THE OGILVIE FLOUR MILLS COMPANY

The annual statement for the year ended August 31st last of the Ogilvie Flour Mills Company, published on another page, shows moderate recessions from the record profit levels established by the Company for the preceding year. Profits from flour milling for the 1918-19 period were $649,777, compared with $832,910 in the previous twelve months, while those "from other sources" were $982,738, against $1,122,504 a year ago. The total for 1918-19 amounted to $1,623,516, compared with $1,955,414 in the preceding period, a decrease of $322,898, or equal to slightly less than 12 per cent.

The year's showing, while not up to the record level of 1917-18, was, however, better by a considerable margin than the display in 1915, which up to last year was the banner one in the history of the company. In the latter period net profits were $1,519,594, compared with the $1,632,516 shown in the statement submitted at yesterday's annual meeting of the shareholders.

Surplus for the twelve-monthly period, after the payment of preferred and common dividends, amounting to $815,000, is shown at $817,516, against $1,140,414 last year and $593,847 in the preceding one. With the addition of the surplus from last year there remained to be carried forward into the current year's profit and loss account the sum of $2,148,108, but from this the company deducted the sum of $903,592 to be applied to the special contingent account established last year, rounding out this to an even $2,500,000 in addition to the rest account of a similar amount.

Comparisons of the profit and loss figures for the three years follow:

	1919.	1918.	1917.
Mill profits	$649,777	$832,910	$721,038
Other........	982,739	1,122,504	637,809
Net prof..	$1,632,516	$1,955,414	$1,358,847
Pfd. div.......	140,000	140,000	140,000
Balance.......	$1,492,516	$1,815,414	$1,218,847
Com. divid.	675,000	675,000	625,000
Surplus	$817,516	$1,140,414	$593,847
Prev. surp.	1,330,592	190,177	846,330
Tot. surp..	$2,148,108	$1,330,592	$1,440,177
Cont. acc.	903,592	......	1,250,000
P. and L. bal. ..	$1,244,516	$1,330,592	$190,177

The year's figures show that earnings on the common stock of the company were at the rate of 59.7 per cent., compared with 72.6 per cent. last year, 48.7 per cent. in 1917, 25.4 per cent. in 1916, and 55.1 per cent. in the excellent year of 1915.

In this connection, the vice-president and managing director of the company, W. A. Black, in addressing the shareholders, stated:

"The capital of the shareholders invested in the business at the commencement of the year was $9,926,999, so that the profits of $1,632,516 represent 16.4 per cent. on the capital, not including the bonds. If the bonds were included as capital, the percentage earned would be 13.3 per cent. It will be noted that the shareholders' invested capital at the close of the year amounted to $10,744,516.

"As a result of the armistice, there was a material reduction in the volume of business in all departments. There was, also ,a slight reduction in the percentage of profits on the turnover, which were a little under 2 per cent., as against being a little over that figure last year. This must be admitted as a very small margin and would not make a reasonable return but for the large volume of business."

Another interesting phase of the vice-president's address was contained in the statement that the shares of the company continue to be widely held, the holdings at the end of the company's last fiscal year averaging only 33 shares. The stock is a high-priced one, but the small average of the holdings will, probably cause some surprise in market circles.

The Milling Outlook.

Referring to the outlook in the milling industry, Mr. Black stated in his address to the shareholders:

"The outlook now is for the early return to the sharp competition for export business which existed prior to the war. Duties on flour imports, which were removed in some countries during the war, are being put on again with the idea of encouraging and stimulating manufacture at home to provide work for their people, and securing the wheat offals which are necessary for dairying and general livestock feeding. It is most essential, however, that our own farmers and dairymen be supplied with the necessary feed for their livestock, and the Government may yet find it necessary to take steps to assist the mills in retaining a large export trade in flour if the dairying and stock interest is to continue, at least, on its present basis."

Fire at Hochelaga, P.Q.—On the 9th instant, a fire occurred in the coal plant of the Montreal Light Heat and Power Co., entailing a loss of about $1,500.