

## ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE ROYAL BANK

The annual statement of the Royal Bank of Canada, which goes forward to shareholders today, reflects in a striking manner the strides the Royal is making among the leading Canadian banks and the benefits it is evidently obtaining from the strong and effective banking organization it has built up throughout the Dominion.

For the first time in the history of the bank, total assets are reported in excess of a quarter of a billion, the increase for the past twelve months being \$55,000,000; total assets amounting to \$253,261,427, compared with \$198,299,123 at the end of last year, and \$179,404,054 at the end of 1914.

In line with its policy, the Royal has evidently availed itself of the large assets at its disposal to keep itself in an exceptionally strong position, as represented by liquid assets in excess of 53 per cent. of the total liabilities to the public, but, at the same time, has catered in a special way to the requirements of its customers, as substantial gains are reported in current loans and discounts.

The general character of the bank's deposits makes a gain of over \$23,000,000 in deposits bearing interest, a notable one, and is especially gratifying in view of the manner in which the Royal, during the course of the year, recommended to its depositors investment in the large Dominion domestic loans. The gain in total deposits for the year is over \$45,000,000, at the rate of close to \$3,750,000 a month.

While the main features of the annual statement indicate that attention has centered on co-operation with customers and the maintenance of a very strong position in order to be continually prepared during the war period, there is a healthy increase in the profits for the year, these amounting to \$2,111,307.65, equivalent to 17.87 per cent. on the average paid up capital, compared with \$1,905,576.67, or 16.48 per cent. in the previous year.

After the payment of the regular dividends, making a contribution of \$50,000 to Patriotic Fund and allowing for the usual appropriations, the bank carried a surplus forward into the new year of \$852,346.28, as against \$676,472.11 at the end of the previous year.

One of the recent important developments of the bank's business results from the chain of branches which it has built up in the British West Indies and other southern countries, and this has been a material aid to the growing foreign business of Canada.

The general statement of assets and liabilities show that of the total assets of \$253,261,427, the amount maintained in the form of liquid assets is \$121,127,663, equivalent to 53.24 per cent. of liabilities to the public, as compared with \$84,894,462 last year and \$71,244,677 at the end of 1914, a gain of approximately fifty million dollars in two years. The principal accounts in the liquid assets are as follows: Current coin, \$16,072,763, compared with \$15,946,289. Dominion notes, \$14,249,110, against \$12,977,390, while the bank's deposit in the central gold reserve has jumped to \$6,500,000, up from \$3,000,000 at the end of last year.

The holdings of securities contain some interesting changes, the Dominion and Provincial Government securities standing \$1,029,374 compared with \$1,361,105, while Canadian, municipal securities and British, foreign and colonial public securities have made a big advance to \$14,013,089, against \$3,184,333; railway and other bonds and stocks, \$15,464,604, against \$14,083,602. Call loans in Canada and elsewhere have gained to approximately \$32,400,000, compared with \$19,000,000 last year, and evidently represents provision against any unforeseen development that may possibly arise owing to the exceptional conditions caused by the European war.

The much larger accommodation the bank is providing, notwithstanding the general tendency to pay off loans, is shown by a gain in total current loans and discounts to \$124,864,658, compared with \$106,552,634 a year ago.

The policy of service and co-operation always followed by the Royal is undoubtedly one of the reasons for the steady gains in deposits, deposits bearing interest having gained to \$140,862,199, compared with \$117,519,330, while deposits not bearing interest have advanced to \$59,365,396, up from \$37,456,997, this resulting in the total deposits crossing the \$200,000,000 mark compared with \$154,976,327 a year ago.

The profits, added to the amount carried forward from profit and loss, brought the amount available for distribution up to \$2,787,779. Of this amount the regular dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. required \$1,417,207; transferred to officer's pension fund, \$100,000; written off bank premises account, \$250,000; war tax on bank note circulation, \$118,226; contribution to Patriotic Fund, \$50,000, leaving the amount to be carried forward to profit and loss, \$852,346, compared with \$676,472.

The annual meeting of the shareholders was held on Thursday, January 11.

The principal accounts, showing comparisons with those of last year, are as follows:

	1916	1915.
Total assets .....	\$253,261,527	\$198,299,123
Liquid Assets .....	121,127,663	84,894,462
Total Current Loans and Discounts.....	124,864,658	106,552,634
Total Call Loans .....	32,448,031	18,952,459
Deposits in Central Gold Reserve.....	6,500,000	3,000,000
Deposits bearing Interest .....	140,862,199	117,519,330
Deposits Not Bearing Interest .....	59,365,396	37,456,997
Profits for the Year.....	2,111,307	1,905,576
Balance Carried Forward .....	852,346	676,472

# Conserve the Food Products of Canada for the Empire during the Duration of the War.

Wm. Hamar Greenwood, Esq.

The new national policy, made imperative by the needs of the Allies, may be stated as Canada for the Canadians and Canadians for the cause of righteousness and civilization. If the cause needs men, Canada must furnish them. If the success of the Allied arms depends on a constant and sufficient supply of foodstuffs, Canada must produce them. If the last million dollars contributed to the financing of the terrible struggle will see the triumph of liberty, Canada must see to it that she puts up a big portion of that contribution. Canada's men, products and money can materially help to win this war. In the light of that fact, let our national endeavors be concentrated on doing things.

At this time, let us briefly talk of foodstuffs. It is a sound economic principle that the raw materials of a province should be manufactured into finished products in the province. The economic advantages of the manufacturing system can not be assailed at this late date. More manufactured products, not less, lead to prosperity. Who would suggest that the lumbering industry be confined to logging operations alone? That may lead to economic extinction. Who would suggest that the canneries of British Columbia should be closed down and the salmon shipped as raw material to the manufacturing plants of the United States?

Yet in 1916, 16,051,600 pounds of raw salmon were shipped from British Columbia to United States points, on the Pacific Coast. In the face of sound economic and business principles, the fact seems incredible. Yet here are the figures from the office of the Chief Inspector of Fisheries at New Westminster:—

Vancouver Island, West Coast.....	3,029,900 pounds
Vancouver Island, East Coast.....	2,680,000 "
Jervis Inlet, Bute Inlet, other points in No. 2 district .....	1,580,000 "
Steveston, New Westminster, Squamish and White Rock .....	8,841,700 "
Total .....	16,051,600 "

The only salmon the export of which is prohibited is the sockeye. As the qualla salmon and pink salmon, and steelhead salmon and spring salmon, they are free to flow steadily southward, to build up the vast industries of the United States and to curtail the development and expansion of Canadian business.

It needs only to state the case, to condemn the present policy. The export of salmon from British Columbia must stop, till the end of the war, anyway; and to our view for all time, in the economic interest of Canada. British Columbia fishing industries under their present plans and contemplated extensions can adequately use all available raw salmon. There is a present market for all the manufactured salmon British Columbia can produce at greatest capacity within the Empire and among the Allies. The Allies need food products. Canada should be given every facility to supply them. Therefore prohibit the export of salmon.

Mr. T. W. F. Morton, manager for British Columbia of the Canada Life Assurance Company, returned last week to Toronto, where he has taken up the formation of a large agency in that city in the interests of the Canada Life. Mr. F. W. Marsh, of the main Toronto agency, succeeds Mr. Morton as provincial manager. The insurance fraternity extends its welcome and best wishes to Mr. Marsh.