

DIVIDENDS AND NOTICES

THE MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA

QUARTERLY DIVIDEND

Notice is hereby given that a dividend of Two and one-half per cent. for the current quarter, being at the rate of Ten per cent. per annum upon the Paid-up Capital Stock of this Institution, has been declared, and will be payable at its Banking House in this city and at its Branches, on and after the 1st day of February next, to Shareholders of record at the close of business on the 15th day of January.

By order of the Board,

E. F. HEBDEN,
General Manager.

Montreal, 29th December, 1914.

THE MONTREAL CITY AND DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK

The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of this Bank will be held at its Head Office, St. James Street, on Monday, the Eighth day of February next, at 12 o'clock noon, for the reception of the Annual Reports and Statements, and the election of Directors.

By order of the Board,

A. P. LESPERANCE,
Manager.

Montreal, January 7th, 1915.

DEBENTURES FOR SALE

TENDERS

Sealed Tenders, addressed to the undersigned and marked on the face of the envelope "Tenders for the Purchase of Bonds," will be received until 4 p.m. on Friday, January 22, 1915, for the purchase of \$250,000.00 Bonds of the School Commissioners of Outremont, bearing interest at the rate of 5½ per cent., payable half-yearly, and redeemable in 1920. Particulars to be had on request from the undersigned.

By order of the School Commissioners,

J. A. GAUTHIER,
Secretary-Treasurer.

464 Durocher, Outremont.

NOTICE To Fire Insurance Companies

A thoroughly capable and efficient insurance man is open to accept a responsible position with an established company. Twelve years' experience, a close study of the business and persistent work are among the qualifications. As a competent underwriter and inspector he is able to take full charge and to produce results. Best of references are available. Will be interested only in a position of responsibility, either in or outside an office. Correspondence to be confidential.

Address Box 391, *Monetary Times*, Toronto, Ont.

ROYAL BANK MEETING

President Sir Herbert Holt and Vice-President Pease Analyze Situation—Bank's Figures

An excellent analysis of the Canadian situation was given by Mr. E. L. Pease, vice-president and general manager of the Royal Bank, at its annual meeting at Montreal this week. He cited statistics showing that decreases in many lines of activity were general last year, whereas during the five preceding years increases were the rule. The latter were years of rapid and much artificial development, attended, as always, by speculation, inflation, and extravagance. "It is providential," said Mr. Pease, "that the inevitable reaction set in a considerable time before the outbreak of hostilities. If the war had caught us in the throes of the boom, it would have been a sad day for Canada. As a result of the drastic liquidation which has taken place, a spirit of caution and conservation now prevails, and our economic condition is infinitely sounder than it has been for many years. Fortunately so, because we were confronted in August last by an unprecedented situation, being suddenly thrown upon our own resources by the stoppage of the flow of foreign capital. Until this flow is resumed it is evident that we must live within ourselves. The problem is, can we do so? I do not think the question admits of any doubt. Some revision of preconceived plans will be unavoidable. Our progress may be less rapid and retrenchment will be necessary, but the manner in which the country has faced the situation during the first five months of the war is a fair augury of the future."

Increased Agricultural Wealth.

Figures relating to increased agricultural wealth and production were also given by Mr. Pease. Commenting on these, he said:—"The phenomenal strides which have been made in this period in the production of cereals, in manufacturing, and in lumbering, indicate conclusively the probability of continued development in the future—especially in agriculture, in view of the fact that the fertile lands of the western provinces are now accessible by three transcontinental railways."

He pointed out that the increase in the production of wheat between 1901 and 1913 had been approximately 200 per cent.; of oats, 130 per cent., and barley, 90 per cent.

On the other hand, animal products have not kept pace with the increase in the population. Food producing animals have increased only about 17 per cent., swine showing the greatest increase and sheep a decrease. Canada makes a poor showing in respect to its per capita of cattle, swine and sheep, compared with other countries in its class. If the production of animal and dairy products could be brought up to the level of the production of cereals, we might almost aspire to become before long a self-sustaining nation.

Discussing the policy of the Royal Bank to strengthen further its ready resources at the outbreak of war, Mr. Pease noted that the latest financial statement reflects this policy.

Bank's Financial Statement.

Cash reserves, which stand at \$39,688,000—equal to 25.72 per cent. of total liabilities to the public, show an increase of approximately \$5,000,000. This was accomplished without hardship to borrowing clients, by the curtailment of international operations. Profits, which decreased from 18.5 per cent. to 16.3 per cent., permitted the payment of the usual dividend of 12 per cent., the writing down of bank premises by the sum of \$250,000, the transferring of \$100,000 to the officers' pension fund, and the contribution of \$50,000 to the Canadian patriotic fund. Our liquid assets amount to 46.17 per cent. of total liabilities to the public. Deposits show a decrease of \$2,126,000, but in reality the bank has gained approximately \$5,000,000 in commercial deposits, inasmuch as it repaid during the year the deposit of the Alberta and Great Waterways Railway, amounting to \$7,000,000. Commercial loans decreased \$2,500,000. Bank premises stand at \$5,861,000. Conditions have been unfavorable for the sale of the Traders Bank Building in Toronto, on the disposal of which the account will show a large deduction. The sum of \$500,000 has been appropriated from profit and loss to write down the value of investments, which now stand at less than the market values of July 30th last.

Sir Herbert S. Holt, the president, in his address, devoted particular attention to the manner in which Canada had endeavored to meet the changed conditions, and the benefits that had been obtained by many industries through the purchase of war supplies.