

As the chairman very wisely remarked, in reply to a shareholder's expression of opinion regarding the sufficiency of the Rest, it is a perfectly obvious proposition either that \$6,000,000 were too much in 1884, when the responsibilities were about \$25,000,000, or they are too little now, when the responsibilities are more than doubled.

However, the extreme satisfaction with the directors' adhesion to a wise and prudent policy in the division of profits was shown by the hearty votes of thanks for the "magnificent financial statement" presented to the meeting.

The following directors were elected: R. B. Angus, Esq., Hon. G. A. Drummond, A. F. Gault, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William A. Macdonald, A. T. Paterson, Esq., R. G. Reid, Esq., James Ross, Esq., Rt. Hon. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G.C.M.G.

At a subsequent meeting of the directorate, Lord Strathcona and Hon. George A. Drummond were re-appointed to the presidency and vice-presidency respectively.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The ninetieth annual report of this great company is one with which the shareholders have every reason to be satisfied. Analysis of the figures shows added strength and security, a substantial increase in the funds of the institution, and this after paying a dividend and bonus equal to that of the preceding year. The net premium income of the fire branch for the twelve months was \$7,232,605. The losses, less re-insurance, were \$4,652,232.

The Fire Funds, after providing \$825,000 for payment of the dividend and bonus, and irrespective of the paid-up capital stock, are:—

Reserve	\$7,750,000
Premium Reserve	2,893,042
Balance carried forward.....	3,012,876

The new life business shows the net amount of business issued to have been \$8,060,940, and the new premium \$318,243.

As the Reserve Account of the Fire Department possesses the most interest for our Canadian readers, we present herewith its figures and also those of 1898, the conversion thereof into our currency being made at \$5 to the pound sterling:—

	1899	1898
Reserve at 31st December, 1898.....	\$7,750,000	7,750,000
Premium Reserve at 31st Dec., 1898.....	2,848,516	2,867,657
Premiums received in 1899, less re-insurances.....	7,332,605	7,121,292
	\$17,831,121	\$17,738,949
Losses, less re-insurances.....	\$4,652,232	\$4,269,971
Commission.....	1,170,221	1,201,987
Expenses of Management	1,286,116	1,251,042
Premium Reserve at 31st Dec., 1899.....	2,893,042	2,848,517
Reserve at 31st Dec., 1899.....	7,750,000	7,750,000
Balance, being profit of 1899 carried to Profit and Loss	79,510	417,432
	\$17,831,121	\$17,738,949

The total funds at 31st December, 1899, were nearly \$75,000,000.

The Canadian branch of the North British has enjoyed for many years a splendid reputation for prompt payment and equitable dealing, and the local representatives of the Board and the managing director, Mr. Thomas Davidson, continue to contribute in large measure to the company's business in Canada.

DOMINION BANK.

Another financial institution has given testimony to the expansion of the trade and commerce of the country. At the recent meeting of shareholders of the Dominion Bank, the directors reported that to keep pace with increasing business the capital of the bank must be increased. Of course, such a step necessitated some reduction in the dividend rate, and, with commendable caution, shareholders have been told that the quarterly dividends at the rate of twelve per cent per annum will be reduced to ten per cent, and that, whenever the earnings on the additional capital warrant it, a bonus will supplement the dividend. That the directorate and executive of the Dominion Bank are following a wise and prudent course in declining to attempt to maintain the dividend at twelve per cent, on the new and yet to be employed capital is very generally admitted, and such is the strength and profit-earning capacity of the bank that even the announcement of reduced dividends barely affected the price of the stock. Mr. T. C. Brough, the general manager, may well be congratulated upon the first general statement issued over his signature. It is clean and eminently satisfactory, and ought to be pleasing both to depositors and shareholders.

The profits for the year, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, were \$214,342.00, an increase of \$9,000 over the earnings of the preceding twelve months. Adding thereto the balance of profit and loss (\$42,714), carried forward from April 1899—placed \$257,000 at the disposal of the directors. Of this amount, the fortunate shareholders receive \$180,000, with the intimation already referred to—that they will shortly have the privilege of taking some new stock, but, for the present, the dividend thereon must be slightly reduced. The sum of \$15,000 was applied to the reduction of Bank Premises account, and the balance, \$62,000, carried forward to next year. Analysis of the different items of the statement under review discloses a very strong and desirable condition of affairs. The immediately available assets would pay the notes in circulation and cover a large percentage of the deposits and another item (always of interest to bankers). Overdue Debts, is represented by a very small percentage of the loans and bills discounted.