

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.**SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.**

On the 14th inst. a special general meeting of the shareholders of the Canadian Bank of Commerce was held at Toronto, the object of which was explained by the President, the Hon. Senator Cox, whose remarks we publish in full:—

"This meeting is called in order to ask you to authorize the directors to increase the capital stock of the Bank, as they may find it necessary from time to time, up to a total increase of \$2,000,000, making the authorized capital \$10,000,000. The growth of business in Canada, especially in the newer parts, has so increased the volume of currency in use, as to place us, in common with so many other banks, in a position in each autumn where our privilege of issuing circulating notes is used as nearly up to the legal limit as we deem prudent. Should the requirements of currency continue to increase we may find it desirable to issue to our shareholders some of the proposed new stock, but as to this we are not able at the moment to make any announcement. We believe that all of our shareholders, or at least those resident in Canada, will recognize the necessity of your Directors being empowered to act promptly if it becomes necessary to increase our powers of circulation through this manner, and without further remark I will offer the necessary resolution which will be seconded by the vice-president, Mr. Robert Kilgour:

"That the said By-law of The Canadian Bank of Commerce read to the meeting by the secretary be passed by the shareholders, and that the same be executed under the Corporate Seal of the Bank, countersigned by the president or vice-president and general manager.

The general manager, Mr. B. E. Walker, gave a statement with regard to the agreement of sale and purchase recently entered into between the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Halifax Banking Company. He said:

"When the purchase of the Bank of British Columbia was completed it became apparent that the Bank must in a very short time develop or acquire a system of branches in the Maritime Provinces, but in view of the heavy labour thrown upon the management and the staff by the purchase of the Bank of British Columbia and the opening of so many new branches, we would have preferred to wait a year or two before undertaking anything further. We did not, however, feel that we could afford to turn aside the opportunity which is now offered to acquire precisely what we desire in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

"By an amendment to the Bank Act made at the last revision, it is not now necessary in the case of the purchase of one Bank by another, to ask the consent of the shareholders of the purchasing Bank. But although not necessary, we are glad to have the opportunity of explaining the nature of the purchase we propose to make.

"We propose to give to the shareholders of the Halifax Banking Company fourteen thousand shares of our stock together with a small sum in cash, as payment for the value of their assets after providing for their liabilities to the general public. The capital of the Halifax Banking Company is \$600,000, and its Reserve Fund is \$525,000. It will be seen that 14,000 shares of our stock, the face value of which is \$700,000, taken at 160, just about equals the Capital and Reserve Fund of the selling bank. To whatever extent, therefore, we may make a provision for possible losses arising in connection with their assets to such extent we are paying a price for the good-will of their business. We are, however, quite sure that the Bank is in a clean and sound shape, and that we have accurately estimated their position. The Halifax Banking Company was established at Halifax in 1825 as a private bank, and descendants of the original owners will, by this purchase, become shareholders in the Canadian Bank of Commerce. In 1872 it became an ordinary Chartered Bank. It has seventeen branches, of which fifteen are well distributed in Nova Scotia, and two are in New Brunswick. It has enjoyed for many years a quiet prosperity, having a very handsome earning power; but its growth has been somewhat hampered by not being directly represented in the larger financial centres. Its amalgamation with this bank should in every way increase the usefulness of the branches referred to and their earning power. We are glad to be able to announce that the Directors have consented to act as a local advisory board of his bank at Halifax, the president, Mr. Robie Uniacke, acting as Chairman. The cashier, Mr. H. N. Wallace, to whose energy and ability the Bank largely owes its present excellent condition, and who is highly esteemed by his brother bankers in Nova Scotia, will take charge of our Halifax business, and in this and many other additions to our staff occasioned by the amalgamation we are very fortunate indeed.

"The purchase will add about \$6,000,000 to the totals of our balance sheet. The deposits are about \$4,000,000 and the time loans and discounts a little less. The investment in Government, Municipal and Railway securities is nearly a million dollars, and these are of a most undoubted character. The Bank owns no buildings as Bank Premises, and the total of both Bank Furniture and Real Estate accounts is but a trifle in excess of \$20,000.

"We beg to draw attention to the fact that in the proposed purchase of the Halifax Banking Company, as in the case of the Bank of British Columbia, there is no waste from duplication. We are not acquiring anything for the purpose of lessening competition, which when acquired must be to some extent removed from the field of action. We are adding by branches and staff the power to do business in parts of Canada where we are not now represented, and, to some extent at least, we are obtaining without cost the experience of others in these, to us, new fields."

The Scrutineers then reported that the By-Law had been carried, and it was forthwith executed under the Seal of the Bank, countersigned by the president and the general manager.