WESTERN CANADA LOAN AND SAVINGS COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of this company was held at its offices, No. 76 Church street, Toronto, on Monday, 12th March, 1900, at 10.30 o'clock a.m. A large number of shareholders were present. The Hon. G. W. Allan occupied the chair, and the managing director, Mr. Walter S. Lee, acted as secretary to the meeting. The following financial statements were read and with the directors' report, were adopted, on motion of the president, seconded by George W. Lewis, Esq.

REPORT.

The directors beg to lay before the shareholders their thirty-seventh annual report, for the year ending 31st December, 1899.

The earning power of the company for the past year has been very satisfactory. After deducting the cost of management, interest on debentures and deposits, and all other charges, there remains a net profit of $122,684.58, out of which sum two half-yearly dividends, at the rate of six per cent. per annum, besides income taxes, have been paid, leaving a surplus on the year's working of $31,709.58.

The net earnings are, therefore, eight per cent. upon the paid-up capital of the company.

The interest falling due on mortgage loans has been most satisfactorily met. The actual amount received for interest alone during the past year was $370,873.39. The total amount of money placed with the company for investment amounts to $4,186,058, as against $4,438,112 last year.

The currency debentures have been increased by $71,400, and the sterling debentures have been decreased by $236,534.31.

It will be observed that the reserve and contingent funds now stand at $211,214.68. This reduction is the result of the special valuation of the company's securities made for the purposes of the proposed amalgamation of the company with the Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Company, Freehold Loan and Savings Company, and the London and Ontario Investment Company, foreshadowed in the annual report of last year.

The valuations arrived at for the purposes of the proposed amalgamation have been accepted unreservedly in making up the financial statements, which are submitted herewith.

G. W. Allan,
President.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1899.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS.

Liabilities.

To Shareholders—		
Capital stock	$1,500,000 00	
Reserve fund, $179,505.10; contingent account, $31,709.58	211,214 68	
Dividend, payable 2nd Jan., 1900	45,000 00	
		$1,756,214 68
To the Public—		
Currency debentures and interest	$ 955,574 23	
Sterling debentures and interest	2,522,960 83	
Deposits	707,523 04	
Other liabilities, coupons outstanding, etc.	8,656 42	
		4,194,714 52
		$5,950,929 20

Assets.

Mortgage investments		$5,369,704 57
Office premises and furniture, Toronto and Winnipeg		167,951 10
Municipal debentures, city of Toronto	$209,011 16	
Municipal debentures, city of Ottawa	32,876 59	
Other debentures	41,705 53	
Loans on call	48,050 68	
Cash in banks	80,270 41	
Cash on hand	1,359 16	
		413,273 53
		$5,950,929 20

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Cost of management, viz., salaries, rent, inspection and valuation, office expenses, branch office, agents' commissions, auditors' fees, legislation, etc	$ 48,277 74	
Directors' compensation	4,240 00	
Interest on deposits	23,509 87	
Interest on debentures	135,124 09	
		$211,151 70
Net profit for year, applied as follows:		
Dividends and tax thereon	90,975 00	
Carried to contingent account	31,709 58	
		122,684 58
		$333,836 28
Interest on mortgages and debentures, rents, etc.		$333,836 28

Walter S. Lee,
Managing Director.

Toronto, 2nd March, 1900.

To the Shareholders of the Western Canada Loan and Savings Company:

We beg to report that we have completed the audit of the books of the Western Canada Loan and Savings Company, and a detailed inspection of the securities (with the exception of the business of the Manitoba branch, which has been audited and inspected by the local auditor), and certify that the above statements of assets and liabilities, and profit and loss, are correct, and show the true position of the company's affairs. The bank balances and cash are certified correct.

W. R. Harris,
A. E. Osler,
Auditors.

The president then said:

In laying before you their thirty-seventh annual report, the directors are glad to be able to point to the very satisfactory character of the past year's business, inasmuch as it shows as a result that after paying all expenses and two half-yearly dividends, there remains a surplus of $31,709, the largest surplus shown since the year 1895. It is to this large earning power of the company, and the excellent business, especially in Manitoba, which, thanks to the zeal and good judgment of our staff, the Western Canada now controls there, that I particularly desire to call attention; and in this connection I may allude to the very satisfactory manner in which the interest upon our securities has been met during the past year, amounting, as stated in the directors' report, to $370,873. While our sterling debentures have decreased, our currency debentures have been increased by $71,400. The condition of affairs in Great Britain, consequent upon the war in South Africa, affecting, as it has, the rate of interest and investments generally, will sufficiently account for the decrease in our sterling debentures; but it will be satisfactory to the shareholders to know that we nevertheless renewed, during the past year, some $340,000 of sterling bonds at 3½ per cent. interest, instead of 4 per cent., which they had previously borne. As stated in the report, our reserve and contingent funds have been reduced, as the result of the valuation of our securities, made by a special board of valuators, for the purposes of the proposed amalgamation of the four companies, the Canada Permanent, the Western Canada, the Freehold, and the London and Ontario. While these valuations have been accepted as the basis upon which this company is prepared to go into amalgamation, it is but right to state also that, admitting that it is proper that for this special purpose the valuation of our securities should be of the most rigid character, it does not necessarily imply that many of these securities will not, with careful management, ultimately realize very much more than under this valuation they are now set down at. Even upon the basis of this special valuation, the capital of this company is intact, and we have a present reserve or surplus of 12 per cent. upon that capital; but as by the Act to incorporate the amalgamating companies, it is enacted that a reserve of 25 per cent. must be provided by each company entering the amalgamation, that further provision will, of course, have also to be made by this company. I shall only now say further that the question of this company entering into the proposed amalgamation will first have to be submitted to a vote of the shareholders, before it can be carried out; and of this meeting, proper legal notice as to all matters to be then submitted, and full particulars, will be given in due time.

Scrutineers having been appointed, a ballot was taken, and the retiring directors, the Hon. G. W. Allan, George F. Galt, Esq., and Thomas H. Lee, Esq., were re-elected.

These gentlemen, with Messrs. George Gooderham, Alfred Gooderham, George W. Lewis, and Walter S. Lee, constitute the full board.

At a subsequent meeting of the directors, the Hon. G. W. Allan and George Gooderham, Esq., were re-elected president and vice-president, respectively.

CHICAGO AS A RAILWAY CENTRE.

It is stated by S. T. Clover, of that city, that Chicago is the greatest railroad centre in the world. With twenty-eight terminal trunk lines of railway, the number of through express and mail trains arriving and departing daily is 284; accommodation and suburban passenger trains, 694; merchandise freight trains, 288; grain, stock and lumber trains, 100, making a total of 1,366 regular trains of all classes in and out of Chicago daily by way of all railroad lines.

One hundred and fifty thousand suburban residents are brought into the city every morning over the steam roads, and one of these lines—the Illinois Central—transports 15,000,000 passengers every year over its admirably conducted system. The total tonnage of dead freight carried Eastward in 1898 aggregated 6,000,000 tons.

From the West the big trunk roads in that year brought in nearly 270,000,000 bushels of grain, over 4,000,000 barrels of flour, 205,000,000 pounds of cut meats, 60,000,000 pounds of lard, and 9,000,000 live hogs. The in and out freight amounts now to 950,000 cars annually.

—The British steamer "Crewe," will shortly sail from Philadelphia for Novorossisk, Russia, with the largest shipment of agricultural implements ever made from the United States. The cargo is valued at nearly $1,000,000, and includes thousands of reapers, mowers, threshers, and various other kinds of harvesting machinery.