

BANK OF MONTREAL TO PURCHASE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

It is announced that consent has been given by the Minister of Finance to a proposal for the purchase by the Bank of Montreal, of the Bank of British North America. Approval of the transaction by the shareholders of the latter bank will be asked at a special meeting to be held shortly in London, England. The Bank of British North America is unique among the Canadian banking institutions in the fact that it operates under a Royal Charter of 1840. The Bank having been established in 1836, is the third oldest of the existing Canadian banking institutions. The great bulk of its shares are held in England, the directors and the shareholders' meetings taking place in London. At the Canadian head office in Montreal, where for the last few years, Mr. H. B. MacKenzie has been general manager, there is an advisory committee consisting of Sir Herbert Ames, Mr. W. R. Miller and Mr. W. R. MacInnes.

The Canadian management of the Bank has been marked by much ability, and there will be considerable regret among the Canadian business community, that the individual life of an institution, which has for several generations been held in deservedly high reputation, is now drawing to a close.

It is understood that in the event of the purchase being completed no changes in the management of the Bank or its branches throughout the country are contemplated at present, but that the Bank of British North America will continue its separate existence, as heretofore as branches of the Bank of Montreal, this arrangement to be for an indefinite period. There would, therefore, be no alteration in the present business relations between the Bank and its depositors and customers.

The following is a tabulation of the leading figures of the two banks as at January 31st last:—

	Montreal.	British.
Capital Paid-up	\$16,000,000	\$4,866,666
Rest	16,000,000	3,017,333
Circulation	26,447,706	5,312,540
Demand Deposits	108,250,245	15,881,913
Notice Deposits	143,559,765	29,743,492
Foreign Deposits	55,642,764	4,785,506
Specie	20,668,406	1,271,821
Dominion Notes	57,253,492	7,052,850
Central Gold Reserves	11,500,000	1,970,000
Security Holdings	63,772,570	12,591,380
Call Loans in Canada	77,623,002	2,694,397
Call Loans Abroad	99,789,670	26,958,552
Current Loans in Canada	12,794,314	2,078,045
Municipal Loans	392,625,438	75,418,448
Total Assets		

NEW DOMINION LICENSES.

The Guardian Insurance Company of Canada has been authorized to transact in Canada the business of fire insurance in addition to the classes for which it is already licensed.

The Newark Fire Insurance Company, has received a Dominion license to transact the business of fire insurance restricted to the Province of British Columbia. Mr. F. W. Walker is chief agent for Canada.

THE ROYAL — NORTHERN CROWN AMALGAMATION.

The agreement between the directors of the Royal and Northern Crown banks provides for the issue of 10,883 shares of Royal Bank stock and the payment of \$576,970 in cash to shareholders of Northern Crown. For the purposes of the transaction Royal Bank stock is given a value of \$210 a share, approximately its minimum quotation on the Canadian stock exchanges. The consideration in stock would therefore have a value of \$2,285,430, and, with the cash to be paid, the total consideration would be \$2,862,400, or exactly \$200 a share on Northern Crown's subscribed issue of 14,312 shares. Northern Crown shareholders will therefore receive about three shares of Royal stock for every four of Northern Crown and a cash payment of about \$40 on every share of their old stock.

As the exchange of shares will involve some awkward fractions, the Royal has agreed to provide a purchaser at a price of \$210 a share for the aggregate of all the fractions which may arise from a pro rata division of the Royal shares among Northern Crown stock holders. It has been further agreed that the Northern Crown Bank may pay out its usual half-yearly dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. for the six months ending May 31st.

The following leading figures of the two banks as at January 31st last are of interest at this juncture:—

	Royal.	Northern Crown.
Capital paid up	\$ 12,911,700	\$ 1,429,606
Rest	14,000,000	715,600
Circulation	25,042,322	2,704,825
Demand deposits	70,991,936	9,099,663
Notice deposits	108,938,079	11,017,184
Deposits abroad	59,056,308	
Specie	15,018,263	185,684
Dominion notes	18,203,844	1,534,141
Central gold reserve	13,500,000	1,500,000
Security holdings	49,665,077	12,556,883
Call Loans	11,866,288	269,735
Call loans abroad	8,574,785	
Current loans & disc'ts.	96,747,073	7,733,169
Current loans abroad	60,487,539	
Total assets	\$321,145,219	\$27,251,090

GOVERNMENT WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR NEW BRUNSWICK.

A bill has been introduced into the New Brunswick Legislature, and given first reading, providing for the establishment of a Government system of workmen's compensation on the lines of that in Ontario. New Brunswick does not seem capable of learning from the misfortunes of its neighbour, Nova Scotia, which in its first year of Government workmen's compensation had a very bad experience with colliery disasters, apart altogether from the effects of the Halifax disaster.

The insurance business meets levies for taxes in nearly every country in the world, and in some parts, the tax is so heavy as to make an insurance manager think he is working for the Governments instead of for his stockholders—Mr. W. B. Meikle.