Meetings

BANK OF HAMILTON.

The annual meeting of the Bank of Hamilton was held 15th January, 1906, in the banking house, when the following report was submitted:—

Report.

The directors beg to submit their annual report to the shareholders for the year ended 30th November, 1905:—

The Balance at credit of profit and loss account, 30th November, 1904, was			$ 40,176 28
The profits for the year ended 30th November, 1905, after deducting charges of management and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, are			357,273 12
Premiums received on new stock			205,421 00
			$602,870 40
From which have been declared:—			
Dividend, 5 per cent., payable 1st June, 1905	$111,779 29		
Dividend, 5 per cent., payable 1st December, 1905	119,940 28		
		$231,719 57	
Carried to reserve fund from profits	$135,319 00		
Carried to reserve fund from premium on new stock as above	205,421 00		
		340,740 00	
Allowance to ex-president authorized by the shareholders		5,000 00	
			577,459 57
Balance of profit and loss carried forward			$ 25,410 83

The directors have pleasure in pointing out that after paying the customary 10 per cent. dividend, they have been able to place to reserve fund out of profits, the substantial sum of $135,000. The year's earnings are, in the opinion of the directors, very satisfactory indeed, considering that out of the year's profits the maximum estimated loss ($90,000), which the bank has sustained by the embezzlement and forgeries of T. Hillhouse Brown, has been provided for.

The directors beg to report that the progress of the bank still continues in a marked degree, and that, while they had thought it prudent to open during the year a few new branches in Ontario and Manitoba, in recognition of the rapid development of the country, they had mostly confined themselves to the strengthening and building of the business at the various points at which offices had already been established. It is proposed, however, to ask of the shareholders, at the annual meeting, power to increase the capital of the bank by $500,000, in order that the directors, in case it become advisable, may be in a position thus to provide for the future growth of the bank's business.

The directors have noted the growing tendency on the part of banks and other corporations to pay dividends quarterly, and, believing that such a practice may become more or less general, have decided to adopt it, and propose hereafter to declare dividends every three months.

WM. GIBSON, President.

Hamilton, 18th December, 1905.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

Liabilities.

To the Public—		
Notes of the bank in circulation		$ 2,279,755 00
Deposits bearing interest	$18,033,608 74	
Deposits not bearing interest	3,361,115 72	
Amount reserved for interest due depositors	69,397 04	
		21,464,121 50
Balances due to other banks in Canada		50,262 09
Dividend No. 66, payable 1st December, 1905	119,940 28	
Former dividends unpaid	79 00	
		120,019 28
		$23,914,157 87
To the Shareholders—		
Capital stock (average for the year, $2,317,190)	$ 2,440,740 00	
Reserve fund	2,440,740 00	
Amount reserved for rebate of interest on current bills discounted	65,000 00	
Balance of profits carried forward	25,410 83	
		4,971,890 83
		$28,886,048 70

Assets.

Gold and silver coin	$ 470,022 42	
Dominion Government notes	2,150,114 00	
Deposit with the Dominion Government as security for note circulation	125,000 00	
Notes of and cheques on other banks	805,511 16	
Balances due from other banks in Canada and the United States	1,402,043 80	
Balances due from agents of the bank in Great Britain	5,308 51	
Canadian and British Government, municipal, railway, and other securities	3,672,942 67	
Loans at call, or short call, on negotiable securities	2,161,093 01	
		$10,792,035 57
Notes discounted and advances current		17,151,131 51
Notes discounted, etc., overdue (estimated loss provided for)		54,351 39
Bank premises, office furniture, safes, etc.		776,634 33
Real estate (other than bank premises), mortgages, etc.		43,430 72
Other assets not included under foregoing heads		68,465 18
		$28,886,048 70

J. TURNBULL,
General Manager.

Bank of Hamilton, Hamilton, November 30th, 1905.

In moving the adoption of the annual report Hon. Mr. Gibson said:

Gentlemen,—Your board of directors beg to express the pleasure they have in being able to present the report to the shareholders. During the whole history of the bank, covering a period of thirty-four years, this year would have been the best and the most successful that we have ever enjoyed but for the unfortunate incident in connection with our East-end branch in this city. Had that not occurred our net earnings would have been 19.30 per cent. on our capital, and, notwithstanding that we had to make provision for that loss, the net earnings of the year are 15.42. After deducting the loss of $90,000 already referred to, our earnings for the year are considerably greater than the average for the past ten years. In the period from 1875 to 1885 the rate of earnings was 10.1; 1885 to 1895, 11.03; 1895 to 1905, 13.98. I invite the attention of the shareholders to the fact that every dollar earned by the bank, except what has been carried to rest, has been paid to the shareholders, and that the misfortune of the past year in the East-end branch is likely to fall on the employees more heavily than upon the shareholders, for, as you know, though the bank has had under consideration, and it is still its intention, to establish a pension system, such has not yet been begun.

During the year new agencies have been opened at College Street and Ossington Avenue, Toronto; Toronto Junction, Carberry, Kenton and Killarney, Man.; Battleford, Sask.; and at Fernie, B.C. While we have been somewhat conservative in opening new branches, we have been endeavoring to strengthen those where we already have agencies. It may be said that some of the places where we have opened branches are small in the matter of population, but it must be remembered that they are in growing centres, surrounded by rich country, and that the prospect for increased business in the future is very bright. The directors have great faith in the country. I am very glad to notice that the bank is popular with the investing public. Last year there were 645 shareholders on our books, and this year the number is 713, showing that the stock is going into the hands of the investors.

At the same time we have made sixty-eight new friends for the bank.

By the report I have just read you will see that it is proposed to increase the capital stock by $500,000. During the last six months a quarter of a million dollars was taken up at a premium of 100 per cent. The same care will be exercised in issuing the new stock only as the business of the bank requires it.

Now, in regard to the incident in the East-end. Much comment and criticism have been indulged in. I had been away from the country at the time, but I want to say for the members of the board that they acted like men in the best interests of the public and of the bank. The board determined to give the public the result as soon as the result could be ascertained. Our inspection is as rigid as that of other banks. You can do something with the staff of the bank when the agent is honest, but when the agent is not honest, and adds forgery to his stealing, the bank is largely at his mercy. You have to trust the people employed by you, and we have to depend on the fidelity of our agents, and while one man has proven false, the 399 other employees of the bank have not, and we have confidence in them. You