THE DOMINION BANK—*Continued.*

AUDITORS' REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS.

We have compared the above Balance Sheet with the books and accounts at the Chief Office of the Dominion Bank, and with the certified returns received from its Branches, and after checking the cash and verifying the securities at the Chief Office and two of the principal Branches on December 31st, 1914, we certify that, in our opinion, such Balance Sheet exhibits a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs, according to the best of our information, the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Bank.

In addition to the examinations mentioned, the cash and securities of the Chief Office and two of the principal Branches were checked and verified by us during the year and found to be in accord with the books of the Bank.

All information and explanations required have been given to us and all transactions of the Bank which have come under our notice have, in our opinion, been within the powers of the Bank.

G. T. CLARKSON,
R. J. DILWORTH,
of Clarkson, Gordon & Dilworth, C.A.

Toronto, January 19th, 1915.

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Attention is called to the annual statement of the Bank of Nova Scotia printed on another page. As we pointed out last week, the statement is noteworthy for the remarkably strong position disclosed. Reserves of actual cash in hand and bank balances are 30.96 per cent. of the liabilities to the public, while the total liquid and practically immediately available resources amount to over 60 per cent. of those liabilities, a position which it must be conceded affords unusual as well as unquestionable security to depositors.

The statement includes the business of the Metropolitan Bank, which was absorbed by the Bank of Nova Scotia in the closing months of the year. While on this account, the usual comparisons between the business of 1914 and 1913 are not available, it is interesting to notice the very considerable advance made during 1914 in the way of deposits. During the period covered by the report, those made with the Bank of Nova Scotia, excluding the Metropolitan Bank entirely, increased $4,675,000. This at a time when deposits of the public with all Canadian banks decreased some $3,000,000 must be especially gratifying to Mr. H. A. Richardson, the Bank of Nova Scotia's general manager, under whose supervision the business of the Bank has developed so largely in importance in recent years.

At the annual meeting held at Halifax on Wednesday, the directorate was increased from ten to eleven. Mr. J. H. Plummer retired from the Board at his own request, and Messrs. S. J. Moore and W. D. Ross, formerly president and general manager respectively of the Metropolitan Bank, were elected to the Board.

NATIONAL BENEFIT LIFE AND PROPERTY ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

Mr. George Purchon, fire and accident manager, National Benefit Life and Property Assurance Company, Limited, London, England, spent a few days in Montreal this week. He left last night for Toronto and the West.

The National Benefit transacts fire, life, sickness and accident insurance, and was established in 1890.

The Company has been operating in the following Provinces for the past two years in fire insurance, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia, and will no doubt take out a Dominion license at a later date. Its assets are in excess of $3,000,000, and there is a surplus to policyholders of about $350,000.

THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN IN MONTREAL.

Fire Chief Tremblay, of Montreal, has made the following recommendations to the Montreal Chapter of the National Fire Protection Association with a view to the furtherance of the campaign against the fire waste. It remains to be seen what action the chapter will take thereupon.

1. **Insurance policies not to be issued for more than 80 per cent. of the value of the property insured.**

2. **Before granting a policy, the company taking the risk should investigate to a certain extent the** character of the person applying for it.

3. **After a certain number of fires, further insurance should be refused irrevocably.**

4. A solemn declaration should be signed by **every person applying for insurance to the effect that the amount of insurance wanted does not exceed 80 per cent. of the value of the property to be insured; and insurance companies should be notified of any important reduction of stock.**

5. **No policy should be granted to any person other than the actual owner of the property to be insured.**

6. **In case of a fire occurring through gross negligence or non-compliance with the civic by-laws concerning fire prevention, whether in the construction of the buildings or otherwise, the in ured should lose his policy.**

7. **Would it be in the interest of the pub ic at** large to oblige the owners of public, commercial **or industrial buildings to install automatic sprinkler** systems in their premises when advisable? In this case powers should be granted accordingly.

8. Powers should be given to the chief of the fire **department to compel owners of public, commercial o industrial establishments to install dry sprinkler systems in their cellars or sub-cellars when deemed advisable.**

9. **Insurance companies should be compelled to** make semi-annual reports showing their income, **their fire losses and their expenditure within the limits of the city of Montreal.**

10. **Wider powers should be given to the Fire** Commissioners so that they could fine anyone having caused fire through negligence or non-compliance with the civic fire prevention by-laws.

Saskatoon's total fire loss for 1914, amounted to $269,973.52, of which all save $7,820 was fully covered by insurance. One hundred and sixty-one outbreaks occurred, seventy-one of these being in dwellings.