

	Deposits per head.	Imports per head.	Exports per head.	Total foreign trade p. head.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1871....	18.74	26.40	13.40	39.80
1903....	82.90	45.20	42.20	87.40
	Fire Ins. per head.	Life Ins. per head.	Letters per head.	Revenue per head.
	\$	\$	No.	\$
1871....	62.80	12.60	13½	5.31
1903....	202.56	95.10	45	11.90

The increase of Canada's imports since 1871 was over 70 per cent., while the imports into the United States only increased 59 per cent. Our exports also were enlarged proportionately as much as those of the United States. Canada's foreign trade at present amounts to \$87.40 per head of the population, while that of the United States equals only \$30 per head. The higher credit of Canada is shown by the national securities being all above par, except those at 2½ per cent., which are now higher by 2 points than British Consols.

Canada looked at from any point of view is one of the glories of the Empire and has more of the "potency and promise" of future greatness than any other Colony, or section of the Imperial domain.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The report just issued of the Bank of British North America is for the half-year ended 30th June last, the bank's financial year closing each 31st December. From the Balance Sheet we find the net profits of the past half-year were \$163,775, taking \$5 to represent the £ sterling. From the previous half-year there was \$19,706 brought forward, which being added to the profit to end of June 1903, made the sum of \$183,481 available for distribution. With the liberality so honourably characteristic of this old and solid institution the directors made following appropriations, viz.

Transferred to Officers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund....	\$2,568
" " Life Insurance Fund.....	2,000
" " Pension Fund.....	1,885

	\$6,453

This being deducted from the amount for distribution left a balance available for October dividend of \$177,028. The dividend will absorb \$150,000, so that \$17,028 will be left on hand to be carried on to the next, that is, the present half-year. The statement at end of 1902 and 1901, compared with that of June last is as follows:

	June 30, 1903.	Dec. 31, 1902.	Dec. 31, 1901.
	\$	\$	\$
Reserve Fund.....	1,950,000	1,950,000	1,825,000
Deposits and current ac'ts.	16,695,272	15,490,885	15,755,690
Circulation.....	2,614,182	3,080,263	2,505,690
Cash on hand.....	4,601,627	3,255,520	3,789,760
Cash at call.....	8,293,340	9,215,775	7,959,000
Securities.....	2,820,860	2,355,680	2,468,900
Discounts and loans.....	25,282,260	25,459,986	24,050,000

The Bank of British North America is somewhat exceptional in regard to the large reserves it holds

of cash in hand, at call, and other promptly available assets. On 30th June last these funds and resources amounted to \$15,715,800, which came within 6 per cent. of the balances due to depositors and on current accounts, which indicates an unusually strong position, in maintaining which Mr. Stikeman, general manager, pursues a conservative policy that is highly commendable and a distinct addition to the bank's prestige.

Amongst the securities we note \$700,000 of Canada Bonds valued in the statement at par, the premium paid, \$4,000 having been written off out of profits. This large purchase was rendered necessary by the continued expansion of the Bank's note issues, the bonds being held for deposit with the Dominion Government as provided by Section 51 of the Bank Act, 1901. The following new Branches have been opened, Toronto Junction, Rosthern, St. Catherine St., Montreal, Weston, Longueuil and Duck Lake. At Ottawa the old office, Wellington St., is now a Sub-branch and the city office is on Sparks St. The Bank of British North America stands in the old paths of prudence, management, strength in resources, and watchful care of the best interests of its customers.

ROYAL VICTORIA INSURANCE COMPANY.

At a meeting of the directors of the Royal Victoria Insurance Company on 14th inst. the following resolution of condolence with the family of the late Mr. Samuel Finley, was passed:—

"That the directors of the Royal Victoria Life Insurance Company desire to place on record in their minutes the loss the company has sustained in the removal by death of Mr. Samuel Finley, one of the members of the Board, and one of the first directors of the company. Mr. Finley's large business experience was of great assistance to the board in its deliberations, and the directors desire to express their sincere sympathy with Mrs. Finley, and the other members of the family."

A copy of this resolution was sent to Mrs. Finley, accompanied by a letter signed by Mr. James Crathern, president, and Mr. David Burke, general manager.

The Hon. Robert Mackay, a director of the Bank of Montreal, was elected one of the vice-presidents of the company, and Mr. Charles F. Smith, a director of the Merchants Bank of Canada, was elected to a seat on the Board.

ASSETS OF A SUICIDE.—A law suit is brought to decide a singular case. One, Goodwin, clerk of Cassatt & Co. Philadelphia, stole \$1,000,000 of their money. He insured his life for \$95,000, of which \$65,000 were payable to his wife. He committed suicide. Is the insurance money of the suicide liable to seizure by the firm he robbed? The Courts will decide, but the chances are in favour of the widow.