

under consideration, and there will thus be an opportunity to inquire into the matter before the Act is passed.

On Wednesday, in reply to Mr. R. Blain (Peel), Mr. Fielding stated that there was no foundation for the statement that the Government do not intend to proceed with the bill amending the Bank Act this Session.

Grand Trunk Railway.

The declaration of a dividend of one half of one per cent. on its third preference stock is an agreeable sign of increasing prosperity in the Grand Trunk's finances. The third preference had been without a dividend since 1907, when 3 p.c. was paid, there having been a similar payment in 1906. There is, the cables state, £5,000 carried forward which compares with £9,940 a year ago. Yet more interesting than this announcement is the news that Sir Felix Schuster, governor of the Union of London and Smiths Bank, has joined the Grand Trunk board. The addition of so able a financial authority should be a decided strengthening to the Grand Trunk directorate on the financial side.

Standard Bank of Canada.

The annual statement of the Standard Bank now published for the year ended January 31, shows that net profits were \$373,208 (18.66 p.c. upon the paid-up capital) against \$342,258 (18.26 p.c.) in the previous year. The 12 per cent. dividend absorbed \$240,000; \$7,500 was contributed to the Officers' Pension Fund, \$25,000 was applied in reduction of Bank premises account, \$100,000 was added to rest, making this fund \$2,500,000 or 125 p.c. of the paid-up capital, and there is the slightly enlarged carry forward of \$54,782. Deposits increased by \$3,000,000 in the twelve months and discounts by nearly \$3,500,000. Following are leading figures for 1909 and 1910:

	1909.	1910.
Capital paid up	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Rest	2,400,000	2,500,000
Profits	342,258	373,208
Deposits	23,520,527	26,413,503
Discounts	19,610,722	23,025,354

Insurance against Death Duties.

The impetus which has been given to life insurance in Great Britain owing to the incidence of the death duties is well known. The case for it is put forcibly in an article in the current issue of the Financial Review of Reviews (London), by Lord Middleton, still better known, perhaps, as Mr. St. John Brodrick, a former British Cabinet Minister. Lord Middleton finds in life insurance a remedy for the present troubles of landed proprietors in England. "Unless," he writes, "the State is to levy its dues on capital and nine out of ten landed estates are to be broken up, the only remedy is life insurance. In this respect most people begin at the wrong end. The man who tries to insure £10,000 against Death Duties when he is thirty-five or forty, does so at the age when it is most difficult to spare £300 a year for the premiums. The advisable course is to insure an infant from his birth. For less than £150 paid for twenty years, an insurance of £10,000 may be secured, payable at death any time after twenty-

one. The premiums may be graduated more heavily over the earlier years when there is no education to be paid; their cessation causes a sensible relief at the age of University allowances or youthful extravagance. . . . Life insurance is the most legitimate, and will be the most fertile means of avoiding Death Duties. The man who hands £10,000 to his son in stocks for use after his death gives up £400 a year and may see the capital lost. If he effects the saving by a life insurance policy he can assign it to his heir without any loss or risk whatever." And Lord Middleton sums up:—"Life insurance is practically the only method by which ordinary men can escape death duties. The time may come when every marriage settlement which provides for the maintenance of a family, will also provide for insuring the heir at an early age."

Canadian Guardian Life Insurance Company.

There is published in the Canada Gazette, the report of an investigation made by Messrs. Clarkson and Cross, chartered accountants, of Toronto, on the instructions of the Superintendent of Insurance, into the affairs of the Canadian Guardian Life Insurance Company. This Company was incorporated in 1901, and commenced business in Ontario in the same year. It received a Dominion license in May, 1905. According to the latest Government insurance blue book, its authorised capital as at December 31, 1909, was \$1,000,000, capital subscribed for, \$500,000, and paid-up in cash, \$30,000. Messrs. Clarkson and Cross report that their investigation extended from the date of the Company's last report to the Insurance Department of the Ontario Government (December 31, 1904) to November 30 last—a period of 71 months. The accountants submit as a fair summary of the Company's operations for this period, the following statement, any adjustments that may be found necessary not being likely to vary the result materially:—

Premiums received from policyholders . . .	\$85,166.33
<i>Deduct therefrom:</i>	
Paid Commission to Agents . . .	\$ 9,444.18
Paid Death Losses . . .	11,599.13
Paid policyholders as surrender values . . .	9,259.16
Loans to policyholders . . .	4,221.24
	34,523.71
	\$50,642.62
Expenses for the 71 months . . .	111,865.88
	\$61,223.26
Operating loss . . .	
Apart from the liability of the company to existing policyholders (the amount of the legal reserve not computed).	
This \$61,223.26 has been made up entirely by past shareholders as follows:—	
Shares as per list, cancelled for non-payment, \$264,300 upon which had been paid . . .	\$36,856.00
Shares as per list voluntarily surrendered, \$253,800 upon which has been paid . . .	25,900.00
	\$62,756.00
A Total of . . .	

The dividend declared in 1910, the accountants state, was also contributed by the specific surrender of three shareholders who were also directors of \$15,000 of share subscriptions upon which \$1,500 had been paid. The accountants also state that