

Both companies made large gains in their cash holdings during the year, more especially the Ogilvie. The most marked contrast between the two statements is probably afforded by the respective items of wheat, etc., in hand. In the case of the Ogilvie Company this item at \$532,189 is about \$125,000 lower than a year ago; while the Lake of the Woods showing of \$914,549 is over \$250,000 greater than a year ago. It looks somewhat as though "prognostications sometimes differ" as to the wheat market trend, causing company policies to vary accordingly.

The current season's prospects for milling operations are good; just how good depends on conditions without, as well as within, Canada itself. The longer outlook for these two great companies cannot be other than bright. The opening up of thousands upon thousands of acres of new grain lands, with the advance of railroad communication and the influx of settlers, makes their field of operations an even-widening one.

THE MOLSONS BANK.

Four years ago the Molsons Bank passed its half-century mile-stone of continued progress. Not even the general business depression of 1907-08 has since checked its growth, though net profits in the year closing September 30, were slightly less than those of the preceding twelvemonth. However, as remarked at Monday's annual meeting by the President, Mr. William Molson Macpherson, this was quite to be expected on account of the decline of rates for money which for many months was abnormally plentiful. This condition is now passing and the prospects are for a steadily increasing demand for loan accommodation.

The growth of the bank's resources and business since it entered upon its second half-century may be judged from the following summary of important items:

	Sep. 30, 1905.	Sep. 30, 1908.	Sep. 30 1909.
	\$	\$	\$
Capital paid up.....	3,000,000	3,374,000	3,500,000
Reserve Fund.....	3,000,000	3,374,000	3,500,000
Circulation.....	2,906,970	2,942,103	3,032,902
Deposits not bearing interest.....	3,478,640	3,483,074	4,359,171
Deposits bearing interest.....	16,806,074	20,527,053	22,796,981
Specie and Dominion notes.....	2,021,376	2,498,557	3,142,847
Securities.....	3,218,005	2,616,804	2,900,835
Current loans.....	17,831,821	22,368,916	24,307,420
Call and short loans.....	3,476,345	2,821,243	3,887,213
Total assets.....	30,118,164	34,694,171	38,556,337

The bank's balance sheet shows it to be particularly strong in cash and other liquid assets, these totalling nearly \$13,000,000 out of aggregate assets of \$38,556,337.

The net profits for the past year amounted to \$493,480; from which have been paid quarterly dividends of 2½ per cent. each, \$350,000; taxes,

\$17,443; to officers' pension fund, \$10,000; for branch premises \$11,952; leaving \$104,085 to be added to profit and loss balance and bringing it up to \$257,760. Referring to the trying conditions which bankers had to face during the earlier months of the year, the president paid ungrudging tribute to the skill and energy shown by the general manager, Mr. James Elliot, and the managers of branches. Local business has owed much to the ability of Mr. T. B. Pheboe, Montreal manager.

The "conservative optimism" which characterized the president's address to the bank's shareholders a year ago, is being eminently justified by present business developments throughout Canada.

This year special reference was made to the steady expansion of the West, and to the general business quickening that is resulting from its good fortune agriculturally. Regarding the steady inflow of foreign capital to Canada, the president made the suggestion that it might be to the credit and advantage of both borrower and lender, if a committee of experienced business men could be appointed to report and advise on projected investments.

Referring to the Banking Act, which will next year come under revision, Mr. Macpherson expressed the opinion that considering the severe test which banks experienced during the stringency of 1907, and the excellent services rendered by them, coupled with the advantages of abundant banking facilities enjoyed by business men in all parts of Canada, it would scarcely appear that any material change were necessary.

The bank's board of directors, as re-elected, comprises the following well-known men of business and affairs: Messrs. J. P. Cleghorn, George E. Drummond, S. H. Ewing, Charles B. Gordon, H. Markland Molson, W. Molson Macpherson, and W. M. Ramsay.

At a subsequent meeting of the directors, Mr. W. Molson Macpherson was re-elected president, and Mr. S. H. Ewing, vice-president, for the ensuing year.

THE SUPREME COURT of the State of New York, has handed down an important decision in the case of the Travelers' Insurance Company against Otto Kelsey as Superintendent of Insurance. It will be remembered that the superintendent gave as his ruling that the present value of mortality gains for five years could not be taken at once by a life company in computing business expenses. This ruling is declared unwarranted by the Supreme Court. Henceforth, the Superintendent has no authority, under "section 97" of the Armstrong laws, to prevent life insurance companies from using for expenses of new business the present values of the assumed mortality gains from the first on all policies, beside the loadings.