THE MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA—Continued.

Imperial preference and **Inter-Imperial trade** arrangements will, I hope and do verily believe, be the livest kind of issues by the time we again meet for the purpose of submitting and discussing another year's business.

You will be interested in knowing that according to our reports the condition of Canada's greatest industry, agriculture, is this year rich in promise, especially in the Western Provinces, where the crops have seldom, if ever before, got away to a better start.

We recently organized and put in motion the Bankers' Trust Company, which will operate to some extent as an auxiliary to the Bank. Such Companies, well managed, are excellent, both as conservers of old and creators of new business for the Bank with which they are associated, and we expect our Company, which opened its doors on the 1st of May, will prove a strong, conservative and useful ally. The want of such an affiliated company has been felt in an increasing degree for some years past.

Just one further word as to that all-important asset which the Balance Sheet does not reveal—the staff : I cannot too strongly endorse the words of appreciation so fittingly expressed by the President, and I have no hesitation in saying that in point of loyalty and efficiency the staff of this Bank is second to none.

For a long period prior to the signing of the Armistice and during the demobilization thereafter, the staff of the Bank was reduced, indeed, to a veritable "thin red line," but while numerically weak, the spirit was there in full strength and we were enabled as a result to conserve and develop our business in the notably satisfactory manner reflected by the comparative figures shown. (Applause.)

So much for that section of the staff, who, for one reason or another, were rendered ineligible for military service. Theirs is a record which we recognize with appreciation and view with pride.

As to those who joined the colors, you will be interested in knowing that from a staff of 1,300 odd at the outbreak of war, enlistments numbered no less than 823, or roughly 63 per cent. of the whole, which must very nearly represent 100 per cent. of the eligibles. (Applause.)

Of those splendid young men, 73 made the supreme sacrifice, 87 were wounded, some more than once, and many received high decorations for valor and efficiency.

To the memory of those whose bodies sanctify the soil of France and Flanders, we can but offer the highest tribute of reverential respect.

To those incapacitated through wounds and otherwise, we are gladly endeavouring to render such assistance as lies within our power.

And to those eligible for re-entering the service of the Bank we are finding positions upon a scale of remuneration which provides against their suffering any hardship in a monetary sense by reason of having joined the colors. In other words, we are giving to each and every man the same salary as when he left, plus such increases as would have followed in the ordinary course had he remained.

To put it in a word, Gentlemen, we are proud of our staff, one and all, and I am sure you will agree with me that we have every reason to be proud of them. (Applause.)

On motion of Mr. D. Kinghorn, seconded by Mr. W. B. Blackader, Messrs. Vivian Harcourt and Gordon Tansley, of Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Co., were reappointed Auditors of the Bank.

Increase in Capital Stock.

It was moved by the President, seconded by the Vice-President—"That the Capital Stock of the Bank be, and is hereby increased from ten million dollars ($10,000,000) to fifteen million dollars ($15,000,000) by the creation of fifty thousand (50,000) new shares of the par value of one hundred dollars ($100.00) each."

It was explained by the President that there is no intention of issuing this Capital in the near future, but that it was thought possible to make timely provision well in advance of possible or probable requirements.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. R. Campbell Nelles, seconded by Mr. A. Haig Sims, Messrs. John Patterson and Arthur Browning were, by unanimous vote, appointed scrutineers, and instructed to cast one ballot for the election of the following persons as Directors : Sir H. Montagu Allan, Mr. K. W. Blackwell, Mr. Thomas Long, Mr. G. Orr-Lewis, Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, Mr. A. J. Dawes, Mr. F. Howard Wilson, Mr. Farquhar Robertson, Mr. Geo. L. Cains, Mr. Alfred B. Evans, Mr. E. F. Hebden, Mr. T. Ahearn, Lt.-Col. Jas. R. Moodie, Mr. Lorne C. Webster.

The ballot having been cast, the directors, as named, were declared to be elected.

The President—"Before we adjourn I would like to say a few words. As you know, I have been overseas four years. During that time there has been a change in the General Managership of the Bank. I have not hitherto had opportunity of saying anything to the Shareholders with regard to our new General Manager.

"I do not wish to say too much about him because the result of his work has been so good that to express my opinion of it might be re-