

In comparing the above percentages, those responsible took an amount in excess of \$50,000,000,000 as the total cost of two years of warfare, as against an amount of \$45,000,000,000 accepted on earlier pages of this booklet.

Distinguishing between savings available for every conceivable purpose, and between savings available for investment in securities, statistics were formerly compiled by the Belgian financial publication, "Le Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels," which put the amount of new capital available for security investment the world over, at about \$4,000,000,000 a year. Other authorities have named a higher average, but even so, it is plain that if the cost of the war thus far had to be paid out of the annual savings available for investment, then every dollar of new capital for a long time ahead would be absorbed in government loans.

A. MACDONALD COMPANY, LIMITED

An examination of the directors' report of the A. Macdonald Company, Limited, points plainly to the fact that the directorate has determined to follow a properly conservative policy in order to remove the financial burdens with which the company was saddled when the present interests acquired control. While the net earnings of \$154,540 exceed by \$30,864 the dividend requirements on outstanding preferred shares, the directors rightly thought that it would be unwise to make further dividend disbursements until full provision had been made for the remaining balance of intangible assets, and the remaining \$200,000 of mortgage notes retired. The profits were, therefore, used to add \$50,000 to the reserve against the Dominion Bond Company's debt; to add \$53,004 to the special reserve account, increasing that reserve to \$146,173; to credit \$30,809 against deferred charges account and organization expenses, as against \$65,809 shown in the company's assets; and to set up a reserve of \$20,727 for further possible losses on outstandings. This reflects a very creditable policy. After the company has cleared itself of financial entanglements, for which the present directorate are not responsible, its future should prove satisfactory to management, directorate and shareholders.

The company's liabilities are \$271,394 less than in the previous year and \$621,106 less than two years ago. The claim against the Dominion Bond Company stands as it did twelve months ago. The liquidator of the bond company has not reported any progress in liquidation. This claim amounts to \$184,379, and the A. Macdonald Company has now built up a reserve of \$125,000 against that claim. The company is doing well and ultimately should achieve success.

LA BANQUE NATIONALE

One of the few banks to make greater profits in 1915 than in the previous year is La Banque Nationale, of Quebec, which has just issued its financial statement for the twelve months ended April 30th. The profits last year were \$341,003 compared with \$333,207 in 1915. War tax, pension fund and patriotic contributions absorbed approximately \$24,000, and \$50,000 was set aside for depreciation. A similar amount was appropriated for that purpose in the previous year. There was a sum of \$266,836 for disbursement, and of this, dividends of 8 per cent. absorbed \$160,000. Five per cent. is placed annually to the credit of the reserve account. Deducting \$100,000 for that account, there was a balance of \$6,836 on the year's operations. Adding to this the previous year's balance of \$48,006, the bank was able to carry forward the substantial balance of \$54,843, an amount nearly \$7,000 greater than in the previous year.

The entire statement shows a strong position. The net earnings were equivalent to more than 13 per cent. on the stock, and next year the reserve account will be equal to paid-up capital. The liquid assets show a substantial increase. Public liabilities are \$25,783,133, against \$23,203,784 in 1915, and current loans \$17,722,604, against \$15,810,956 in 1915. Mr. N. Lavoie is general manager of the bank, and Mr. R. Audette is president. The results of the past year's operations reflect considerable credit upon the management and directorate.

APRIL FIRE LOSSES

Month's Wastage Shows Increase—Twenty-three Large Fires

The *Monetary Times*' estimate of Canada's fire loss during May amounted to \$1,850,205, compared with April loss of \$1,460,437 and \$881,855 for the corresponding period of last year. The following is the estimate for the May losses:—

Fires exceeding \$10,000	\$1,561,000
Small fires	47,875
Estimates for unreported fires	241,330
	<hr/> \$1,850,205

The fires reported in May at which the losses amounted to \$10,000 and over were:—

Winnipeg, Man., May 2	Printing plant	\$250,000
New Norway, Alta., May 4	Elevator	12,000
Orillia, Ont., May 4	Skating rink	10,000
Renfrew, Ont., May 5	Munitions plant ..	40,000
Montreal, Que., May 6	Waste warehouse ..	15,000
Berlin, Ont., May 7	Skating rink, etc. ..	15,000
South Porcupine, Ont., May 7 ..	Business section ..	50,000
Quebec, Que., May 8	Machine shops	300,000
Fort William, Ont., May 8	Hotel	30,000
Port Arthur, Ont., May 12	Shipbuilding plant ..	25,000
Coahurst, Alta., May 12	Hotel	20,000
Moncton, N.B., May 14	Warehouses	110,000
Quebec, Que., May 16	Hotel	25,000
Winnipeg, Man., May 18	Ice plant	10,000
Montreal, Que., May 22	Factory	30,000
Oka, Que., May 22	Barns, etc.	10,000
Burlington, Ont., May 22	Residence	10,000
Montreal, Que., May 22	Store, etc.	25,000
Toronto, Ont., May 25	Factory	50,000
Memramcook, N.B., May 25	Woodworking plant ..	20,000
Windham Center, Ont., May 27 ..	Saw mill	20,000
Owen Sound, Ont., May 27	Warehouse	75,000
Vancouver, B.C., May 29	Fish plant, elevator ..	400,000

Among the causes were: 6 lighting, 3 incendiarism, 2 explosions, 2 defective wiring, 2 sparks, 2 defective chimneys, 1 fireplace.

The structures damaged and destroyed included 15 residences, 10 barns, 6 warehouses, 5 stores, 4 hotels, 2 skating rinks, 2 machine shops, 2 halls, 1 bank, 1 business section, 1 cheese factory, 1 lumber yard, 1 garage, 1 factory, 1 ordnance depot, 1 express car, 1 power house, 1 shipbuilding plant, 1 block, 1 greenhouse.

The following table compiled by *The Monetary Times* shows deaths caused by fire during the first five months of 1916 compared with previous returns:—

	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
January ..	16	27	27	27	14	26	3	10
February ..	8	15	12	11	21	18	11	20
March ..	16	20	18	24	22	27	23	23
April	18	37	20	15	11	22	14	6
May	21	15	28	18	33	8	5	13

The fires at which the fatalities occurred were:—

Winnipeg, Man., May 2	Burning building	1
Sarnia, Ont., May 10	Clothing set alight	1
Fort William, Ont., May 13	Burning residence	4
Calgary, Alta., May 13	Playing with matches	1
Fort William, Ont., May 25	Burning building	5
Brantford, Ont., May 26	Clothing set alight	1

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RUSSIAN SUBMARINES ASSEMBLED HERE

The Russian government is negotiating with the Submarine Boat Corporation of the United States to build 20 submarines for quick delivery. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, these boats will be assembled in Canada. The submarines will cost \$750,000 each, and fifty high speed launches such as are used for submarine scouts by the English Government are also to be built. The total order will amount to approximately \$16,000,000. This inquiry came from Petrograd. The order was dependent upon whether the Boat Corporation could promise delivery by December 31st next.