

THE BANK OF OTTAWA.

The annual report and general statement presented to the shareholders of the Bank of Ottawa at their annual meeting on Wednesday were again of a very satisfactory character. There was a gratifying expansion in the Bank's profits during the year ended November 30 last, these amounting to \$706,741, compared with \$640,220 in 1912, an increase of \$66,000. The balance forward from 1912 of \$260,560 makes the total amount available on profit and loss account \$706,741. Of this amount, the quarterly dividend payments at the rate of twelve per cent. per annum absorb \$471,250; \$37,291 is applied in reduction of bank premises and furniture, \$15,000 is transferred to the officers' pension fund, and an additional allocation of \$250,000 is made to the reserve fund, making this fund, with premiums received during the year from new stock issued, \$4,750,000, a proportion of 118.75 to the paid-up capital. There is then a balance of \$202,759 on profit and loss account to be carried forward to the current year.

The following table shows the leading items of the Bank's balance sheet in comparison with last year:

	1913.	1912.
Capital Stock	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 3,825,480
Reserve	4,750,000	4,325,480
Circulation	4,468,075	3,960,040
Deposits not bearing interest ..	7,768,592	6,080,850
Deposits bearing interest ..	33,038,907	32,076,827
Total liabilities to public ..	45,601,132	42,257,696
Specie and legals	5,035,860	3,915,560
Call Loans in Canada	497,152	1,404,319
Total of Quick Assets	15,153,635	14,361,348
Current loans in Canada ..	36,472,199	34,851,114
Total Assets	54,674,231	50,909,243

The Bank has achieved during the year a steady increase in deposits amounting in the aggregate to about \$1,700,000. Current loans in Canada increased by about \$1,600,000 to \$36,472,199. The Bank has substantially strengthened its cash holdings during the year, those having been raised from \$3,915,560 to \$5,035,860—the latter figure being a proportion of 11 per cent. to the Bank's liabilities to the public. The Bank's assets are increased to \$54,674,231, of which \$15,153,635 are quick assets, a proportion of 33.2 to liabilities to the public. Altogether the statement is one upon which Mr. George Burn, the Bank's well-known general manager, may be warmly congratulated. Mr. Francis Cole represents this Bank in St. James Street, Montreal.

CANADIANS AT LIFE PRESIDENTS' MEETING.

The following Canadians were present at the annual convention of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents, held in New York City last week: Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance; Messrs. T. B. Macaulay, managing director Sun Life, L. Goldman, first vice-president and managing director North American Life, W. C. Macdonald, secretary and actuary Confederation Life, George A. Somerville, general manager Manufacturers' Life, J. F. Weston, Imperial Life, J. B. Morissette, Quebec, and Dr. B. E. Mackenzie, Policyholders' Mutual Life.

The Canada Life's Christmas Number of its agency journal *Life* is exactly what such a number should be—bright, sparkling and crammed with good things for the agency forces of this fine old Company.

SASKATCHEWAN'S LOANS TO FARMERS**TERMS OF NEW MEASURE—LOAN BUSINESS TO BE UNDER DIRECTION OF THREE COMMISSIONERS—AN ADVISORY BOARD OF FIFTEEN.**

Premier Scott has announced in the legislature at Regina, Sask., that he will introduce a measure providing for government loans to farmers along the lines of the report of the recent commission appointed to enquire into the question of agricultural credits. The bill as presented provides that:

Any resident of the province, who associates himself with nine other persons, to form a local group, may join the association. He must apply for a first mortgage loan on farm land, and pay a membership fee of \$10, returnable if no loan is granted. The association formed by the aggregation of local groups will be administered by three commissioners, appointed by the lieutenant-governor in council. One member only of this board will be employed on a permanent salary, the others will simply be reimbursed whatever expenses they may incur in the service of the association. There will also be an advisory board of 15 persons, three to be appointed by the government, one each by various agricultural and other organisations, and 6 by ballot of the association.

NOT RUN FOR PROFIT.

Some outstanding features of the new organization are that it will not be run for profit, although a reserve fund may be created, that the government will guarantee principal and interest of bonds issued for an amount to be determined on from time to time, that members of the association will be liable for indebtedness to the extent of 50 per cent. in excess of their borrowings, and that borrowers may pay off their loans prior to the expiration of their mortgages if they so desire.

Loans will not be made in respect to more than 40 per cent. of the value of farm property and the Commissioners will be the valuers. No loan will be for less than 15 years or more than 35 and all loans will be repayable in equal annual or semi-annual instalments of principal and interest. It is provided, as an offset to the foregoing relation, that on giving three months' notice or a bonus of three months' interest, any member may pay an amount toward the discharge of his loan in excess of the regular payment. He will not, however, in consideration of having made an excess payment be allowed to miss making payments on the subsequent dates when regular payments fall due.

The rate of interest will be designed barely to cover the cost of marketing securities, of conducting the business of the association, and of creating a reserve.

OTHER POWERS CONFERRED.

Power will be accorded to the association to borrow, to hypothecate its real and personal property, and to lend to agriculturists. It may also invest disposable funds by depositing the same in any chartered bank, by investing in such securities or ways as a trust company is permitted to lend trust funds in its hands, or by the purchasing of its mortgage bonds.

Borrowers from the association must devote the funds so raised to permanent improvement of their properties, or to productive purposes connected with it. Where land depreciates in value the association has power to require a partial repayment of the loan.