

BANK OF COMMERCE REPORT

The results of operations of the Canadian Bank of Commerce last year were clearly analysed by Mr. Alexander Laird, general manager, at the annual meeting of shareholders. The net profits for the year were \$2,668,233, a decrease of \$324,717 from last year, and amounted to 9.36 per cent. on the capital and rest combined. The bank was enabled to pay dividends amounting to \$1,800,000, these being at the usual rate of 10 per cent. per annum, with extra bonus dividends of 2 per cent. The regular appropriation for the pension fund required \$80,000 and subscriptions to patriotic funds amounted to \$55,000. Carried forward in profit and loss account is a balance of \$1,117,763, as against \$384,529 a year ago. No appropriation has been made in bank premises account, which shows an increase over last year of \$405,510.

The bank's notes in circulation stood at \$14,942,557 at the close of the fiscal year, this account showing important fluctuations during the period under review, from a minimum in July of \$11,934,000 to a maximum in October of \$16,679,038. Deposits decreased \$11,304,905, accounted for by a general reduction in current account balances, which is not unnatural under the circumstances. The ordinary deposits bearing interest show a decrease of only \$197,211, a very satisfactory exhibit, when the probable requirements of small depositors under existing conditions and the extraordinary opportunities which have offered for investing in first-class securities at remunerative rates are considered. Bills payable account, representing the participation in international exchange transactions, amounted to \$3,924,151, being a reduction of \$5,591,636 from the figures of the bank's last report.

Call and short loans were \$27,677,386 and other current loans and discounts \$142,588,076, as compared with \$25,764,910 and \$154,576,889 in the last report, the total being \$170,265,463, a decrease of \$10,076,337 for the year. Government and other securities were \$21,191,247, a decrease of \$2,766,571. The percentage of quick assets to liabilities to the public was 43.20. "In thus strengthening our position," said Mr. Laird, "we have the satisfaction of knowing that no credit usually granted to any of our customers was curtailed during this very trying year."

The bank's financial statement and balance sheet indicate an exceptionally strong position.

HAMILTON IS SECURING INDUSTRIES

"While industrial conditions during the past year have been much disorganized, yet four new industries representing an investment of one and a quarter million dollars located in Hamilton during 1914," says Mr. H. M. Marsh, industrial commissioner, in his annual return to the board of control.

"The largest acquisition was the Procter and Gamble Company's factory, which means an investment here of a million dollars, and is providing work for many, not only in construction of the plant but also in orders for material being placed with other Hamilton factories. The other concerns are the Willys-Overland Company, Fox Chain Company, and the Standard Cleaning Products Company.

"A large amount of preliminary detail work has been done on the By-Product Coke Oven proposition, and I expect that this enterprise will start construction work in April.

"The prospects for new factories look better now than they have for the past two years. Even the most conservative observers predict a big boom year for the United States. The excess of exports over imports for the quarter ending December 31st, 1914, amounting to \$240,000,000, unmistakably points to better times having arrived. This argues well for Canada because prosperity in the States and hard times here cannot exist at the same time.

"That many American manufacturers are preparing to establish branches in Canada is evidenced by the fact that we are negotiating with ten large corporations, all of which expect to locate branch factories in Canada this year. These are as follows: Three steel and iron companies, two electrical apparatus firms, two hosiery, one textile, one phosphates and one chemical refining concern.

"The advantages of Hamilton commercially and industrially have been given a good deal of publicity during 1914. Early in the year a 350-page book descriptive of this city was

sent to the libraries and business clubs of all the larger towns and cities in Great Britain and the United States, also to dozens of manufacturers. As a result this department received dozens of letters and inquiries from these countries and later on we should get good results from this source."

BANK OF TORONTO OPERATIONS

At its fifty-ninth annual meeting the directors were able to present a report showing that age has not withered that institution's enterprise, progress, or sound position. The circulation of the bank's own notes shows a decrease of about \$750,000. This is due chiefly to the lessened activity in general business and a much slower grain movement in the western provinces. An increase is shown of \$1,600,000 in deposits, largely made up of some special transactions that will not be permanent. The savings departments, however, show a steady and continued increase. Current loans show a decrease of about \$800,000. The necessity of keeping a larger amount of assets in cash and liquid form accounts for this reduction. Liquid assets show an increase of \$1,400,000.

The bank's report refers to a sum of \$100,000 having been set aside out of profits to meet the depreciation in the market value of stock, bonds, and debentures held by the bank, whose officers properly consider it fortunate that they had, previous to the financial disturbances, steadily reduced the holdings of such securities, and the valuation of such as are now held by the bank is made on a very conservative basis.

Some outstanding features of the report may be noted here. The profits were \$829,538, equal to 16.59 per cent. on paid-up capital, and amounting to 7.54 per cent. on combined capital and rest. The distribution to stockholders was 12 per cent., amounting to \$600,000. Among other appropriations were \$134,000, which includes \$5,000 to the patriotic fund (first instalment of a subscription of \$25,000); \$2,000 to the Red Cross Society, \$2,000 to Toronto General Hospital, and \$25,000 to the officers' pension fund.

The bank's reserve and undivided profits total \$6,402,810, being 128 per cent. of the paid-up capital of \$5,000,000 and 12.67 per cent. of the total liabilities owing the public, a strong protection for both shareholders and depositors. The deposits of \$44,924,980 show an increase of \$1,618,385 for the year, as compared with a decrease of \$1,336,118 by the total banks in Canada for the same period. The cash on hand is \$8,162,624, a gain over the previous year of \$1,516,846. The cash, bank balances and other quick assets total \$15,485,644, being equal to over 30 per cent. of the total amount owing the public.

The bank's loans of \$42,866,127, represent a considerable proportion of the bank's assets, and indicate that this institution is among those directing resources to the assistance of the business and farming communities of Canada. The total assets of \$61,929,363 show an increase of \$1,004,199 for the year.

The statements of the bank's officers at the annual meeting are printed on another page, and are well worthy of perusal.

DEBENTURES AWARDED

The following debentures have been bought by Messrs. H. O'Hara & Company, Toronto:—Benito Consolidated S.D. (Man.), \$3,000, 6 per cent.; 20 instalments; Kinistino S.D. (Sask.), \$6,000, 6 per cent., 20 instalments; Jablonow S.D. (Sask.), \$4,000, 7 per cent., 10 instalments; Manitoba and Saskatchewan School District debentures, \$14,500, 7½ and 8 per cent., 10 instalments.

Cables from London state that \$50,000,000 French treasury bills offered in London have been considerably oversubscribed, and that large British subscriptions have also been received for Dutch loan.

A London cable to the New York Journal of Commerce says: "Public business sentiment shows marked improvement since stock exchange reopened, and it is regarded as particularly optimistic in the belief of a growing increase in trade generally. There is evidence of expanding demand for small investments. Business and money are generally becoming more mobile."