PROPOSED MERGER OF ROYAL AND TRADERS BANKS.

While no official announcement is forthcoming at the time of writing, it is generally understood that arrangements are being completed for the merging of the Royal Bank of Canada and the Traders Bank of Canada. For the amalgamated undertaking, the name of the Royal Bank of Canada will be continued.

This amalagamation if finally agreed upon, exceeds in importance even that of the Eastern Townships Bank with the Canadian Bank of Commerce, which was consummated a short time ago. The leading figures of the respective banks as at March 30, and those figures combined are as follows:—

	Royal.	Traders.	Combined.
Paid-up Capital	$7,491,980	$4,354,500	$11,486,480
Reserve	8,421,178	2,500,000	10,921,178
Circulation	7,192,553	3,743,017	10,935,570
Total deposits	88,507,128	40,815,945	129,323,073
Specie	4,061,202	554,181	4,615,383
Dominion Notes	10,084,251	4,156,663	14,240,914
Canadian Call Loans	5,849,775	2,167,328	8,017,103
Foreign Call Loans	8,645,529	50,000	8,695,529
Canadian Current Loans	49,766,457	36,389,337	86,155,774
Total Assets	114,159,449	52,799,359	166,958,808

It is stated that the basis upon which the merger will be made will be the giving of three Royal Bank shares for four Traders Bank shares, or in the case of larger holdings, seventy-five Royal Bank shares for one hundred Traders Bank shares.

THE TWO DIRECTORATES.

The following are the directorates of the two banks:

ROYAL.	TRADERS.
H. S. Holt, (President),	C. D. Warren, (President),
E. L. Pease, (Vice-President)	Hon J. R. Stratton, (Vice-President),
Wiley Smith,	W. J. Sheppard,
Hon. D. Mackeen,	C. S. Wilcox,
J. Redmond,	H. S. Strathy,
F. W. Thompson,	C. Kloepfer,
G. R. Crowe,	E. F. B. Johnston, K.C.
D. K. Elliott,	
W. H. Thorne,	
Hugh Paton,	
T. J. Drummond,	
Wm. Robertson.	

Mr. Edson L. Pease is the general manager of the Royal Bank, and the assistant general managers are Messrs. C. E. Neill, in Montreal, and F. J. Sherman, in Havana. The General Manager of the Traders Bank is Mr. Stuart Strathy, with Mr. N. T. Hillary as assistant general manager.

GROWTH OF THE ROYAL BANK.

At the close of 1908, the total assets of the Royal Bank were $50,470,210. At the close of 1911, they were $110,528,512. So that in three years they have much more than doubled. The following is a comparison of the leading items of the bank's three last balance sheets:—

	1909. $	1910. $	1911. $
Capital paid up	5,000,000	6,200,000	6,251,080
Reserve	5,700,000	7,000,000	7,056,188
Total Deposits	50,822,129	72,079,607	88,294,808
Circulation	4,579,678	5,925,890	6,338,076
Liabilities to the public	55,858,710	78,652,533	96,385,342
Specie	3,560,347	4,141,664	4,801,012
Dominion Notes	4,993,532	8,530,488	10,094,472
Call Loans	9,638,309	7,178,574	13,322,851
Quick Assets	31,406,621	37,226,670	47,738,440
Current Loans	33,644,705	52,471,208	59,646,165
Total Assets	67,051,102	92,510,346	110,528,512

The Royal Bank dates from 1869, and it started in life as the Merchants Bank of Halifax. For a quarter of a century it confined its operations to the Maritime provinces, but it has since branched out so considerably that it has now 185 branches in Canada, and 23 in the West Indies, besides the usual offices in New York and London. The Royal has previously absorbed the Union Bank of Halifax (in 1910) and before that two West Indian banks, while a short time ago it was conducting negotiations to absorb the Colonial Bank, of London and the West Indies, but the arrangement fell through.

THE TRADERS' BANK.

The Traders Bank dates from 1886 and has now 130 branches throughout Canada. The following are the leading items of the last three years' balance sheets:—

	1911.	1910.	1909.
Paid-up Capital	$ 4,354,500	$ 4,354,500	$4,354,500
Rest	2,500,000	2,300,000	2,200,000
Circulation	4,373,675	3,790,080	3,060,070
Deposits by the public.	39,977,638	36,077,834	29,813,194
Liabilities to public	45,301,233	40,252,758	33,200,401
Specie and Notes	5,981,351	4,331,103	4,047,449
Call loans	2,024,799	1,645,605	2,144,818
Quick Assets	14,865,347	11,731,370	10,161,544
Current loans	34,592,918	32,810,351	27,389,558
Total Assets	52,427,827	47,152,736	39,963,996

The growth of this bank in recent years has been rapid, as the following figures of 1901 show:

Capital	$1,344,000
Reserve	250,000
Deposits	7,672,000
Loans	7,654,000
Assets	10,846,000

Legal Decisions.

LANDLORD RESPONSIBLE TO CASUALTY COMPANY.

A casualty insurance company may recover from the proprietor of a building the sum paid by it to a tenant who suffered damages as the result of a defect in the construction of the building. This was shown, in a judgment handed down by Mr. Justice Archer at Montreal, awarding the Maryland Casualty Company $786, the amount of a claim entered against the St. Lawrence Realty Company. The basis of suit was an accident which happened as a result of the breaking of the main pipe in a sprinkler system in the premises of Messrs. Daoust, Lalonde & Company, 45-59 Victoria square. Daoust Lalonde had leased the building from the St. Lawrence Realty Company and were insured against such damage by the Casualty Company. At the hearing it was proved that the mishap was directly due to the settling of the building, a central supporting beam having sunk to such an extent as to break one of the main pipes of the sprinkler system with the result mentioned. The Casualty Company settled the claim entered by the tenant, in virtue of the contract of insurance, and forthwith sought recourse against the proprietors of the building, on the grounds that the latter, as lessors, were responsible for all damages ensuing as a result of defects in the construction of the building.