

BANK OF OTTAWA.

The statement of this prosperous bank gives the net profits of past year, ending 30th November, as \$298,594, which is 14.92 per cent. on the paid-up capital. This provides for two half-yearly dividends at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, and leaves \$100,000 to be added to the Reserve Fund. The stock will be enlarged next year by a new issue of \$1,000,000. Since 1892 this bank has increased its deposits from \$3,839,554 to \$11,853,290 and loans from \$6,057,661 to \$12,569,724. Then it had six branches, now it has 24. The report reached us too late for an extended review, but the "plums" are the above data and comparisons upon providing which Mr. George Burn, General Manager, is to be congratulated.

THE ROYAL BANK PROPOSAL.

A proposal has been made to the directors of the Royal Bank by a number of American capitalists, which has excited much interest in financial circles and no little speculation as to its motive and object, these not being apparent on the surface. They propose to acquire 5,000 shares of the Royal Bank of Canada for which, it is reported, they agree to pay at the rate of \$250 per share. The directors recommend that the offer be accepted, and that \$500,000 be added to the stock which would be thus raised to \$2,500,000. As the par value of the shares is \$100 the issue of 5,000 shares at the price stated to have been offered would add \$750,000 to the Reserve Fund, thus raising it from \$1,700,000 to \$2,450,000.

The Royal Bank on 31st October last stood as follows:—

Capital paid up.	Res.	Circulation.	Total deposits.
\$2,000,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,825,719	\$13,913,680
Current loans in Canada.	Current loans, Foreign.	Call loans in Canada.	Call loans outside Canada.
\$10,030,562	\$363,264	\$1,544,449	\$1,501,535

A further issue of new stock is also stated to be projected which would be open to the shareholders but at what premium has not been disclosed.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

Several banks that have branches in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories are considering the question of establishing local boards of directors whose function would be advising the branch managers and the head office officials regarding business affairs of which they would be likely to be thoroughly well informed owing to their being settled in the locality. It would also be helpful to a bank in extending its connections in a district to have local directors who would take an active interest in the bank's welfare and progress. Appointments to such

advisory banks would need to be made with great prudence, as a local director would have, not only power to promote the interests of the bank, but to do the institution serious injury by bringing it into discredit through his personal misconduct or failure in business, or quarrelling with the local manager. "Go slow" is a good motto for such a movement.

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Arrangements have been made between the Canadian Northern and the Great Northern Railway by which the latter company will obtain an entrance into Manitoba over the road of the former. Business will be interchanged between the two companies at St. Vincent, Main, U.S., on the Manitoba border. This agreement will enable the Great Northern to secure traffic from Eastern Canada for shipment to points on the Canadian Northern in Manitoba.

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Optimists who "hope all things" and believe what they hope, consider the City Hospital question to be now settled. Knowing the ease with which arrangements and resolutions may be upset in the City Council, and the delight some members have in making the Council stultify itself by reversing its own decisions, we are not over-sanguine in this matter. The scheme which has met with general aldermanic approval is, to have two city hospitals, one to be under control of Notre Dame Hospital officials, the other in charge of the staff of the General and Royal Victoria. Each institution to be allowed \$10,000 a year, and be required to have accommodation for 100 patients. One hospital to be east of St. Lawrence Main street, the other west of that thoroughfare, which is a highly indefinite location, as the buildings might be within 100 feet of each other and still be respectively "east" and "west" of Main street. The hospital authorities have now to pass upon this proposal, and numbers of points have to be considered and settled, on any one of which the plan may be wrecked. Still it is satisfactory for any practical scheme for providing a City Hospital to have been approved by the Council.

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The Insurance Institute of Toronto held its second general meeting for the season 1902-1903 last night, the President, Mr. T. Bradshaw, being in the chair. Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., read an interesting and valuable paper on "Some Features in the Law of Fire Insurance" and Mr. E. E. Reid, A.I.A., Actuary of the London Life Insurance Company, read an instructive paper on "Industrial Insurance." A discussion on some of the essential features of the papers followed.