

selves reported a loan expansion of \$6,362,000 and a cash gain of \$6,970,000. The surplus increased \$3,380,000.

News now coming from Washington is to the effect that some of the members of the Government are getting uneasy over the business situation. Trade seems to be steadily becoming duller. Although the railways and other great purchasers have been buying from hand to mouth for some time, there is no sign of increased activity on their part. Capital is badly intimidated. It is said that President Wilson will likely take an early opportunity of endeavoring to reassure the business men of the country. From all appearances the reformers and "trust busters" will find it a much harder task to restore confidence than it was to break it down.

The new banking and currency bill has at last passed the Senate and will shortly become law. This is an event of the first importance for the United States and promises to have profound effect on New York and the other money markets. Apparently some of the framers of the bill think that with the organization of the federal reserve banks the American banking and currency system will never again break down. It will not do for Canadians to be too quick to accept that view. The real weakness of the American system is that at thousands of points the banking business is conducted by untrained men, many of them being amateurs. While that is the case the system must be placed under severe strain from time to time and it remains to be seen how the reserve banks will stand up in a crisis.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES ELLIOT.

The announcement of the death of Mr. James Elliot, general manager for the past thirteen years of the Molsons Bank, has been received with much regret in banking circles. Mr. Elliot, who passed away at his home in Westmount, had only been ill five days, death being the result of an attack of pneumonia.

With the Molsons Bank Mr. Elliot had been associated for over half a century. Born in Montreal in 1841, he entered the Bank in 1860. In 1870 he became accountant, and was appointed manager of the Montreal branch in 1879. In 1900 he became general manager, and this position he held until his death, but was contemplating retirement at an early date. A member of the Council of the Canadian Bankers' Association for many years, Mr. Elliot, who was unmarried, also took an active part in philanthropic work. He was a life governor of the Western Hospital, and vice-president of the Montreal Prisoners' Aid Association. Highly respected and esteemed by his professional brethren, his death removes a very well-known figure from the Montreal financial district.

The Bank of Hamilton reports profits of \$498,273 against \$495,860 in the previous year. \$100,000 was carried to reserve and \$100,000 also to depreciation of securities.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

Apart from enlarged profits, the most striking feature of the series of Canadian bank statements now appearing is the exceptionally strong position in which the banking institutions have placed themselves. The latest annual statement to appear, that of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, is fully in line with previous statements in both these connections and makes in fact a particularly satisfactory document.

PROFITS AT RECORD LEVEL.

The year's net profits reached \$2,092,951, nearly 20 per cent. on the average paid-up capital, and 10.5 per cent. on the paid-up capital and reserves. Last year's profits were \$2,811,806, so that there is an increase of nearly \$200,000 in profits in 1913. There is also brought into the profit and loss account the balance from last year of \$771,579, making the total available \$3,764,530. Of this total the 10 per cent. dividend and bonus of two per cent., making a total distribution for the year of 12 per cent. absorb \$1,800,000, \$1,000,000 goes to reserve, raising this fund to \$13,500,000, \$500,000 is written off bank premises, the contribution of \$80,000 is made to the officers' pension fund and a balance of \$384,530 is carried forward.

BANK'S LARGE FIGURES.

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

	1913.	1912.
	\$	\$
Capital Stock	15,000,000	15,000,000
Res.	13,500,000	12,500,000
Circulation	15,642,923	16,422,865
Deposits (not bearing interest)	52,798,266	58,586,814
Deposits (bearing interest)	140,015,509	139,030,648
Total Liabilities to Public	230,618,524	217,768,281
Specie and Legals	30,415,656	27,454,966
Call Loans Abroad	16,154,361	9,003,590
Total of Quick Assets	97,308,316	77,229,029
Current loans and discounts	154,576,890	163,753,559
Total Assets	260,030,721	246,571,290

It is interesting to note the considerable falling off, amounting to over \$9,000,000, in the current loans and discounts. This may be no doubt attributed in the main to the remarkably rapid movement of the western crop this year, and in consequence the speedy return of funds. At the date of the Bank of Commerce statements, considerably more progress had been made this year in the liquidation of the grain business than in 1912. While interest bearing deposits have increased by \$1,000,000, non-interest bearing deposits show a fall of some \$6,000,000. In this connection, however, it is to be remembered that at the last annual meeting, the General Manager stated that there were at that time some special deposits which he anticipated would shortly be withdrawn.

A STRONG POSITION.

In regard to the reserve position of the bank an admirably strong position is shown. Quick assets have been added to during the year by more than \$20,000,000 bringing up their total to \$97,308,316, a proportion to the liabilities to the public of 42.2. Of these quick assets \$30,415,656 are cash, a proportion of 13.2 to the liabilities to the public. Total assets have increased from \$246,571,290 to \$260,030,721.

The annual meeting of the shareholders takes place