

# The Canadian Bank of Commerce

## REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TUESDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 1918.

The fifty-first Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of The Canadian Bank of Commerce was held in the banking house at Toronto, on Tuesday, 27th January, 1918, at 12 o'clock.

The President, Sir Edmund Walker, having taken the chair, Mr. A. St. L. Triggs was appointed to act as Secretary, and Messrs. W. S. Hodgson and E. M. Saunders were appointed scrutineers.

The President called upon the Secretary to read the Annual Report of the Directors, as follows:

### REPORT.

The Directors have pleasure in submitting to the Shareholders the fifty-first Annual Report for the twelve months ending 30th November, 1917, together with the usual statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account brought forward from last year, was \$802,819.09

The net profits for the year ending 30th November, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amounted to \$2,637,558.42

**\$2,637,558.42**

This has been appropriated as follows:

Dividends Nos. 120, 121, 122 and 123, at ten per cent. per annum \$1,500,000.00  
Bonus of one per cent. payable 1st June 150,000.00  
Bonus of one per cent. payable 1st December 150,000.00  
War tax on bank-note circulation to 30th November 189,000.00  
Transferred to Pension Fund 85,000.00  
Subscriptions: Canadian Patriotic Fund \$50,000.00  
British Red Cross Fund 7,500.00  
British Sailors' Relief Fund (Canada) 5,000.00  
Sundry subscriptions 10,300.00

Balance carried forward 1,332,074.52

**\$1,332,074.52**

A most careful revaluation of all the assets of the Bank has been made and every item which might be considered as bad or doubtful has been amply provided for.

During the year the following branches have been opened: in Alberta—Cadogan and Eckville; in Saskatchewan—Tramping Lake and Willow Brook; in Ontario—Hamilton Road, London; by Ward Market, Ottawa, and Balmby Beach, Toronto; in Nova Scotia—La Hève. Sub-agencies have been opened at Cobble Hill, B.C., Richard, Sask., and Port Greville, N.S. The sub-agencies at Birch Hills, Sask., and Schumacher, Ont., are now being operated as branches. The following branches have been closed: in Alberta—Athabasca; and in Saskatchewan—Langdon and Lewan. The sub-agency at Big M, Ont., has also been closed.

As indicated in the Profit and Loss account submitted herewith, your Directors have, during the year, subscribed \$50,000 to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, \$7,500 to the British Red Cross Fund, \$5,000 to the British Sailors' Relief Fund (Canada) and smaller sums, amounting in all to \$10,300, to various other organizations of a patriotic character.

Your Directors regret with deep regret the death, during the year, of one of their number, the late Hon. Sir Lyman Melvin Jones. He joined this Board in January, 1902, and during the fifteen years of his connection with it had proved himself a able and valued counsellor. His place was filled by the election of Mr. Charles N. Candor.

The auditors appointed at the last annual meeting, under section 56 of the Bank Act, have made the audit required of them and their report is appended to the statement submitted to you today. In addition, the offices of the Bank in Canada, the United States, Great Britain, Newfoundland and Mexico, and the departments of the Head Office, have undergone the usual inspection by the officers of our own Inspection Department.

The Directors once again have pleasure in testifying to the ability and zeal with which the officers of the Bank have discharged the duties allotted to them.

**JOHN AIRD,** General Manager, Toronto, 28th December, 1917.

### GENERAL STATEMENT

30th November, 1917.

LIABILITIES.	
Notes of the Bank in Circulation	\$ 28,995,244.68
Deposits not bearing interest	\$ 86,468,403.02
Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date	189,967,251.89
Balances due to other Banks in Canada	276,425,654.41
Balances due to Banks and Banking Correspondents elsewhere	580,968.01
Bills Payable	7,995,110.40
Acceptances under Letters of Credit	120,837.29
Dividends Unpaid	\$314,015,489.92
Dividend No. 123 and bonus, payable 1st December	525,000.00
Capital Paid up	\$ 15,000,000.00
Retained Account	13,500,000.00
Balance of Profits as per Profit and Loss Account	1,332,074.52
	\$24,832,074.52
	\$24,832,074.52

**ASSETS.**

Gold and Silver Coin Current	\$ 22,697,336.96
Domestic Notes	21,954,925.25
Deposit in the Central Gold Reserves	10,000,000.00
Notes of other Banks	\$ 2,004,762.00
Receivables on other Banks	11,930,875.21
Balances due by Banks and Banking Correspondents elsewhere than in Canada	8,496,103.99
Domestic and Provincial Government Securities, not exceeding market value	22,431,741.20
British, Foreign and Colonial Public Securities and Canadian Municipal Securities	27,596,420.22
Railway and other Bonds, Debentures and Stocks, not exceeding market value	6,192,461.60
Call and Short Loans (not exceeding 30 days) in Canada	13,460,862.62
Call and Short Loans (not exceeding 30 days) elsewhere than in Canada	20,076,903.13
Deposits with the Eastern Townships Bank	831,173.35
Circulation Fund	\$167,336,942.67
Other Current Loans and Discounts in Canada (less rebate of interest)	149,822,028.44
Other Current Loans and Discounts elsewhere than in Canada (less rebate of interest)	14,846,130.56
Liabilities of Customers (estimated loss provided for)	5,597,655.13
Overdue Debts (estimated loss provided for)	237,796.39
Real Estate other than Bank Premises (including the unpaid balance of former premises of the Eastern Townships Bank)	\$ 1,236,999.53
Less mortgage assumed	100,000.00
Mortgages on Real Estate sold by the Bank	1,136,999.53
Bank Premises at cost, less amount written off	196,005.81
Less mortgage assumed on property purchased	\$ 5,390,075.44
Other Assets not included in the foregoing	5,090,075.44
	111,588.68
	\$24,832,074.52

**B. E. WALKER,** President, JOHN AIRD, General Manager.

**REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.**

In accordance with the provisions of subsections 19 and 20 of Section 56 of the Bank Act, 1913, we report as follows:

We have audited the above Balance Sheet and compared it with the books and vouchers at the Head Office and with the certified returns from the branches. We have obtained all the information and explanations that we have required, and are of the opinion that the transactions of the Bank which have come under our notice have been within the powers of the Bank.

We have checked the cash and verified the securities representing the investments of the Bank at its chief office and principal branches at a date and found that they were in agreement with the entries in the books of the Bank and returning there to.

In our opinion the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the affairs of the Bank according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the Bank.

**T. HARRY WEBB, C.A.,** of Webb, Reid, Hagan, Callingham & Co., JAMES MARWICK, C.A., of Marwick, Mitchell, Peat & Co., AUDITORS.

Before moving the adoption of the Report, the President called on the General Manager to address the shareholders:

**General Manager's Address.**

We are crossing the meridian into the second half-century of the Bank's existence, and, pausing to look back, we may well feel satisfaction in what has been accomplished in a comparatively short period of time. While we hold second place only among the Canadian banks in the matter of "Total Assets," we may point to our present position as regards "Current Loans and Discounts in Canada" as an indication of the importance of the share taken by this Bank in the task of providing for the financial requirements of the mercantile community, and of carrying on the daily business of the country. In this connection it is interesting to note that by the year 1912 the current loans and discounts in Canada of this Bank were three times as great as those of all the Canadian banks in the year in which it was founded. We had hoped on this anniversary to announce the increase of the Rest to an amount equal to the paid-up capital of the Bank, and this doubtless would have been accomplished had it not been for the war.

**A Conservative Policy.**

We have deemed it wise to follow a specially cautious and conservative policy and to provide during the war even more than usual for the safety of our customers' funds. The large increase in our business, and the fact that the Bank is now principally a bank of deposits, has led us to increase our reserves. The increase in our reserves is shown by the fact that our current loans and discounts have increased by \$1,083,000, the net increase in our reserves being \$1,083,000. This is largely accounted for by the fact that our reserves have increased by \$1,083,000, the net increase in our reserves being \$1,083,000. This is largely accounted for by the fact that our reserves have increased by \$1,083,000, the net increase in our reserves being \$1,083,000.

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**Bank of British Columbia.** The extent of the increase and of the difference in the Canadian banks will be better grasped if we estimate the increase over the year for the year at twenty thousand million dollars. Needing, with the decrease in the interest rate, the problem of carrying for this vast amount of business does not grow less difficult. The increases in other items of the liabilities do not call for special remarks, as they are merely the result of the growth of our business.

**Strong Cash Reserves.**

Turning to the assets side of the Balance Sheet, we find an increase in our holdings of cash of \$8,261,000, of which \$1,722,000 is in gold and silver coin, \$2,639,000 in Dominion notes and \$3,900,000 in our deposit in the Central Gold Reserves. The last item has already been dealt with. Our cash holdings represent 18.19 per cent. of our deposits and circulation and 17.4 per cent. of our liabilities to the public, from which you will see that we have not deviated from our policy of carrying strong cash reserves in these times of difficulty and uncertainty. The large increase in our holdings of Dominion and Provincial Government Securities and of British, Foreign and Colonial Public Securities, consist principally of Treasury Bills, and of Dominion and Imperial Government Securities. We have continued, as opportunity offered, to realize on our holdings of other securities, and have shown a reduction of \$1,618,000. Immediately available assets have increased by \$37,996,000 and now stand at \$52,996,000. The increase in our cash holdings is slightly more than last year, but Current Loans in Canada have increased by \$1,083,000, the net increase in our cash holdings being \$1,083,000. This is largely accounted for by the fact that our cash holdings have increased by \$1,083,000, the net increase in our cash holdings being \$1,083,000.

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