

The Canadian Bank of Commerce

Head Office—Toronto, Canada

Paid-up Capital - - - \$15,000,000
Reserve Fund - - - 13,500,000

SIR EDMUND WALKER, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L., President
ALEXANDER LAIRD - - - General Manager
JOHN AIRD - - - Assistant General Manager

This Bank has 370 branches throughout Canada, in San Francisco, Seattle and Portland, Ore., and an agency in New York, also branches in London, Eng., Mexico City and St. John's, Nfld., and has excellent facilities for transacting a banking business of every description.

Travellers' Cheques and Foreign Drafts

Travellers' Cheques are issued, which are a great convenience for the use of travellers. For full particulars, enquire at any branch.

Very complete arrangements have been made for the issue of Foreign Drafts, by which money can be remitted to all parts of the world.

The Bank of British North America

Established in 1836

Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1840

Paid-up Capital - - - \$4,866,666.66
Reserve Fund - - - \$3,017,333.33

Head Office in Canada, Montreal
H. B. MACKENZIE, General Manager

Branches in British Columbia

Agassiz	Kaslo	Quesnel
Ashcroft	Kerrisdale	Rossland
Bella Coola	Lillooet	Trail
Duncan	Lytton	Vancouver
Esquimalt	North Vancouver	Victoria
Fort George	150-Mile House	Victoria, James Bay
Hedley	Prince Rupert	

YUKON TERRITORY

DAWSON

Savings Department at all Branches.

Special facilities available to customers importing goods under Bank Credits.

Collections made at lowest rates

Drafts, Money Orders, Circular Letters of Credit and Travellers' Cheques issued; negotiable anywhere.

Vancouver Branch

WILLIAM GODFREY, Manager
E. STONHAM, Assistant Manager

are places which afford a reasonable chance of success; there are others which may be immediately alongside, that it is an absolute waste of capital and energy to attempt to prospect.

While science may not be able to guarantee the presence of oil in commercial quantity, it can at least often guarantee its absence. There are too many points worth prospecting in Alberta and capital is too valuable for this country, to have money available for prospecting, squandered on hopeless undertakings.

No one should invest money in old prospecting that cannot afford to lose, and before investing he should assure himself that the company has capital enough to put down several wells with due allowance for possible difficulties met with in drilling, and that an expert of repute has examined the ground that it is proposed to drill, will locate the holes, and that he has expressed confidence that this particular ground is worth prospecting.

All will remember the evil effects of the mining boom in West Kootenay, from which that district has not even yet recovered, of the vast amount of capital wasted, and scores of investors ruined through ill-advised and reckless investment and development. Oil prospecting is still more dangerous and requires quite as much if not more technical knowledge and skill.

The development of a commercial field would be invaluable to the country, but this end is to be attained by sane common sense, intelligent work. Reckless gambling on the oil prospects of the Northwest may give legitimate prospecting a set back that it may take a generation to overcome.

MERCHANTS' BANK ANNUAL REPORT

The fiftieth annual report of the Merchants' Bank of Canada for the year closing April 30th last shows reasonable progress in a trying year. On the average capital and rest of \$13,348,100, the bank earned 9.13%, which is a slightly lower rate than the previous year, and amounted to \$1,218,694.45. From the total revenue \$686,574.02 was disbursed in dividends, \$580,825 was charged to reserve account, \$50,000 was contributed to Officers Pension Fund, \$100,000 was written off bank premises account, \$135,000 was written off for depreciation in bonds and investments, and \$248,134.67 was carried forward to profit and loss account.

The reserve fund account is now \$7,000,000, and equals the paid up capital.

The balance sheet shows comparatively few changes. Cash holdings are some \$2,500,000 higher than a year ago, and quick assets total \$24,923,403 representing 36.3% of the banks liabilities to the public which is virtually unchanged from a year ago. Savings and demand deposits show a gain of about \$500,000 for the year.

In British Columbia the bank has opened three branches, namely Ganges Harbour, Oak Bay and Victoria North End. No offices were closed in this Province during the year.

The bank has adopted a plan of segregating its realty assets from its banking business as has been adopted by several other chartered banks. The plan is somewhat as follows: The bank incorporates a holding company to hold title to all bank premises. The bank, outside of the directors' shares, is the only stock holder. The holding company issues realty debentures to about 50% of value of bank premises. These debentures are sold to the public and the proceeds of bonds become available for bank loans. The holding company charges the bank and its branches rentals, and these rentals are so adjusted as to provide for interest and amortization at maturity. The problem of properly housing a chartered bank and at the same time placing it advantageously for business is a very trying one. It consumes large amounts of the bank's funds that could otherwise be used for commercial transactions. This realty holding plan releases to the bank one half the amount of its large investments in real estate, and at the same time gives it absolute control of its own premises.