

THE BANK OF OTTAWA

The annual report of the Bank of Ottawa, presented at last week's meeting of shareholders, shows profits for the year ended November 30 of \$616,239, equal to 7.0 per cent. upon paid-up capital and rest, against \$591,206 (6.8 per cent.) for the preceding year. Including a balance brought forward of \$118,180, the total available on profit and loss account is \$734,418. Of this amount the 12 per cent. dividend absorbs \$480,000; \$100,000 is placed to special reserve account as a provision for contingencies; war tax takes \$40,000; \$10,000 is contributed to the Canadian Patriotic Fund and \$10,000 to the Officers' Pension Fund, the reduced balance of \$94,418 being carried forward.

The following table shows the leading items of the Bank's balance sheet in comparison with last year:

	1917.	1916.
Circulation.....	\$6,142,845	\$4,708,835
Deposits not bearing interest...	7,543,809	8,083,618
Deposits bearing interest.....	41,419,646	34,780,506
Total liabilities to public.....	55,806,855	47,920,459
Specie and legals.....	4,055,773	3,508,351
Deposit in Central Gold Reserve	2,150,000	600,000
Call Loans in Canada.....	1,712,146	2,106,635
Securities held.....	22,007,171	16,378,105
Total of Quick Assets.....	36,660,387	37,910,608
Current loans in Canada.....	25,522,506	26,329,580
Total Assets.....	64,771,760	56,909,089

Circulation has expanded by nearly \$1,500,000 to \$6,142,845. The net increase in deposits for the year is \$6,099,331, and in liabilities to the public, \$7,886,396. This increase is more than covered by the expansion in quick assets which at \$36,660,387 are \$8,749,779 larger than a year ago, bringing the Bank's ratio of liquid assets to liabilities to the public up to 65.7 per cent. against 58.2 per cent. in 1916. Security holdings, which are included in these liquid assets, were increased during the year by \$5,629,066, representing the obligations assumed by the Bank in connection with war financing. Call loans in Canada have been decreased by about \$400,000 to \$1,712,146, and current loans are down from \$26,329,580 to \$25,522,506. The latter movement is doubtless a reflection of the paying-off of old loans by prosperous customers, which repayments have more than offset new loans granted to other customers. The whole statement shows that the Bank occupies a strong and highly liquid position.

EAGLE, STAR AND BRITISH DOMINIONS.

The provisional agreement for the fusion between the Eagle and British Dominions Insurance Company and the Star Assurance Society, which has been approved by the shareholders of both Companies, has been ratified and confirmed in the English courts. Subject to the completion of the usual formalities, the name of the Company will be altered to the Eagle, Star and British Dominions Insurance Company, Limited. The combined assets of that Company, irrespective of uncalled capital of about \$10,000,000, will exceed \$60,000,000 and its annual premium income will approximately amount to \$15,000,000.

The Canadian business of this Company, comprising fire, marine and sprinkler leakage insurance, is under the efficient management of Messrs. Dale & Co., of Montreal.

The Home of New York subscribed \$250,000 to Canada's Victory Loan.

INSURANCE IN CANADA, 1917.

FIRE.

The business of fire insurance in Canada for 1917 has three more days to run from the date of this issue. Unless some serious fires occur in the meantime, the average loss ratio of fire companies operating throughout the Dominion will likely be in the neighbourhood of 50 per cent., a somewhat more favourable ratio than 1916, when the loss ratio was 58.69 per cent. for all companies. In numerous cases the premium income of companies will show increases. It will be a consolation to those responsible for the conduct of the fire business in Canada, during a year of unusual hard work and anxiety to those engaged in this business, if the loss ratio does not exceed the above estimate.

LIFE.

The life companies operating in Canada are likely to report satisfactory results. Substantial increases in volume of business will be reported by many companies.

CASUALTY.

Not much change in aggregate premium income from last year is likely to be reported by the casualty business as a whole. Workmen's compensation business in Nova Scotia and British Columbia has been lost to the companies as a result of the inauguration of Government monopolies of this business, but in other provinces increases in wage schedules have resulted in corresponding increases in compensation schedules. Personal accident business, it is reported, has shown a decreasing tendency, owing to the continued drain of prospects into army life.

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Much regret is felt in English insurance circles regarding the death of Lieutenant T. F. M. Gayford, the elder son of Mr. H. S. Gayford, joint General Manager of the Northern Assurance Company, who was killed instantly by a shell on the Ypres front on November 23rd.

Lieutenant Gayford, who was 19 years of age, showed every promise of a brilliant career. After two years at Tonbridge school, he proceeded at the age of 16 to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, where he became King's Medallist. From the Academy he passed on to Chatham to join his Corps, the Royal Engineers. In January last he went out to France, where he served until his death.

NEW DOMINION LICENSES.

The Century Insurance Company, of Edinburgh, which, for several years, has been transacting fire insurance in Canada under provincial licenses, has now received a Dominion license. Mr. T. W. Greer, of Vancouver, is chief agent.

The Citizens' Insurance Company, of Missouri, has received a Dominion license to transact fire insurance in British Columbia only. Mr. D. E. Burns, of Vancouver, is chief agent.

The Home of New York has received a license to transact explosion insurance, in addition to the classes of business for which it is already licensed.

The Canada Life reports having achieved its 1917 objective of \$23,000,000 business issued, several days ahead of schedule time.