STRINGENT VALUATION OF STOCKS.

An equally stringent course has been adopted by the Canada Life with regard to stocks owned. The depreciation in the market values of stocks during 1913 was of such a nature that at the end of the year the Company found that the saleable price of the stocks was some $27,000 less than their book value, although at the end of 1912 they had been able to carry into assets the sum of $310,000, being the excess of market value over book value at that time. It was felt that the strong course to pursue was to adjust the book values to the market values of December 31st, 1913, in the belief that the prices then current would in all probability be the low watermark for such securities of this class which were held. This involved a reduction of $337,000 in the total assets of the company, and, while this depreciation is in all likelihood only a temporary one, the directors recommend that for the future the present book value of the stocks shall remain as if it were permanent, and that all market fluctuations of the future shall be ignored, so far as the assets are concerned, unless there should be a further serious fall in their saleable value, which, however, is not anticipated, nor considered likely.

The course pursued in these two matters of policy will further commend the Company as a thoroughly conservative organisation. Doubtless during the coming year the Canada Life will continue to enjoy a large measure of prosperity and expansion in its business. It is likely too that under the management of Lt.-Col. E. W. Wilson, the Montreal branch will make a notable contribution to the general results achieved by the Company.

HEAVY FALL IN BANK INVESTMENTS.

English Banks Write off Large Sums for Depreciation—Over $10,000,000 by Ten Banks.

Owing to the depreciation in the value of their investments during 1913 the leading English banks have been obliged to make heavy allocations from profits and in some cases from reserve funds in their annual balance sheets to make up the losses. The total amount written off for such depreciation by ten leading banks exceeds £2,000,000, in addition to over £1,289,000 so allocated at the end of 1912. The details are as follows:

Name of Bank.	Depreciation allowance. Now.	Year ago.
Lloyds	£305,000	£215,000
London & Provincial	148,000	100,000
London & South Western	75,000	[illegible]
London City & Midland	326,000	160,000
London County & Westminster	250,000	200,000
London Joint Stock	163,150	120,600
Metropolitan	70,000	40,000
National Provincial	480,000	199,000
Union of London & Smiths	225,000	150,000
Williams Deacons	100,000	35,000
Total 10 banks	£2,142,150	£1,289,600

The drastic writing down of investments in this way places the banks' investments on a high interest basis and is a factor of greater strength to the already strong financial positions held by the banks. When the eventual and ultimately inevitable recovery in high-class investments sets in the balance sheets of the banks will benefit very considerably.

THE DOMINION BANK.

The Dominion Bank of Toronto, of which Mr. Clarence A. Bogert, is the able general manager, is in line with other banks which have recently issued their statements in presenting an exceedingly satisfactory report. A year ago, the directors made a new issue of $1,000,000 capital stock in order to bring the paid-up capital of the Bank up to $6,000,000 and although the final payments on this issue are not due until next June, over $800,000 of the amount had been paid up by December 31 last—an exceptionally favorable showing.

It has already been noted in our columns that the calendar year 1913 was a period of prosperity for the Dominion Bank. The net profits after making the usual allowances, were $950,403, an increase of nearly $50,000 over those of 1912, which were $901,529. A sum of $688,109 was brought forward from 1912, and the inclusion in the profit and loss account of $811,345, premium on new stock, makes a total in this account of $2,449,857. In addition to the 12 per cent. dividend the Bank has again given to its shareholders a bonus of 2 per cent. making a total distribution for the year of 14 per cent. This absorbs $765,823; $25,000 is contributed to the Officers' Pension Fund; the premium on new stock, $811,345, is transferred to the reserve fund, making this fund $6,811,345, equal to nearly 120 per cent. of the present paid-up capital of $5,811,345; and the balance of $647,688 is carried forward.

Following are the leading items of the balance sheet in comparison with last year:—

	1913.	1912.
Paid-up Capital	$ 5,811,345	$ 5,000,000
Reserve	6,811,345	6,000,000
Circulation	4,630,850	5,256,368
Deposits	59,788,590	59,342,436
Total Liabilities to public	66,947,204	67,094,506
Specie and Notes	*10,134,063	9,077,884
Call Loans	4,899,463	6,040,075
Quick Assets	27,102,876	29,241,840
Current Loans	48,519,843	46,415,842
Total Assets	80,506,462	79,224,680

*Plus $500,000 in Central Gold Reserve.

A very strong cash position is shown, holdings of actual cash and the equivalent of cash aggregate $15,965,881 equal to 24 per cent. of the liabilities to the public. Liquid assets at $27,102,876 are equal to 40 per cent. of the liabilities to the public. Savings deposits, it is interesting to note, at the close of the year were $51,184,242, an increase in these deposits of $1,406,376. In current loans there was an increase during the year of about $2,000,000.

The Dominion Bank's St. James Street, Montreal branch is attaining increased importance under the management of Mr. M. S. Bogert.

BANK OF HAMILTON'S NEW GENERAL MANAGER.

Mr. J. P. Bell, who has been appointed general manager of the Bank of Hamilton in succession to Mr. James Turnbull, has been in the service of the Bank 25 years, having worked his way up from the ranks. Three years ago he became assistant to Mr. Turnbull, having previously been manager at important branches. Still a comparatively young man, energetic and progressive, he is credited at the same time with a wide knowledge of conditions and sound banking views, and it is felt that the directors of the Bank of Hamilton have made an excellent choice.