

Francisco disaster and yet have 7 millions of reserves left untouched certainly occupies a position of exceptionally great strength.

The tone of the Chairman's remarks at the annual meeting was most dignified. He thought it not an unmixed evil to have for the first time in 40 years to have the reserves drawn upon for the situation thus created justified more confidence in the Northern than ever."

The premiums last year amounted to \$5,562,950, and losses \$2,660,590, or 48 p.c. of the premiums, the management expenses, \$1,958,900, or 35 p.c. of the premiums, which left a satisfactory margin of trading profit. Some part of the increase in expenses was stated to be "owing to bookkeeping, on account of a more strict provision for outstanding charges and an increase in the rate of commission paid in places where the company has its largest business, is also to some extent responsible."

During the year the company purchased the Equitable Fire Company of Cape Town.

The Northern received in Canada \$470,404, net cash for premiums last year and the gross amount of its policies new and renewal was, \$32,464,224, the net losses having been \$227,616, which left a margin to compensate in some degree for the conflagration losses of previous year.

Mr. Robert Tyre represents this highly substantial company in Canada.

THE JOINT STOCK BANKS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

The table published in this issue gives the leading items in the annual statements of 55 banks of England and Wales, with the aggregate of 5 quite small institutions whose united capital is only \$1,068,930. The totals given in a similar statement issued a year ago compare with those just published as follows:

	1905.	1906.	Increase or decrease.
	\$	\$	
Capital paid-up.....	312,983,700	313,675,200	Inc. 691,500
Reserve Funds.....	187,064,600	184,142,300	Inc. 1,077,700
Deposits and current accounts.....	3,279,683,000	3,397,835,000	Inc. 118,152,000
Cash on hand and at call.....	678,559,100	1,040,300,570	Inc. 361,741,470
Securities.....	813,010,700	815,101,000	Inc. 2,090,300
Loans & discount.....	2,135,555,700	2,205,101,600	Inc. 69,545,900

Considering the vast extent of the business conducted by the banks of England, it is most remarkable how small were the changes made in the principal items of their annual statements.

As compared with the movement shown in the returns of the Canadian banks, during one year the English banks are stagnant. Their capital was decreased last year by a small sum and only \$1,077,700 added to their reserve funds against an increase in the reserve of our banks of \$7,146,258

and an increase of \$8,220,036 in aggregate capital.

The deposits in the Canadian banks increased in the past year by \$70,983,725, the increase having been 10½ p.c., while the increase in the deposits in English banks only increased by \$118,152,000, which equals less than 3 per cent. The increase in current loans and discounts in the English banks last year was \$69,545,900, which is only 1½ millions more than the increase in the banks of Canada, whose aggregate loans and discounts are less than one-fourth of those in English banks.

We should not judge the trade of England to have been very prosperous or expanding last year from the statements of the English banks. If we take two banks which severally represent the manufactures of the Nottingham and South Yorkshire districts we find the aggregate increase in their discounts was a very small sum, indeed, the oldest of the South Yorkshire banks, the Sheffield and Rotherham, reduced its discounts last year.

The returns of the banks of Scotland and Ireland will be given next week.

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA.

The 31st annual general meeting of the Imperial Bank of Canada was held on 23rd ult., at Toronto, when the chair was taken by Mr. D. R. Wilkie, president and general manager. Mr. E. Hay, assistant general manager, read the report and statement which were received with much gratification by the shareholders.

The net profits of the past year, after the usual allowances had been made for bad and doubtful debts, for interest on immature bills under discount, etc., were announced to be \$535,780. This sum was appropriated as follows: dividends at the rate of 10 p.c. per annum \$335,400, transfer to bank premises and furniture account \$100,000 and \$100,379 added to balance at credit of profit and loss.

The premiums received on new issue of stock amounting to \$927,741, was added to the reserve fund which amounts to \$3,927,741, which will be raised to \$4,000,000 when all the stock has been paid up.

This will give the Imperial Bank a reserve fund equal to the paid-up capital, viz., \$4,000,000. The directors in view of the development now going on in the Dominion, which calls for additional banking facilities, have decided to increase the paid-up capital by \$1,000,000, to be called for as the board may decide.

The Imperial in the past year adopted the plan of paying quarterly dividends of which the shareholders highly approve.

The growth of the Imperial Bank since 1897 is shown by the following comparisons: