Dividend Warrants outstanding.	435.00	
Dividend No. 156, payable 2nd Jan., 1909	90,000.00	
		8,760,737.50
		$44,746,648.03

ASSETS.

Specie	$2,399,623.44	
Dominion Notes—Legal Tenders	2,598,022.25	
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks	1,865,707.69	
Due from other Banks in Canada.	574.94	
Due from other Banks in Foreign Countries	1,953,006.11	
Sterling Exchange	1,218,349.73	
	10,035,284.16	
Investments, (Provincial, Municipal and other Bonds).	6,699,958.95	
Call Loans, secured by Bonds, Debentures and Stocks...	6,391,511.01	
Call Loans, secured by Grain and other Staple Commodities.	3,675,727.67	
		26,802,481.79
Deposits with Dominion Government for security of Note Circulation	151,236.81	
Loans to Provinces and Municipalities	338,341.13	
Current Loans, secured by Bonds, Debentures and Stocks	1,099,509.41	
Current Loans, secured by Grain and other Staple Commodities	1,183,780.25	
Overdrafts, secured	159,295.63	
Overdrafts, authorized but not specially secured	88,738.37	
Notes and Bills discounted and current	13,436,121.15	
Notes and Bills overdue.....	714.35	
Advances to the Sovereign Bank of Canada in connection with its liquidation ...	613,860.18	
Bank Premises	850,409.48	
Stationery Department	22,159.48	
		17,944,166.24
		$44,746,648.03

Note:—A contingent liability of $200,000, in conjunction with several other banks in connection with the liquidation of the Ontario Bank is not fully expressed in the above statement.

The latest return from Mandeville, Jamaica, is dated December 23rd, 1908, and the figures thereof are incorporated herein.

H. C. McLEOD, General Manager.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We hereby certify that we have personally checked the cash on hand at Halifax, St. John, Montreal and Toronto. We have also verified the securities held as investments, personally examining those held by the Canadian branches of the Bank, and procuring certificates by responsible business men, not in the employ of the Bank, certifying to the existence of the remainder of these scurities.

We have further to report that having examined the foregoing Balance Sheet, and having compared the same with the books of the Head office, and the certified returns from the branches, we are of the opinion that it is a full and fair Balance Sheet, exhibiting a true and correct view of the Bank's affairs as at 31st December, 1908.

J. MAXTONE GRAHAM,
C. A., Edinburgh.
D. H. HUIE,
C. A., Edinburgh.

TRADERS' FIRE CO. WILL CONSIDER

Offers Made to It—Shareholders' Committee Appointed to Confer With Directorate.

The directorate of the Traders Fire Insurance Company and a shareholders committee consisting of Dr. Lawrence, of Chatham; Mr. Curry, of Sarnia; and Mr. Waterworth, of Ingersoll, will confer as to the practicability of accepting the Dominion Fire Insurance Company's offer to take over the Traders and to consider also any other propositions which have been or may be made. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be agreed upon a recommendation to make application for the winding up of the Traders Fire Company will be considered.

This is the pith of the meeting of the Traders Fire Insurance Company held at Toronto on Thursday.

The Traders has not yet closed it head office doors, as has been stated. Mr. Corbold, its manager, tells the Monetary Times that the company is still doing business, but—and therein is a story. The announcement that the control of the Traders will remain with the Dominion Fire Insurance Company is apparently a little premature. At Thursday's meeting President Joseph Woodworth was in the chair, with General Manager C. E. Corbold acting as secretary. The subscribed capital stock of the company is about $337,000, held chiefly in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces and on which calls have been made up to 60 per cent. of the subscribed amount. Only those shareholders having paid the full calls were entitled to vote. Of these about 800 shares were represented by some 75 shareholders in person and by several proxies.

The offer of the Dominion Fire was, we understand, that the shareholders who paid up to 60 per cent. on the stock might either retain it under the new management or be relieved of any further liability by transferring it to Mr. Massey or his nominees; that the present directors should resign at once; and that the management be placed in the hands of the Dominion Fire Insurance Company. As mentioned above the Traders directorate and the shareholders committee will consider the Dominion's offer and any other propositions which may be made.

The Monetary Times was informed by Mr. McLean Stinson, of the Rimouski Fire Insurance Co., that an offer was made by him to the Traders. This was to reinsure the Traders liability in the event of the company going into liquidation. This offer has yet to be considered by the Traders Fire.

The directors' and shareholders' committee met again yesterday (Friday) afternoon, and Mr. Stinson's offer was discussed. At the time of going to press no further information was available.

BANKING CRITIC REPLIES TO BANKING CRITICS.

In the last annual statement of the Bank of Nova Scotia, already noted in these columns is shown an item of $50,000, representing a reserve for anticipated loss in connection with advances made to the Sovereign Bank, now in liquidation. As no such reserve is specifically set forth in any other bank report, the matter has aroused comment in banking circles and the press. A prominent financier of Toronto is credited as having expressed the opinion that the provision was made, not as a matter of foresight, but for an ulterior purpose. This suggestion Mr. McLeod, the general manager of the bank, warmly resents. He pointed out in conversation with the Monetary Times that ever since the liquidation of the Ontario Bank, it had been the practice of the Bank of Nova Scotia to state clearly in their annual reports the provision made for anticipated loss in that direction. No criticism had been provoked thereby; why, therefore, should objection be taken to similar action relating to the Sovereign Bank? That institution was an insolvent estate, and it was right that provision for any loss that might result from it should be not only made but shown in the yearly statement.

RAILROAD EARNINGS.

	Week ending.	1909.	1908.	Change.
C. N. R.	Jan. 14th	$117,200	$137,900	— $20,700
G. T. R.	"	645,218	622,730	+ 22,488
T & N. O.	"	17,000	11,000	+ 6,000
Mont. St	Jan. 16th	65,718	62,258	+ 3,460
Tor. St		65,935	59,976	+ 5,959