

bank premises account, \$182,947.72. I have already touched upon; and the increase on the deposit with the Government against the general bank note circulation is consequent upon our increase of notes in circulation, to which I have drawn your attention. I think you will consider the year's results satisfactory, in comparison with the past. In only two years, 1906 and 1907, have we had better profits; for, although we had a larger sum to deal with last year, \$97,333.33 of it, you may remember, were not profits of the year, but an accidental windfall. So far as profits measure our progress, it is interesting to compare the recent growth of average profits over five-yearly periods. The figures are as follows:

	Average Annual Profit.
1895-1899	\$292,778.66
1900-1904	417,102.52
1905-1909	518,098.00
Profits for 1910	554,941.62

The profits of 1910, \$554,941.62, are \$36,933.62 better than the latest and highest average of those five-yearly periods. (Applause). Money was plentiful and cheap throughout the year, and our reserves at call in New York only averaged us 2.99 per cent., and in London 2.27 per cent.

The Chairman went on to review the various industries of the country.

He pointed out that while 1910 had not been such a good year for the farmer as 1909, it had turned out, on the whole, better than had been expected of it in the summer, and that the disappointing results had been practically confined to the Prairie Provinces, the farmers in the other parts of the country having as a rule done well.

Other lines of business, manufacturers, merchants and carriers, he stated, had upon the whole had a prosperous

year with largely increased turnovers and fair profits; Ontario, British Columbia and the Prairie cities having shared most largely in the prosperity.

Referring to the impending revision of the Bank Act, the chairman said: A bill for the revision of the Canadian Bank Act, and for the extension for a period of ten years of the existing banking institutions, is now engaging the attention of the House at Ottawa. The amendments to the expiring Act proposed by the Finance Minister appear well conceived to give greater stability to the banking system of the country, and better protection to the creditors and shareholders.

Reference was also made to the extended tour of Canada made last summer by Mr. E. A. Hoare, one of the directors of the bank, who had gained much useful and recent information of the existing conditions and prospects of the country, for which valuable services the Court of Directors felt greatly indebted to him.

Speaking of the staff, whose loyalty and faithful service had been recognized by a bonus of 5 per cent. on salaries, the chairman said:

I would like to say a word of personal appreciation with regard to the staff. They are efficient, they are loyal, and they are hard-working. A great part of their work—and their most effective work—is done out of the office and out of office hours; and I think, gentlemen, that we on this side of the table, and I have no doubt the vast majority of the proprietors, welcome those good returns that we are able by their work to make, as giving us some little opportunity of acknowledging in a suitable and substantial manner the good work that they have done for us. (Hear, hear).

The three Directors who retired by rotation, viz., Mr. E. A. Hoare, Mr. C. W. Tomkinson and Mr. J. H. Mayne Campbell, were unanimously re-elected; and Messrs. Geo. Sneath and N. E. Waterhouse, of Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co., were re-elected as auditors.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE ONTARIO LIFE INSURANCE ACT has been amended to make it clear that the payment of the value of a policy to the executors of an estate absolved the insurance company from claims from the heirs. This renders it unnecessary in the future for such money to be paid into court by insurance companies.

DETROIT UNITED RAILWAY.—An agreement has been reached between the city and the Detroit United Railway, whereby the latter will at once begin the building of extensions. By the agreement, the city can at any time buy any of the extensions at cost, less depreciation. At the same time D. U. R. officials believe that the agreement guarantees them against arbitrary action by the city.

THE MERGER of the Rochester German Insurance Company with the German American Insurance Company, of New York, has now been ratified by the directors of the former Company. Main offices of the new Company, which will be known as the German American Insurance Company, will be retained both in Rochester and New York. The merged Company will have a capital of \$2,000,000, a surplus of \$8,100,000 and total assets of \$19,800,000.

THE DISALLOWANCE by the Dominion Government of the Chartered Accountants' Act passed by the Province of Ontario, is stated to be due to a protest of the English Institute of Chartered Accountants, who took the ground that the new act gave power to Ontario accountants to exclude anyone, no matter how well qualified, whom they did not wish to practice in the province.

GOLD IMPORTS into Canada from New York this week are reported at \$800,000.

NEGOTIATIONS are stated to be in progress looking to the merger of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company, the Northern Navigation Company, and the Inland Navigation Company, with Lord Furness, the well-known English ship owner, and head of the Furness-Withy line, taking a prominent part in the project. On this news there was heavy buying yesterday of Richelieu stock up to 119.

A YEAR'S EMBEZZLEMENTS.—Embezzlements during the year 1910 compared with 1909 as indicated by press notices and dispatches collated by the bonding department of the Fidelity and Casualty Company of New York are as follows:—

	1909.	1910.	Increase.
Banks and trust companies	\$3,840,576	\$6,263,185	\$2,422,609
Beneficial assoc'ns.	104,601	509,598	404,997
Public service	1,007,028	743,552	*263,476
General business	1,998,051	2,001,353	93,302
Insurance cos.	1,296,981	35,115	*1,261,866
Court trusts	287,466	487,864	200,398
Transportation cos.	865,970	476,256	*649,714
Miscellaneous	1,041,387	475,042	*566,345

Total \$10,652,060 \$10,731,965 \$79,905
* Decrease.

For January, 1911, the same record is:—

Banks and trust companies	\$ 66,896
Beneficial associations	259
Public service	154,266
General business	115,352
Insurance companies	17,848
Court trusts	1,617
Miscellaneous	117,265
Total	\$473,494