

LUMBER NOTES.

The Empire Lumber Company mills at Genoa Bay, Vancouver Island, are loading 1,500,000 feet of lumber on the American steamship Corozal for New York City, by way of the Panama Canal.

British Columbia lumber is in greater demand in New York and other Eastern cities, and it is expected that many other large shipments will be sent from British Columbia ports to the Atlantic coast.

The Hon. W. R. Ross, Minister of Lands, recently announced the sale of 200,000,000 feet of timber to the B. C. Sulphite Fibre Co., Ltd., operating at Mill Creek, Howe Sound, which is very significant of the growth of the pulp industry in this Province and eloquent testimony to the fact that the timber business is gradually getting on a better basis.

The timber purchased from the Government by the company consisted of eight parcels, as follows: On Seymour Inlet, 720 acres, carrying 9,000,000 feet, for which was paid 10c per thousand for hemlock and balsam and 50c per thousand for cedar and spruce, in addition to the ordinary royalties; also 2,520 acres, containing 35,000,000 feet, on which was paid 10c for hemlock and balsam and 50c for spruce, in addition to royalties.

On Ahnuhite River, Knight's Inlet, 3,572 acres, containing 42,000,000 feet, for which was paid 35c for fir and hemlock and \$1 for spruce, and royalties.

On Big Creek, Johnstone Strait, Vancouver Island, 3,948 acres, containing 24,000,000 feet, for which was paid 35c for hemlock and balsam and \$1 for spruce, cedar and Douglas fir, and royalties.

On Stafford River, Loughborough Inlet, 4,847 acres, containing 49,000,000 feet, on which was paid 10c for hemlock and balsam, 50c for spruce and \$1 for cedar, and royalties.

On Eden Island, 1,586 acres, containing 18,000,000 feet, on which was paid 10c for hemlock and balsam and \$1 for cedar, and royalties.

On Thurlow Island, 160 acres, containing 4,000,000 feet of timber, on which was paid 50c for hemlock and balsam and \$1.25 for Douglas fir and cedar, and royalties.

On Viscount Island, 1,022 acres, containing 16,000,000 feet, on which was paid 50c for hemlock and balsam and \$1 on Douglas fir, cedar and spruce, white pine and yellow cedar, and royalties.

For stumpage alone the total estimated revenue to the Province from these sales is \$88,869. The company also pays a ground rent which amounts to approximately \$2,000 per year. The revenue from royalty will total \$75,000. The company also pays the expenses in cruising and advertising, which amounts to approximately \$100.

"These purchases," said Mr. Ross, "furnish very gratifying evidence that the pulp industry is assuming considerable proportions. The B. C. Sulphite Fibre Co. is at present making about 65 tons of sulphite fibre daily, operating its plant day and night and giving employment, all told, to about 400 men. Their markets are Japan, South America, New York and the Northwestern States.

"The company has very wisely decided to purchase a supply of timber to keep it going for a long period, estimated, I think, at thirty years, and it has applications in now for nearly 200,000,000 feet of timber additional.

"These sales are under the terms of the new Timber Royalty Act. After a period of ten years has elapsed, increases in royalty charges are effective should timber become more valuable. The transaction is, I hope, the forerunner of much that will indicate the development of the Province along permanent lines, and augurs well for the future of the pulp industry."

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE ANNUAL REPORT.

Net profits of \$2,668,233 were earned by the Canadian Bank of Commerce for the year ended 30th November, 1914. This compares with \$2,992,000 for 1913, or a decrease of \$324,000. Net profits were at the rate of 17.78 per cent. on the paid-up capital, or 9.36 per cent. on the paid-up capital and rest account combined. These figures are somewhat lower than last year, but all banks reporting to date have found that the world-wide depression has affected their earnings. The Canadian Bank of Commerce is no exception to this rule, but their net profits of \$2,668,000 are the largest of any Canadian bank reporting to date.

With the \$384,000 brought forward from the previous year, the bank has \$3,058,000 available for distribution. Dividend requirements and two bonuses took \$1,800,000, pension fund \$80,000, Patriotic and Red Cross funds \$55,000, leaving \$1,117,000 to be carried forward. An examination of the bank's report shows that cash reserves amount to \$30,300,000, or over 14 per cent. of the bank's total liabilities to the public. Total quickly available assets amount to nearly \$93,000,000, which bears an unusually high proportion to the bank's total liabilities to the public. This is proof that unusual care was taken throughout the year to keep the bank's assets in liquid or quickly available form and is further evidence of the good banking practice which has always characterized this institution.

Demand deposits show a decrease of \$11,000,000, while other deposits remain stationary. Total assets, amounting to \$245,300,000, are down almost \$15,000,000 from the high record of a year ago. It is noticeable that the current loans, amounting to \$132,100,000, are but \$4,000,000 less than they were a year ago. This calls for special favorable comment as it indicates that the bank has been doing its full share in catering to the business needs of the country, while at the same time it has been able to maintain an unusually high proportion of its assets in liquid or quickly available form. Altogether the showing is a most satisfactory one, and, taken in conjunction with the other favorable reports issued by our leading banks, it has done much to restore confidence not only among the business communities in Canada, but also in Great Britain and the United States.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA ANNUAL REPORT

The forty-fifth annual statement of The Royal Bank of Canada setting forth condition as of November 30, 1914, has been made public, and will be submitted to shareholders at the annual meeting to be held in Montreal, January 4th.

Profit and Loss carried forward from November 29, 1913, totalled \$1,015,119.58, and net profits for the year amounted to \$1,886,142.67, making a total amount available for distribution of \$2,901,262.25, which was appropriated as follows: Dividends, \$1,387,000; transferred to officers' pension fund, \$100,000; written of bank premises account, \$250,000; contributed to patriotic funds, \$50,000; charged to depreciation in investments, \$500,000; leaving a balance of \$614,062 to be carried forward to Profit and Loss account.

While earnings, along with practically every other institution in Canada, have shown shrinkage, the statement of assets and liabilities submitted is the strongest in the history of the bank.

Cash and quick assets are especially large and show an unusually safe ratio to deposits; while a total of over \$100,000,000 in current loans show that the business public have not been as curtailed as many would have us believe. Against total deposits of \$136,000,000, this is not too conservative a showing. Loans on call in Canada total \$8,574,058.06, and elsewhere the small amount of \$6,080,847.19.

Altogether the characteristic conservatism with which the affairs of the bank have been managed is borne out by the statement presented.