

HOME BANK'S DEVELOPMENTS.

The statement of the Home Bank of Canada for the year ended May 31, presented at the annual meeting held at Toronto on Tuesday, shows that this Bank enjoyed a satisfactory year. Net profits were \$167,126, equal to about 12 per cent. on the average paid-up capital and comparing with \$140,030 last year. The seven per cent. dividend absorbed \$66,426; \$200,000 (including \$183,769 premium on new capital stock issued) was transferred to rest account, making this account \$650,000; \$40,000 was written off bank premises and office furniture and the increased balance of \$100,470 is carried forward. The balance sheet shows total assets of \$14,735,100, an increase of about \$2,400,000 upon last year. Paid-up capital at May 31 was \$1,938,208; deposits \$9,978,981—an increase of nearly \$1,000,000; current loans, \$8,799,609.

MONTREAL DEVELOPMENTS.

In his address at the meeting, the General Manager (Senator James Mason) referred to the taking over by the Home Bank of the Banque Internationale. "The Montreal branch," he said, "should grow in time to be of considerable usefulness, inasmuch as that City is becoming a very large grain export point, and in other respects the opening thus made in the Province of Quebec should in due course materially add to the volume of the Bank's business and profits." In referring to the current position and outlook, Senator Mason said that the present stringency is likely to continue throughout the year, and more especially during the season when the crops require to be moved. But, he said, it should prove more or less beneficial by checking over-borrowing on the part of our municipalities, and putting an end to speculative trading of all sorts. The large and steadily increasing immigration into Canada, the extensive railway construction, and the sound condition generally of business and of the manufacturing and other industries can be taken as a reassuring factor.

Regret was expressed at the retirement of the President, Mr. Eugene O'Keefe, owing to ill-health. Subsequently to the annual meeting Senator Mason (general manager) was elected his successor, with Mr. Thomas Flynn as vice-president. Mr. A. Claude Macdonell, M.P., is a new director. The shareholders approved an increase in the authorised capital of the Bank from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000.

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT BY CANADA LIFE.

The office of Treasurer of the Canada Life Assurance Company, made vacant by the death of Mr. H. L. Watt, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. E. M. Saunders, who since 1886 has been connected with the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and who for several years has been its manager at Calgary.

Mr. Saunders, who is a son of the Rev. Dr. Saunders of Halifax, received his education in Dalhousie College at Halifax. He spent 15 years in Eastern Canada in the service of the bank, and 11 years ago went to the West where he has represented it as Branch Manager at Moosomin and Moose Jaw as well as at Calgary. Mr. Saunders has also studied conditions at various points throughout the West on behalf of the bank, and the establishment of a number of its branches in that country has been on his recommendation.

Doubtless, Mr. Saunders' large experience of western conditions and his first-hand knowledge of the country has had something to do in confirming the directors of the Canada Life in their choice, for, while a man of first-class attainments and standing is necessary for so important an office, Mr. Saunders' value to his Company will be materially enhanced by his knowledge of the West in which most of our life companies are now investing a substantial part of their assets.

SIR EDMUND WALKER ON THE OUTLOOK.

Speaking recently at a luncheon tendered him in London by the members of the Royal Colonial Institute, Sir Edmund Walker said that when the transcontinental roads were finished and when the growth of Western cities was a little less rapid and the main features of municipal expenditure had been accomplished, things would begin to work easier, and until then it was impossible to expect that Canadians should overcome their imports with their exports. In the main, he was sure that the money they obtained was wisely used. So far as the building of railways in the West was concerned, there could be no doubt about their earning power, if they considered the low cost per mile and the quantity of traffic being created. So far as provincial Governments were concerned, there was no probability whatever of their incurring obligations beyond their capacity to protect, even though they might undertake some phases of State-ownership, in which some of them might not happen to believe. Apart from the scarcity of money, there had been nothing to check Canadian growth and prosperity, except the decline in real estate speculation—a thing not to be regretted. He could only repeat that nothing had happened to change the confidence of the investor in Canada, except that money was scarce instead of plentiful; when it was a little easier the investor would again see that the brightest and most wholesome spot in the Empire was in North America, above the great lakes and the 49th parallel.

INVESTMENT YIELDS AND THE COST OF LIVING.

In one sense it would be quite sufficient explanation of the apathy of the public to say that both investment and speculation is out of fashion at present, writes a banking authority in the *London Financial News*. All experienced men in the city are aware that fashion counts for a great deal in Stock Exchange business, and it is perfectly safe to say that, when the public commences to buy Stock Exchange securities the congestion, which is the problem of the moment, will very speedily be relieved. A further and more definite explanation of the aloofness of the public lies in the fact that the yield provided on good investment securities, although it has risen very considerably in the last two or three years, is not considered commensurate, in view of the largely increased cost of living. It is quite probable that 5 per cent. interest, to-day is equivalent only to about 4 per cent., say ten years ago. The purchasing power of the sovereign has decreased. This has necessitated the rise in wages that has been so general in the last few years and just in the same way as the workman is charging more for his skill or his muscle so the capitalist is charging more for the commodity which he has to sell or lend, namely, capital or credit.