

PULP AND PAPER COMPANY'S BOND OFFERING

The Royal Securities Corporation, Limited, is offering a block of \$100,000 of the first mortgage 6 per cent. bonds, 20-year, of the Mattagami Pulp and Paper Company, Limited, with a bonus of common stock. The bonds are a first charge on property valued at three times the amount of the issue. The company controls pulpwood lands containing 4,000,000 cords of spruce, estimated to be sufficient for 50 years of operation. The mortgage is closed at \$2,000,000.

WINDING UP ENEMY BANKS

Sir William Plender has issued his second report on the liquidation of the London branches of enemy banks, bringing the record of the operations down to September 30, 1917. The banks involved are the Deutsche, the Dresdner, Direction der Disconts-Gesellschaft, Oesterreichische Laenderbank and the Anglo-Austrian Bank. Following is a summary of the results of Sir William's controllership to September 30:—

Payments to British, allied and neutral creditors	£27,960,000
Estimated value of securities delivered to British, allied and neutral subjects	8,424,600
Cash realization of assets, including the sale of securities	25,534,528
Repayments to Bank of England for advances made under acceptance scheme	8,097,436

The liabilities of the five banks to enemy creditors on September 30 amounted to £3,427,104, while assets possessed a book value of £4,601,340. The indebtedness to the Bank of England stood at £4,104,108.

The scheduling of securities for vesting purposes was completed recently. Their estimated value is £17,270,000.

"It is impossible," says Sir William Plender, "for the affairs of the London branches to be finally liquidated during the war within the terms of the licenses, if by 'final liquidation' is meant the collection of all assets, other than enemy assets, and the repayment of the advances by the Bank of England, £4,104,108, and in the case of the Oesterreichische Laenderbank of its unsecured creditors (approximately £630,000). The assets, mostly book debts, remaining to be realized, possessed on September 30, 1917, an aggregate book value of £3,448,780, excluding liens on enemy securities (£841,543), and debts in occupied territory (£561,204); but of such aggregate value only a small part is capable of collection during the war."

PROVINCIAL BANK OF CANADA

Like other bankers, Mr. H. Laporte, president, and Mr. Tancrede Bienvenu, vice-president and general manager of the Provincial Bank of Canada, referred in their directors' report to the success of the Victory Loan. "The great success of the loan has astonished the whole world," they said, adding: "We placed our branches at the disposal of the subscribers, and we have had the satisfaction of being able to turn in subscriptions amounting to the imposing figure of nearly \$2,000,000. This result shows the patriotic spirit of our customers, as well as the abundance of savings in the localities in which our bank is established, when we take into account that notwithstanding the withdrawals necessitated by these subscriptions, the deposits made with your institution show an increase of over \$3,200,000 during the past year."

The Provincial Bank of Canada, which has done so much to develop the resources of Quebec province and to cater to its business, enjoyed an excellent year's operations in 1917. The bank is also well established in Ontario and New Brunswick. As a result of the past year's work, the directors were able to present an excellent financial statement and report at the annual meeting last week. After deducting general expenses, interest paid to depositors, provision for losses, etc., the profit and loss account shows a surplus of more than \$207,000, or nearly 21 per cent. on the paid-up capital. From the profits, \$50,000 has been added to the reserve, which now stands at the substantial sum of \$750,000, being 75 per cent. on the bank's paid-up capital. A large amount of cash is held on hand, and also a considerable proportion of other assets readily convertible into cash. The statement shows liquid assets amounting to \$13,000,000, being more than 68½ per cent. of the bank's obligations to the public. The total liabilities at the end of the year were more than \$21,000,000. The bank's general statement reflects a healthy financial position and good direction and management of its affairs.

STATE INSURANCE RECOMMENDED

Increases of 15 to 40 per cent. in compensation for workmen, less trouble in conciliation, quick action, doing away with all litigation, and the appointment of a board to administer the proposed act are the chief recommendations in the report of the committee appointed last August to go into the matter of the workmen's compensation act for Alberta, according to a dispatch from Edmonton.

The draft act as submitted to Premier Stewart recently, recommends what is commonly known as state insurance, and the report includes a recommendation that the legislation be brought in at the coming session of the legislature. At the present time the employer carries his own insurance, or insures in a liability company, but in the draft act the state board will carry the insurance, to which each employer of labor will have to contribute.

CANADIAN NORTHERN STOCK ARBITRATION

The board of arbitration appointed by the government for the purpose of determining the value of the 600,000 shares of Canadian Northern Railway stock held a preliminary meeting at Osgoode Hall on Monday. The board consists of Sir William Meredith, Messrs. R. E. Harris and Wallace Nesbitt.

Proceedings opened with the reading of the agreement under which the valuation of the stock was arranged for. According to that agreement if the valuation is over \$10,000,000, the price to be paid will be \$10,000,000. If under \$10,000,000 the amount of the award will be paid.

Sir William Meredith stated that he had received a number of communications from persons alleging claims against the road. "The government of British Columbia," he said, "had enquired as to what provisions would be made for representatives of that province to present their views. David Russell, of St. John, N.B., claimed some millions of dollars for land which he alleges the company obtained by devious means. Mr. Russell will be advised by the board to place his claim in the hands of counsel. Sir William stated that there was also a claim by contractors for \$130,785 on an allegation of improper classification. There was also a claim by a municipality near Edmonton for a tax bill.

Mr. W. N. Tilley, K.C., represents the Dominion government, and with him are associated Mr. Gerard Ruel, formerly of the Canadian Northern, and Mr. E. E. Fairweather, solicitor for the department of railways and canals. Mr. Pearce Butler, of the Minnesota Bar, and Mr. McGregor Young, K.C., appear for Mackenzie, Mann and Company. Mr. I. F. Hellmuth, K.C., represents the Bank of Commerce, pledgees of 510,000 shares of the stock owned by Mackenzie and Mann.

MONARCH LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

A number of strong features stand out in the report presented at the annual meeting of the Monarch Life Assurance Company, held at Winnipeg last week. The gross death claims, for example, paid last year, including those occurring previously, were less than 76 per cent. of the expectation under peace conditions. The deaths from war occurring during 1917 showed a considerable decrease below that of the previous year, so far as the company's experience is concerned. On its invested funds, all placed in excellent securities, the average rate of interest earned was 7.58 per cent. At the same time, the ratio of expense was materially reduced.

As a result of a substantial increase in business last year, the company now has in force over \$11,500,000 of business. The large volume of cash business is an indication of the solidity of the company's growth. The Monarch Life Assurance Company has, during the past few years, especially, made enviable progress. Mr. J. W. W. Stewart, the managing director, is a capable business man and careful underwriter. Under his management, with the assistance of a good directorate, he has placed the company in a sound financial position, and has earned for it the confidence of the public.

At the annual meeting last week the directors were all re-elected—namely, president, Mr. J. T. Gordon; vice-presidents, Messrs. W. A. Matheson and F. W. Adams; managing director, Mr. J. W. W. Stewart. The other directors are: Messrs. W. R. Bawlf, Col. H. A. Mullins, C. E. Gordon, H. W. Echlin and R. G. Ironside. Mr. J. A. Macfarlane, A.I.A., was reappointed secretary and actuary, and Mr. George J. Telfer was appointed treasurer. Messrs. John Scott and Company were reappointed auditors for the ensuing year.