

CANADIAN CAR AND FOUNDRY COMPANY

Record profits were made by the Canadian Car and Foundry Company for the year ended 30th September, 1918. The combined profits, after charging all expenditures for the maintenance and renewals of plant and amortization of munitions equipment, were \$4,617,390. From this was deducted, on account of depreciation and renewals, \$711,563, leaving profits of \$3,905,827. Interest on bonds and bank loans reduced this sum to \$3,252,608.

The company's paid-up capital consists of \$7,500,000 preference and \$4,975,000 common shares. The seven per cent. cumulative dividend on the preference stock was deferred for the quarter beginning July 1st, 1914, and the next payment made since that date was one of 1½ per cent. on the 15th July, 1918. A further dividend of 1½ per cent. was declared payable on the 31st December. The accumulated dividends on the preference stock now amount to 26¼ per cent. The dividend payable on December 31st required \$262,500, leaving approximately \$3,000,000 to be carried forward to surplus. There is now at the credit of the surplus account of the company and its subsidiaries \$5,830,171.

Among the assets which total \$39,844,518 is the sum of \$1,013,595 on account of Russian contracts. In connection with the same transaction there also appears a liability of \$690,043.

The earnings for the year represent 43.3 per cent. on the preference stock, and after paying a dividend of seven per cent. on the preference stock would leave 54.8 per cent. on the common stock. About three-quarters of their business was in regular lines, the remaining quarter consisting of munitions work.

CANADA LIFE HAS SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The Canada Life Assurance Company has survived the trying year 1918 with an excellent record as was shown by the figures presented at the annual meeting held in Toronto on Thursday, January 9th. Notwithstanding the war claims and the heavy losses due to influenza, there is an increase in surplus assets and income, while assurances in force have largely increased, and the new business issued is greater than ever before. The assurances issued and revived during the year amounted to \$25,772,748, while new policies paid for exclusive of bonus additions, totalled \$22,891,668, an increase over 1917 of \$2,522,725. The assurances now in force total \$195,980,550. The total income for the year was \$11,048,342, a gain of \$1,477,350 over the previous year. During the year payments of \$5,585,673 were made to policyholders and their representatives, etc. The total assets now stand at \$65,947,574, an increase of \$3,367,238. The policy reserves now amount to \$55,015,954, an increase of \$2,453,476. The net surplus, which also shows an increase, now amounts to \$6,983,662, after allotting \$946,294 to those entitled to share during 1918. The net surplus earned in 1918 was \$1,241,721, which is considered eminently satisfactory in view of the war and influenza claims.

Mr. H. C. Cox, the president, gave a comprehensive summary of events in the past year. It had been a particularly trying period, he said, on account of the losses from the war and from the "flu." Regarding government regulation of investments, he thought the present supervision of securities was sufficient, and that additional restrictions would result in an artificial demand for particular classes of securities, a lower interest return to the life companies, and consequently an increased cost to the assured.

Mr. J. H. Plummer retired from the position of vice-president of the company, owing to frequent absence from Toronto, but retains his position on the board. Mr. E. R. Wood was elected vice-president.

Manitoba wool producers disposed of 361,585 pounds of wool through the Wool Growers' Co-operative Society, which realized more than \$208,000.

ALBERTA BORROWS TEMPORARILY

The province of Alberta, it is understood, closed its financial year on December 31st, with a small deficit. The supplementary revenues put on by the last legislature were estimated to yield \$1,000,000, from which the monthly patriotic allowances taken over by the province were to be paid, to the extent of \$850,000. Owing to short collections during the fall, however, this amount will not be reached, and funds are being borrowed for the time being in order to keep up the payments to soldiers' dependants.

This being the first year of the new taxes, it was not anticipated by the government that the full amount could be collected, especially since the issuing of tax notices and the routine procedure of billing and collecting was necessarily left till well into the year. The collections have been practically confined to the fall months. In addition to the new taxes on rural and urban lands, an extra tax on banks is now being collected.

While the estimated revenue will not have been secured in full by the end of the year, the treasury officials do not look for any difficulty in collecting the balance in due course. The supplementary taxes will go on for such time as the need for them remains, and the arrears carried over from the first year will be collected in 1919 and after. So far no difficulty has been experienced in making new collections, it being pretty generally understood that the main purpose of the new taxes is to provide for the patriotic allowances.

BANK OF TORONTO ANNUAL MEETING

Net profits of \$844,402, equal to 16.88 per cent. of the paid-up capital, and an increase of \$41,482 over the previous year, were shown in the statement presented at the annual meeting of the Bank of Toronto, held on January 8th. The amount brought forward from 1917 was \$555,306, making a total of \$1,399,708 available for distribution. The usual dividend was paid, and after payment of war tax on circulation and appropriations to officers' pension fund, patriotic, and other war funds, and to bank premises, a balance of \$625,623 was carried forward to next year.

Other features of the statement included the growth in deposits to a total of \$79,039,274, these showing the largest increase ever recorded in any one year, the gain being \$15,131,977, equal to 24 per cent. Cash and gold reserves are \$13,922,182, an increase of \$1,339,830 over last year, and immediately available assets are \$47,018,174, equal to 53 per cent. of the bank's liabilities to the public. This total includes short-date advances to the Dominion Government and to the Imperial Government, amounting in all to \$19,880,000. Commercial loans total \$49,168,819, showing an increase of \$6,855,043, indicating continued substantial support of the business interests of the Dominion, and total assets were \$100,207,977, an increase for the year of \$15,914,079, and the largest in the history of the bank.

General Manager How, in the course of his remarks to the shareholders, said:—

"Net earnings on banking capital are not entirely in keeping with the expansion in resources, but it must be remembered that costs of operation have greatly increased during the past few years, while rates of interest and our charges for banking services generally have remained practically stationary."

Concerning the future, he stated:—"There must be a readjustment downward of prices for commodities and services, and, it is to be hoped, of production upward, until we reach a stable level on which all classes of business can proceed in security and comfort, and that level will be found only in time and by natural processes, but violent changes can be avoided, and we believe will be avoided, through the enterprise and forethought of our government and their co-operation with the business and financial interests of the country."