

although the surplus of the associated banks appears large, two of the leading institutions account for no less than 80 p.c. of the whole.

In Canada call loans are still quoted at $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 p.c. and the week has seen no appreciable lessening of the monetary scarcity. Another combine or merger of considerable importance has been announced this week. It is a consolidation of shoe interests and involves the transfer of \$4,000,000 cash according to the reports. This cash may have been secured in New York, but if it is the case that Canadian banks provided it a further absorption of banking funds into these consolidations has been necessitated. THE CHRONICLE has taken the ground that the banks in this country would be well advised to reduce their commitments in merger securities and transactions.

A good deal of interest is taken in the application of prominent Montreal interests for the incorporation of a new bank with \$10,000,000 capital to be provided largely in France. Judging from the explanations given by the promoter the new institution is intended to supply funds in large measure to stock market borrowers. It is said that the branches would be confined to the principal cities where plenty of business of a purely financial character would be available.



CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The sixty-fourth annual report of the Canada Life Assurance Company shows that with the passing years this old established Company loses nothing in vigour and continues to make consistent progress. The report appears on another page; here it may be noted that it shows that in all those elements which are essential to the success of a life company, the Canada Life made gains during 1910. Nothing could be more satisfactory than this, alike to policyholders, to shareholders and to the directorate and management.

In reviewing the 63rd annual report a year ago, we described 1909 as the Canada Life's best year, but it would appear that 1910 was even better than its predecessor. As was the case twelve months ago, the two joint General Managers, Mr. E. W. Cox and Mr. F. Sanderson, F.F.A., are able to report an increase in new business, a large gain in surplus and a decrease in the expense ratio. Additionally, the mortality rate was lower, and was, indeed, exceptionally favorable; the interest rate was higher; premium income and interest earnings show a satisfactory increase; the lapse ratio has been reduced; payments to policyholders during 1910 exceeded those made during any previous year in the Company's history, and a larger amount was

allotted to policyholders in profits than at any previous quinquennium. The surplus earned during 1910 was \$1,233,000. Three causes already mentioned contribute to this excellent showing, the reduction in the expense ratio, the increase in the rate of interest earned, and the mortality experience more favorable than the standard tables. This, it will be generally agreed, is a highly satisfactory record.

The leading figures of the year's business show effectively the extent and importance of the operations of this Company. New paid-for business during 1910 amounted to \$10,838,384, and the aggregate business in force at the end of the year is the large amount of \$128,274,073. The net premium income was \$3,007,307, and interest, etc., reached \$1,004,673, making a total of \$5,002,070. Total payments to policyholders during the year exceeded by \$1,500,000 those of the quinquennial year 1905, hitherto the record year in the Company's history in this regard. The figures making up the large total of \$4,789,047, payments to policyholders, are as follows:—

Death Claims (including bonus additions \$96,806.57)	\$1,319,992.98
Endowments Matured (including bonus additions \$48,477.07)	864,967.32
Annuities Paid	45,625.78
Cash Surrender Values	164,415.49
Cash Surrender Values, Matured and other Deferred Dividend Policies	566,086.17
Dividends paid policyholders	1,827,960.29
	\$4,789,047.94

At the close of 1910, the Canada Life's total assets reached \$40,820,856, an increase of \$1,134,703 during the year. In view of the large disbursements on policyholders' accounts, the 1910 increase, as the directors point out, may be considered a satisfactory one. Of the total assets, the ledger assets represent \$30,278,261, of which amount \$18,814,012 is represented by Government, municipal and other bonds, stocks and debentures, \$11,701,852 by mortgages on real estate and \$5,024,670 by loans on policies. The real estate owned, including the Company's buildings in the most important Canadian centres and in London, England, represents \$2,214,032, and there is cash on hand and in banks, 343,529.

Mr. J. H. Plummer, who has during 1910 been elected a director, and subsequently Vice-President of the Company, at the recent annual meeting referred in an interesting way to one or two points of importance with regard to the Company's investments and its general policy. Mr. Plummer said in part:—

We have a large amount of money to look after and I doubt if one could find anywhere a body of loans and investments more uniformly sound and excellent in character, or a loaning business more carefully organized and managed. I would like to refer to the safe and