bank has taken a particularly important share in the task of providing for the financial requirements of Canada's mercantile community, a condition of things which is reflected in its premier position among the Canadian banking institutions as regards current loans and discounts in Canada.

Profits for the year ended November 30th last are reported as \$2,637,555, compared with \$2,439,415 in the preceding year, an increase of \$198,000, and equivalent to 9.3 per cent. upon paid-up capital and rest, against 8.5 per cent. a year ago. With regard to these earnings, Sir John Aird pointed out at this week's annual meeting that the increasingly keen competition in business has resulted in the banks being called upon to perform far greater services for smaller remuneration, so that the increase in bank profits is not in proportion to the increase in the volume of their business. A balance forward from the year preceding of \$802,319 makes the total available on profit and loss account, \$3,439,874. Of this amount, the ten per cent. dividend plus two per cent. bonus absorbs \$1,800,000; the war tax on note circulation takes \$150,000; \$85,000 is transferred to Pension Fund; \$72,800 is contributed to Patriotic and other funds, the largely increased balance of \$1,332,074 being carried forward.

BALANCE SHEET FIGURES.

The following are the leading figures of the present balance sheet in comparison with those of the previous year:—

	1917	1916
Circulation.....	\$ 23,995,245	\$ 19,259,348
Deposits (not bearing interest)....	86,458,403	62,484,072
Deposits (bearing interest).....	189,967,251	167,412,080
Total Liabilities to Public.....	314,015,490	258,598,177
Specie and Legals.....	44,652,247	40,291,006
Central Gold Reserve.....	10,000,000	6,000,000
Bank Balances Abroad.....	8,496,104	7,201,798
Call Loans Abroad.....	20,076,903	21,141,336
Call Loans in Canada.....	13,460,863	14,725,133
Securities held.....	55,884,015	27,875,335
Total of Quick Assets.....	167,336,943	129,341,420
Current Loans and Discounts.....	164,668,159	150,242,549
Total Assets.....	344,375,233	288,427,580

The total growth in the Bank's deposits during the year was over \$46,500,000. Of this growth, non-interest-bearing deposits account for \$24,000,000 in a rise from \$62,484,072 to \$86,458,403, and interest-bearing deposits for \$22,500,000, their growth being from \$167,412,080 to \$189,967,251. Circulation, at \$23,995,245, shows an expansion of \$4,700,000 over last year's figures, as a result of high prices and the existing great business activity.

GAIN IN LIQUID ASSETS.

On the other side of the account there is seen a substantial advance in the Bank's liquid position. Holdings of specie and legals are increased by \$4,400,000 over last year, to \$44,652,247, and a deposit of \$10,000,000 in the Central Gold Reserve compares with one of \$6,000,000 in 1917. Bank balances abroad are nearly \$1,300,000 higher at \$8,496,104, offsetting the decrease of \$1,064,033 in foreign call loans, which are reduced from \$21,141,336 to \$20,076,903. Call loans in Canada are down nearly \$1,300,000 from \$14,725,133 to \$13,460,863. Security holdings, which measure the Bank's direct aid in war financing through its advances to the Canadian and British Governments, have again enormously increased, the present total of \$55,884,015 being practically double the amount of \$27,875,335 reported a year ago.

Total liquid assets, including Canadian call loans, reach \$167,336,943, a gain for the year of about \$38,000,000 over last year's total of \$129,341,420, and representing a proportion to the liabilities to the public (which total \$314,015,490 against \$258,598,177 last year) of 53.3 per cent., compared with 50 per cent. a year ago. Current loans and discounts were enlarged during the twelve-months by \$14,425,000 from \$150,242,549 to \$164,668,159, the year's expansion in Canadian current loans and discounts only being over \$16,000,000. Total assets show a growth of \$55,947,000 to the new high level of \$344,375,233.

ORGANISATION TO MEET POST-BELLUM CONDITIONS.

This week's annual meeting of shareholders was marked, as usual, by extremely interesting addresses from Sir Edmund Walker (president), and Sir John Aird (general manager). Both speakers laid stress on the present necessity for organisation and leadership that Canadian industry may be able to meet successfully after-the-war conditions. Sir Edmund Walker pointed out that in order that we may fully enjoy the peace and liberty for which we are at present fighting, together with prosperity, three elements are necessary. In our leaders of industry, there must be enterprise and skill and we must have plant and capital on a scale adequate to compete with other nations. We must also have technical knowledge to solve the varied difficulties that confront the manufacturer, and further "we must have such relations between the employer and the employed as will cause the employed to do heartily, each day, a full measure of his best work." The last is undoubtedly the greatest difficulty to be overcome in this connection. Sir John Aird, dealing particularly with Canada's after-the-war production of food, pointed out that in order that the trade arising from this production may be permanently successful, it must be organized from the beginning with a view to efficiency and placed upon a sound economic basis:—"We have millions of acres of productive land, we expect to

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