

tions of which come to him well recommended by parties possessing his confidence.

With reference to the 1909 wheat crop one of the leading grain dealers of Winnipeg estimated this week that at least 25,000,000 bushels were still in the hands of the farmers of the three western provinces.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

At any time, the proceedings of an annual meeting of the Canadian Bank of Commerce are of widespread interest. Alike at home and abroad the address of the president, Mr. Byron E. Walker, has come to be looked upon as an authoritative horoscope of business conditions pending, as well as a survey of recent developments. And special importance attaches to Mr. Walker's remarks in this first decennial year of "Canada's century." Commenting upon the world's "recovering almost too rapidly" from the stringency of 1907 (in marked contrast to the years following the panic of 1893) Mr. Walker accounts for it in part by the celerity with which the trading nations of the world now act together when a money stringency arises, the continued large production of gold and the fact that there has been no general re-adjustment of prices, and, therefore, comparatively few failures. In the case of Canada, however, he recognizes some additional reasons. We are now fairly well advertised in Europe and still better in the United States, and we represent Opportunity to many of those who have energy out of proportion to their surroundings. This is attracting the immigrant as fast as we can settle him, the capitalist seeking industrial ventures, and, still more, the capitalist seeking securities. It is pointed out that the first of these two classes of capitalists still comes mainly from the United States, and the second from Europe, but it is notable they are not quite so sharply divided as heretofore. With a very large number of new settlers, many new industries and abundant capital, Mr. Walker is convinced that good crops and continued high prices for food stuffs must accelerate our usual rate of progress.

The president referred to the circumstance remarked upon by the general manager, Mr. Alexander Laird, that business recovery had been much more pronounced in the final quarter of 1909 than during its earlier months. Indeed, so far as banking conditions were concerned, the greater part of the year under review witnessed growing accumulation of funds for which there was no corresponding demand—thus accounting for a decrease of \$116,637 in the year's profits of the Bank of Commerce as compared with the figures for 1908. That the difference was not greater was due, as Mr. Laird

pointed out, to the quickening in general trade during the last three months of the year, accelerated by bountiful harvest results throughout Canada. As it was, net profits amounted to over 16 per cent. on the paid-up capital and over 10 per cent. on the combined capital and rest accounts.

A feature of the report exceedingly gratifying to shareholders was the item showing that the sum of \$300,000 had been recovered from assets in connection with which appropriations had previously been made. This sum, added to the ordinary earnings of the year, enabled the management after paying the usual dividend and providing for the annual contribution to the Pension Fund, to write \$419,801.72 off bank premises account, and to carry forward \$722,139.02 in profit and loss account.

This autumn, for the first time, the bank made use of the provisions of the Bank Act amendment of 1908, which empowers the banks during the grain-moving season to issue circulating notes in excess of their paid-up capital to the extent of 15 per cent. of the total of paid-up capital and surplus combined. At the close of the year ending November 30, 1909, the bank's circulation stood at \$10,327,415, an increase of more than \$686,000 over the figures of the previous balance sheet. Mr. Laird pointed out how the wisdom of the provision for additional circulation had been signally demonstrated by the ease with which the necessary circulating medium was provided for the movement of last year's abundant harvest. He expressed the opinion, however, that unless arrangements are shortly made for additional circulation by increase of capital, a situation may arise in which a struggle to reduce the amount outstanding at the end of January to within the limit of paid-up capital will become inevitable, and if this becomes at all general, it is not likely to be accomplished without considerable disturbance to business.

The increase in the bank's deposits during the year amounted to \$25,449,182, the largest annual increase in its history, and an amount exceeding the total of its deposits only eleven years ago. An important part of the year-end total of over \$120,000,000, however, consists of deposits known to be temporary, this class of deposits having probably reached a higher level than ever before. Concurrently with this large increase of deposits, loans increased \$21,500,000, the bank having nearly \$10,000,000 in excess of the figures of last year employed at call or short notice. It also holds \$3,400,000 more cash than a year ago. Total assets closely approach \$150,000,000 in amount, of which over \$65,000,000 are classed as liquid assets—the latter being practically 50 per cent. of liabilities to the public. That current loans and discounts of over \$80,000,000 are more than \$10,000,000 greater than the 1908 showing, clearly