

One matter of vital importance to the welfare of a life company is the character of its investments, for upon their soundness, their earning capacity and permanent value wholly depends the skill of the company to fulfil its contracts. In regard to this Mr. E. A. Ames, 1st Vice-President, said at the annual meeting: "I am able to say unreservedly that there is not a single investment which is causing the directors the slightest anxiety."

The President of the Imperial is the Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat, P.C., G.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, who, in his old age after a long career of success on the Bench and in politics, enjoys the highest esteem of all classes of his fellow-countrymen. Another veteran Director is the Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, P.C., K.C.M.G. Other members of the Board are amongst the most successful and honoured citizens of Toronto.

Mr. E. A. Ames, Mr. T. Bradshaw, F.I.A., Actuary, were elected 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents respectively. Mr. F. G. Cox, Managing Director, is to be congratulated upon the progress being made by the Imperial Life Assurance Company whose complete statement will be found on the outside page of this issue.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

More than usual attention will be paid to the Annual Report and Statement of the Royal Bank owing to the distribution of \$500,000 of the stock amongst a syndicate of American capitalists at a large premium. The statement up to 31st December, 1902, states the net profits of the year's business to have been \$279,786, which equals 13.98 per cent. of the paid-up capital available during the year. On the 30th December, 1902, the capital stock was increased to extent of \$481,000, the premium on which realized \$721,500, the 4,810 shares being sold at \$250 per share. The Reserve Fund on 31st December, 1901, was \$1,700,000; to this was added \$721,500 from premiums on new stock and \$78,500 from Profit and Loss Account, by which additions the Rest or Reserve Fund was increased to \$2,500,000, a sum which is larger than the paid-up capital. The new capital will, to that extent, enlarge the banks' power to issue notes, which, with its increasing business, will probably be utilized at an early period.

With such resources the bank will be in a position to earn such good dividends as will make the new stock a satisfactory investment and be highly gratifying to the older shareholders.

In the course of last year the deposits of the Royal Bank went up from \$13,225,379 to \$13,797,665, an increase of \$572,286. The immediately

available assets were enlarged from \$8,336,195 to \$10,429,975, the current loans and discounts from \$10,857,365 to \$11,085,744, and the total assets from \$19,376,717 to \$21,869,968.

The establishment of the chief executive office at Montreal has proved of advantage, this city being the chief financial centre of the Dominion, and its commercial metropolis.

To Mr. Edson L. Pease considerable credit is due for the marked advance made by the Royal Bank in the last few years as manifested by its increased resources and the enlargement of its active business.

The yearly statement is published on a later page in this issue.

HOME INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

The 99th semi-annual statement of the Home Insurance Company of New York is the exhibit of a fire insurance company that stands in the front rank for strength. Its progress has been steady for many years as the result of conservative and skilful management, combined with a careful regard for the interests of its policyholders.

The Home now owns the largest amount of assets of any company of its class organized in New York State. During the year 1902 the amount of the total gross assets rose from \$15,255,869 to \$17,108,635, an increase last year of \$1,852,766. Since December 31, 1900, the Home has enlarged its assets to extent of \$3,470,802. At the close of 1901 the amount of its risks in force was \$963,192,150. The liabilities, apart from the capital, are classified as follows: Reserve Premium Fund, \$5,985,873; Unpaid Losses, \$757,114; Unpaid re-Insurance and other claims, \$853,608, and Reserve for Taxes \$75,000. These sums amount to \$7,672,595, which leaves a surplus as regards policyholders of \$9,436,038, the Net Surplus, being this amount less the cash capital, of \$3,000,000. With such resources the Home Insurance Company stands prepared to meet any combination of losses that is possible to occur without its stability being injured.

The Directors comprise a number of the leading financiers of New York. The Board of Directors includes the President, Mr. John H. Washburn; Mr. Elbridge G. Snow, Vice-President; Mr. Frederick C. Buswell, 2nd Vice-President; Mr. Emanuel H. A. Correa, 3rd Vice-President; Mr. Levi P. Morton, Mr. Cornelius N. Bliss, Mr. Benjamin Perkins and others of high business reputation.

The 99th semi-annual statement will be found on a later page. Messrs. Evans and Johnson represent the Home in this city.