

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

The Bank of Nova Scotia's statement for the year ended 31st December, 1919, indicates in a striking way the expansion and greatly increased resources of this fine old progressive institution. The absorption of the Bank of Ottawa a year ago placed the Bank of Nova Scotia in the position of being the fourth largest bank of Canada. The two banks were peculiarly adapted to the union which has taken place, and the acquisition of the Bank of Ottawa's branches in the West is strongly reflected in the statement under review.

The total assets of the banks as at 31st December, 1919, stood at \$238,278,722, as compared with \$161,329,763 the preceding year, a growth of \$76,949,019. Net profits for the year totalled \$1,925,478, as compared with \$1,411,925 in 1918, an increase of \$513,543. After deducting dividends, the rate of which was increased from 14 to 16 per cent. and allowing for other charges, including a higher tax on circulation of nearly \$90,000, and the writing off of \$200,000 for bank premises, together with a transfer of \$200,000 to reserve, and one of \$100,000 to pension fund, there remained a balance of \$704,172 to credit of profit and loss account. The bank continues to maintain its characteristically strong position, its cash holdings being equal to 23.60 per cent. of liabilities to the public, against the slightly higher ratio of 25 per cent. at the end of the previous twelve monthly period. Assets of a liquid or readily realizable character, amounting to upwards of 151 millions stand at 74.22 per cent. to public liabilities, against 77.81 per cent. at the close of 1918.

Deposits, as might be expected, show a sharp increase, totalling upwards of 180 millions, compared with 122 millions a year ago, notice or saving bank deposits contributing no less than 52 millions of this gain, standing at 126½ millions, against 74½ millions at the end of 1918. Current loans in Canada grew from less than 40 millions at the end of the previous year to 66 millions on December 31 last, with call loans—which in the case of the Bank of Nova Scotia are illuminatingly segregated from advances on grain and other commodities—are almost double those of 1918, standing at \$7,494,072.

The principal items in the balance sheets of the two years compare as follows:

	1919.	1918.
Capital Stock.....	\$ 9,700,000	\$ 6,500,000
Reserve	18,000,000	12,000,000
Circulation	23,266,962	17,568,924
Dep. dem.	53,745,723	47,696,581
Do. notice	126,546,884	74,531,580
Public liab.	203,559,570	189,797,086

Coin	11,806,787	9,586,983
Dom. notes	20,714,771	13,670,782
C. gold res.	15,500,000	12,000,000
Call L., Can.	7,494,72	3,832,136
Do. abroad	15,141,250	11,535,041
Cur. L., Can.	66,171,447	39,819,493
Do. abroad	11,696,583	9,682,644
D. D., Can.	14,114,490	10,243,399
Securities	44,431,712	30,638,179
Liq. assets	151,080,379	107,776,259
Total assets	238,278,722	161,329,703

NATIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

The 21st annual statement of the National Life Assurance Company of Canada, published on another page, shows new assurances issued amounting to \$5,240,352, as compared with \$3,715,718, an increase of \$1,524,634 in 1919. Insurance in force has increased from \$24,192,062 to \$26,806,183, a growth of \$2,614,121, which must be considered highly satisfactory. The Company's income showed correspondingly favorable development, reaching a total of \$1,099,502, an advance of nearly \$85,000. The average rate of interest on investments was 5.80 per cent. as compared with 5.61 per cent. in 1918. Total assets have been increased to \$4,846,742, a satisfactory growth of \$618,336 over the preceding year. It may be noted that bonds and debentures, which constitute the company's investments, are taken into the statement on the conservative basis of \$270,000 below the par value.

After calculation of liabilities on a most conservative basis, the surplus to policyholders has been further increased by \$73,808 to \$420,093. This includes paid up capital of \$250,000.

An outstanding feature of the balance sheet of the National Life are the quality of its investments, which are unexcelled from the standpoint of security. Covering now a period of over twenty years the company has never lost a dollar of its invested funds; this very fine record results from the company's well known policy of restricting its investments to government and municipal and school district bonds of a high class. These securities comprise over 750 separate and distinct investments selected from every province in the Dominion, and it is worthy of note that there are practically no arrears of interest on invested funds of the company. This may be considered a record to be proud of. Such a clean showing must continue to be a matter of great satisfaction to Mr. A. J. Ralston, the National Life's first Vice-President and Managing Director, who has guided the destinies of the company for very many years.