

it has been known for some months that the issue was in prospect. Bond dealers note a fair inquiry for bonds of Quebec municipalities. The purchasers of the \$200,000 Montreal East issue sold recently are said to have been meeting success in their sale. On the theory that the bond-buying power of the investors in many parts of the province was by no means exhausted by the Victory Loan, it is believed that some activity may be looked for in Quebec municipals after the turn of the year.

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

Ranking among the world's great financial institutions, the Royal Bank of Canada has just presented an exceptionally strong report for the fiscal year ended November 30th. The bank's liquid assets on November 30th were \$165,836,706, compared with \$121,127,663 a year ago. There was a substantial increase of \$52,000,000 in deposits. Over four-fifths of this gain was in savings deposits. The Royal Bank did yeoman service during the past year in placing large amounts at the disposal of the Imperial and Dominion governments. In addition, it afforded Canadian commerce, industry and agriculture substantial support in current loans and discounts. They totalled \$102,358,027, compared with \$93,000,000 a year ago.

The net profits for the year amounted to \$2,327,979, an increase of \$216,000 over the previous year. These profits are equal to 18 per cent. on the capital as compared with 17.59 per cent. last year. With the balance carried forward a year ago, the bank had \$3,180,325, which was distributed as follows: Dividends, \$1,549,404; pension fund, \$100,000; bank premises, \$250,000; war tax, \$128,357; Patriotic Fund, \$60,000; reserve fund \$528,300; balance carried forward, \$564,264.

A full analysis of the Royal Bank's statement will be printed in *The Monetary Times* next week. In the meantime, the management and directorate may be congratulated upon the excellent results of the past year's operations.

OUR TRADE RECORDS

(Continued from page 9.)

manufacturers and traders in obtaining raw materials from the United States. This is rapidly becoming a problem for serious consideration. As the war proceeds, we will have to depend more upon the development of our own resources.

The November figures make it possible to compute the value of our trade for eleven months of the current calendar year. At the end of last month, our exports totalled \$1,399,000,000, which gives an excess of exports over imports of \$455,000,000, compared with a favorable balance of \$263,000,000 a year ago and an adverse balance of \$233,000,000 for the eleven months period of 1913.

We had a favorable balance at the end of every month this year, with the one exception of April. If the present volume of trade is maintained, the balance in our favor at the end of the current fiscal year in March next should be not less than \$500,000,000. High prices for commodities have contributed largely to the record value of Canada's trade as well as increased exports. The figures are cause for much satisfaction but they again bring to mind the problems which must be met after the war in regard to our export trade. Then we will meet keen competition in all our business dealings abroad.

Mr. Holland, managing director of the Dominion Permanent Loan Company, Toronto, who has been seriously ill with pneumonia for the past two weeks, is reported as having made considerable improvement during the past day or two, although it is hardly probable that he will be able to be at his office for some time to come.

FIRE DANGERS IN PICTURE THEATRES

Over 29 Per Cent. of the Buildings are of Frame Construction

During the last five years, the moving picture theatre has become one of the leading sources of amusement. It is estimated that more than 500,000 people attend such theatres every day, and it is important, therefore, that every possible precaution be taken to ensure their safety. As a rule, women and children largely predominate in the audiences, and, in the event of panic, the danger is, therefore, at a maximum.

Over 29 per cent. of the existing moving picture theatres in Canada are of frame construction. In 92 cases families are living above theatres with stairways as the only means of escape in the event of fire. The actual figures are given in the following table:—

Cities and towns (population).	Brick theatres.	Frame theatres.	Dwellings over theatres.
Exceeding 10,000	338	27	26
5,000 to 10,000	59	31	15
1,000 to 5,000	115	109	27
Under 1,000	28	57	24
Total	540	224	92

Conditions are Being Bettered.

The existence of so large a percentage of frame buildings is startling when the hazards connected with moving picture theatres are considered, but the fact is capable of simple explanation. While the moving picture business was still in the experimental stage, promoters were uncertain as to the profits that might be expected, and hence they were unwilling to risk large sums of money in sound construction. Many theatres were erected hastily and cheaply, and, in some cases, with little consideration for the question of safety. At the present time, statutes regulating the construction of theatres and providing for the safety of the patrons are in effect in all the provinces in Canada, and these are supplemented by municipal ordinances.

MONEY MARKETS

Messrs. Glazebrook and Cronyn, exchange and bond brokers, Toronto, report the following exchange rates to *The Monetary Times*:—

	Buyers.	Sellers.	Counter.
N.Y. funds	19-64 pm	23-64 pm
Mont. funds	par	par	¾ to ¼
Sterling—			
Demand	\$4.76.75	\$4.77	\$4.79
Cable transfers	\$4.78	\$4.78.25	\$4.80
Rate in New York, sterling demand, \$4.75 3-16.			
Bank of England rate, 5 per cent.			

NEW PULP & PAPER INDUSTRY

The Ontario government, in carrying out its soldier-settlement plan for Northern Ontario, has provided for the building of a big pulp and paper industry in the Kapuskasing district, in the townships being opened for the soldiers. Hon. G. Howard Ferguson has awarded to Messrs. Munday and Stewart, of Toronto, who are understood to be representing United States interests, the right to cut pulpwood and timber upon the Kapuskasing pulp and paper limit. The company to be formed will be required to erect at Kapuskasing a pulp mill costing, with machinery and equipment, not less than \$1,000,000; to operate it so that the daily output shall be not less than 100 tons of pulp, and to employ an average of 200 hands for ten months of the year. The company will also be required to erect a paper mill with a daily capacity of 75 tons a day whenever directed by the government. A flat rate of 75 cents per cord for all pulpwood and \$15 a thousand for pine will be paid to the Ontario government.

Mr. F. Whittet, secretary-treasurer of the Riordon Pulp and Paper Company, has been elected a member of the board.