

sold under its auspices they would have a greatly enhanced value, and the saving to the community would be very large, both in the difference of value and in the supervision of expenditure exercised by the Government. Under the present system the initial financing falls upon the Banks because they have to await the sale of debentures, the disposition of which, in turn, often depends upon the ability and knowledge of men who have had little or no experience in financial operations, and who make their sales in a haphazard instead of a systematic manner. In this way sometimes, for indefinite periods, large sums are tied up which should be employed in the general financial operations of the community.

The proposed legislation by the Province of Saskatchewan along these lines is, in my judgment, likely to prove of benefit.

NEW UNITED STATES TARIFF.

The recent reduction in the United States tariff should result in obtaining a larger market for our products.

In conclusion, let me say that the figures which have been laid before you must be particularly gratifying to our Shareholders. We are now a large institution, and our growth and strength illustrate, to some extent, the general development of Canada. With your help we shall do our best to keep pace with this progress, and to build up a great Bank, which will be in touch with the needs of the country, and a credit to the whole Dominion.

General Manager's Address

The General Manager, Mr. G. H. Balfour, addressed the meeting as follows:—

Gentlemen,—Owing largely to the unsettled financial conditions which have obtained throughout the whole world during the year under review, business has not been normal and has caused bankers much anxiety. Conservative administration and caution have been adhered to, and whilst supplying our customers with their legitimate requirements, we have aimed at maintaining, at all times, a strong financial position in so far as liquid or immediately available assets are concerned.

The early marketing of the Western grain crops has had an important bearing upon collections in that section of the country in which we have large interests and is reflected in the increased volume of deposits.

Dealing with the figures in the Profit and Loss Account and in the Balance Sheet, I am pleased to say that after making ample provision for all necessary reserves, the net profits show an increase of almost 1 per cent. over those of 1912, being slightly over 15 per cent. on the paid-up capital.

In the opinion of the Directors this result has been deemed sufficiently satisfactory to justify the declaration of a bonus of 1 per cent. in addition to the regular dividend of 8 per cent. (2 per cent. quarterly). This bonus will be paid on the 1st March next to Shareholders of record as on February 14th, 1914.

Owing to the prevailing monetary conditions, prices of securities generally have declined during the year, and it has been considered advisable to set aside the sum of \$125,000, out of Profits, to a Special Reserve Account, to meet the depreciation in market values of stocks, bonds and debentures, owned by the Bank as an investment.

\$100,000 has been added to Rest Account, which now stands at \$3,400,000.

\$50,000 has been written off Bank Premises.

The usual contribution of \$10,000 has been made to the Officers' Pension Fund.

\$90,579.03 is carried to the new Profit and Loss Account, as against \$75,483.76 brought forward from 1912.

Some changes will be observed in the classification of figures in the Balance Sheet; these were necessary to comply with the provisions under the revised Bank Act.

Deposits have increased by \$8,952,000, which, considering financial conditions, is looked upon as very satisfactory. They now amount to \$64,595,288.19.

Our immediately available assets are \$25,000,000, or 34.59½ per cent. to liabilities to the public.

Current Loans in Canada have increased by \$1,780,000, and now amount to \$46,798,969.

Loans and Discounts outside of Canada total \$1,640,472, as against \$779,000 last year.

Real Estate and other Bank Premises has been reduced by \$150,000. Property and buildings acquired for the use of the Bank are now at once charged to Bank Premises.

Mortgages on Real Estate sold by the Bank are larger by \$47,000 than a year ago, and overdue debts show an increase of \$45,000.

In agricultural districts it is difficult to impress upon the farmer the necessity of attending promptly to his paper at its maturity, especially when weather conditions are favorable to plowing and other agricultural pursuits. Bank Premises have increased \$200,000. It is found necessary to erect a number of buildings every year for our own occupation, when suitable premises cannot be leased, every effort being made to provide comfortable accommodation for members of the staff at country branches.

The total assets of the Bank are now over \$80,000,000, as against \$69,400,000 in 1912, showing a substantial expansion in the growth of the Institution during the year.

PROGRESS OF THE BANK.

During the year three Branches were closed in Ontario.

The total number of Branches and Agencies is now 313, as follows: Alberta, 48; British Columbia, 20; Manitoba, 50; Saskatchewan, 90; Ontario, 89; Quebec, 13; Maritime Provinces, 2; London, Eng., 1.

Since closing of the year, we have also opened a West End Branch in London, Eng., in the Haymarket, corner of Panton Street, and at Smithers, B.C.

In connection with the very satisfactory manner in which the railway companies have carried out the grain from the Western Provinces this year, it may be interesting for you to know that up to December 1st, the following quantities of grain have passed Winnipeg for the head of the Great Lakes, namely, 99,000,000 bushels wheat, 32,500,000 bushels oats, 9,500,000 bushels barley, and 6,500,000 bushels flax.

Before sitting down I desire to bear testimony to the efficiency and loyalty of the Staff, not only of the Executive Officers, but the whole Staff of the Bank, to whose energy and ability much of the success which has attended the operations of the past year, is due.

Mr. Geo. H. Thomson, the Vice-President, seconded the adoption of the Report, which was carried.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. T. Harry Webb, C.A., E. S. Read, C.A., and C. R. Hegan, C.A., were elected as Auditors of the Bank.

The ballot was unanimous, and these gentlemen were declared elected.

It was moved by Hon. W. H. Montague, P.C., seconded by Mr. E. H. Riley, of Calgary, that the thanks of the Shareholders are hereby tendered to the Honorary President, President, Vice-Presidents and the Directors of the Bank for their valuable services during the year.—Carried.

Mr. G. H. Balfour, General Manager; Mr. E. O. Denison, of Minnedosa, and Mr. H. J. Pugh, of Virden, replied briefly on behalf of the Staff.

The Scrutineers reported the following gentlemen elected as Directors for the ensuing year: Messrs. Wm. Price, John Galt, R. T. Riley, Geo. H. Thomson, E. L. Drewry, F. E. Kenaston, W. R. Allan, M. Bull, Hon. Samuel Barker, P.C., M.P.; E. E. A. Duvernet, K.C.; Stephen Haas, Lt.-Col. John Carson, F. W. Heubach, B. B. Cronyn, Wm. Shaw. The meeting then adjourned.

At a subsequent meeting of the newly elected Board, Mr. Wm. Price was elected Honorary President; Mr. John Galt, President; Mr. R. T. Riley and Mr. Geo. H. Thomson, Vice-Presidents.

A branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce has been opened at 875 St. Denis street, Montreal, under the management of Mr. J. R. Boivin.

Hon. J. H. Calder, minister of railways in the Saskatchewan Legislature, has made a statement to the effect that actual work on the Grand Trunk Pacific bridge over the South Saskatchewan River will be commenced within thirty days. The Government intend giving the company a further guarantee of \$2,000 per mile, and in addition \$1,800,000 to cover the cost of two railway bridges, one of which is on the line from Young to Prince Albert.

"At home and in France," one English financial critic writes, "there will probably be some further slackening in trade, and, at home at all events, there will be a slackening in new issues. This country went on lending and forming new companies for the past twelve or fifteen months because other countries were not in a position to do so. But now that France is about to take up her old role, she will be the lender and issuer of companies to a much greater extent than previously."

The De Laval Manufacturing Company, of Quebec, with capital of \$40,000, has been licensed to do business in Ontario.

The new Canadian Northern line between Ottawa and Toronto will be ready to receive regular freight business on January 3.

A branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce has been opened at Bath, N.B., with a sub-agency at Bristol, N.B., both under the supervision of the Fredericton manager.

The capital of Curtis and Harvey (Canada), Limited, has been doubled. This company is the Canadian organization of Curtis and Harvey of England, who are the oldest explosive manufacturers in the world. They operate many factories abroad, and their works here are just outside Montreal on the Lake of Two Mountains. There will be no public issue of the company's securities. Only a portion of the authorized increase of stock has been issued, and it has all been taken up privately. The balance of the issue will remain in the treasury to provide for the growth of the business.