has been a set-back in one or two parts of the Province. However, with the continuance of the present favorable outlook, this will soon be overcome. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that collections will likely be poor for some time. One million dollars sent out of one part of a Province for hay leaves the farmers with very little ready money, and some have discounted their expectations.

BANK MEETINGS.

It needs but little "proving" to show that the Imperial Bank of Canada continues to make remarkable growth. Out of the net profits for the year closing on May 31st last, of $510,951, allowance was made not only for bad and doubtful debts, but for contributions to the Pension and Guarantee Funds. Dividends were also paid at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, or a sum of $300,000, the bank premises account was credited with $25,041, the rest account added to by $150,000, and the profit and loss account increased by $35,909. Liabilities in the shape of deposits and circulation amount to nearly $24,000,000, while the total liabilities and the assets stand at $33,095,525. The development of the country and the growing business of the Imperial have rendered necessary a still further increase in its capital stock, but as authority for this increase was given three years ago, it was merely announced at the annual meeting that the remaining issue of $1,000,000 would shortly be allotted at a premium of 100 per cent. During the year, six new branches have been opened.

The profits of the Standard Bank for the year were so satisfactory that again a dividend of 10 per cent. was declared. The balance, after providing for this and reducing the bank premises and furniture accounts, stands at $39,600, which has been carried forward to Profit and Loss Account. This now stands at $62,114. The bank's total assets amount to $16,652,801. An agency was established a short while ago in Blenheim. The highly respected Standard Bank is evidently well to the fore in the development of business.

At the fortieth annual meeting of the shareholders of the Union Bank of Canada, it was pointed out that the net earnings of that institution for the year had been $382,173, or about 15 1-4 per cent. of the capital, which cannot be considered anything but satisfactory. From these earnings, two half-yearly dividends of 3½ per cent. each were paid, and the sum of $100,000 written off bank premises and real estate. The capital stock now stands at $2,500,000, and, with an addition of $110,000 to the Reserve Fund, the latter is now $1,100,000. There is nothing to cavil at in the rate of progression here.

The general business of the Ontario Bank continues to improve steadily. Since the last annual meeting, deposits have increased by $1,066,929 and the sum totals of these and notes in circulation now come to $13,348,589. The net profits, after deducting charges of management, interest accrued on deposits, making provision for bad and doubtful debts, amount to $152,583, which must be considered encouraging. An addition was made to Rest account of $50,000, and this now stands at $650,000. A branch bank has been established at Holstein, Ont.

Since its last annual meeting, the business of the Traders' Bank of Canada has shown good growth in every department. The deposits increased from $13,311,296 to $15,809,740, the note circulation from $1,868,900 to $2,111,350 the assets from $18,573,533 to $22,330,016. During the year, too, the substantial addition of $400,000 was made to Rest account, which now stands at $1,100,000. The president stated in his address that the addition of $1,000,000 to the bank's capital stock, authorized last year, had all been taken up with avidity, so that the paid-up capital now totals $3,000,000. Arrangements have lately been completed for the erection of suitable new fireproof premises, the old building having proved quite inadequate for the bank's growing business.

FIRE-FIGHTING APPARATUS IN TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

Repeatedly we have called attention to the need of constant care on the part of towns and villages which possess fire engines or other appliances for fighting fire. Every week, if possible every day, some one should see that the water tanks have water in them; that the hose are perfect, and have proper couplings; that the steam fire engine is in thorough order. And we have given instances of heart-breaking losses and disasters that took place because of neglect in these particulars. Now we get from Manitoba the description of a fire in the town of Morris, which presents a recent example. The incident of the lack of a tongue from the town bell illustrates what we have tried to warn municipal officers and residents against. The Morris Herald says:

"The opportunity presented itself for a practical test of the new chemical fire apparatus a trifle sooner than was anticipated, when on Sunday morning, about three o'clock, a small shack in the north end of the town was destroyed by fire. An alarm was turned in before the flames had gained much headway, but the time required for a dozen men to haul the chemical engine to the seat of trouble was sufficient to allow the fire to grow to such proportions that the stream when turned on proved of no avail. As already stated by the Herald, the apparatus is altogether too heavy to be drawn by men more than a block, and even for that distance no time can be made. It is a foregone conclusion that unless there is a team on the ground ready to be hitched on, the chemical in its present condition is little or no better than a bucket brigade. As to its extinguishing powers but little can be said for or against it as the result of this experiment. It was, however, proven that the stream is inadequate in force and volume to be of any material benefit after a fire is well started.

"In connection with this fire there are one or two things that we wish to call the attention of the head of the fire department to, viz.: On the arrival of the party who turned in the alarm at the fire hall, the bell was found to be minus a tongue. Nothing of a metallic nature could be found on the premises, and a piece of scantling had to be used as a tongue. This had the effect of awakening the nearer residents, one of whom was thoughtful enough to bring an axe. Until such time as the bell is raised a hammer should be left attached to it to be used in case of emergency. Then there was but one cylinder of the chemical charged, and no material at hand for recharging. The blame of these neglects does not rest on any one in particular, but it does no harm to call them to mind. The origin of the fire is unknown, but is supposed to be of an incendiary nature."

The Manitoba Fire Assurance Company, which is affiliated with the Liverpool and London and Globe, has appointed Messrs. Ridout, Szeliski & Strickland as special agents for Toronto.