

With regard to the relative force with which the above factors will likely act, it is to be observed that in the first set, two are definite and clear cut; the third—gold exports—is indefinite and problematical; while the fourth can probably be regulated to suit the money market's condition. The inflow of cash is likely to be on a very large scale; and if it is accompanied by further liquidation of the speculative position in Wall Street, or even by a period of rest or inactivity there, it should provide a plenitude of funds for all the purposes mentioned. As the New York Evening Post puts it "any one who lies awake nights worrying himself over gold exports under present conditions will be making a poor use of his time."

* * *

**THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE:
FEATURES OF INTEREST AT ANNUAL
MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.**

The actual figures contained in the annual report of the Canadian Bank of Commerce have already been dealt with by THE CHRONICLE—the preliminary statement for the year ending November 30, 1908, having appeared in its issue of 11th ult. The year's net profits of \$1,627,332 (some 16½ per cent. on the paid-up capital) were almost within \$100,000 of the 1907 results. This record speaks volumes for the skilled conduct of the bank's business. As already pointed out, the important part played by the Canadian Bank of Commerce in security flotations abroad, and its transactions in sterling exchange through its American agencies, have doubtless contributed materially to the year's satisfactory showing.

Added to the balance of \$675,912 brought forward from 1907, the profits made up a total for appropriation amounting to \$2,303,245. After payment of 8 per cent. dividend, (amounting to \$800,000), writing \$300,000 off bank premises, transferring \$30,000 to pension fund, and subscribing \$12,000 to various objects, the directors added \$1,000,000 to rest, bringing that fund up to \$6,000,000. There then remained \$161,245 to be carried forward into the current year.

Reductions in current loans, and increases in deposits and quick assets during the twelvemonth, reflected clearly the changed business conditions following the break in trade expansion that President Byron E. Walker predicted at the bank's annual meeting two years ago. The relative bearing of the year's various changes in the bank's showing may be best studied by considering leading groups of assets on the one hand, and deposits on the other as was done in these columns a month ago. Neglecting lesser items, the items given below account for about eight millions of the year's growth of \$8,655,000 in total assets, and for practically eight millions of the increase of \$8,170,000 in liabilities to the public.

	ASSETS.		
	1907.	1908.	Change
Current Loans.....	\$76,073,000	*\$69,756,000	-\$6,317,000
Bals. Abroad.....	2,930,000	9,942,000	+ 7,012,000
Cash.....	11,053,000	13,087,000	+ 2,034,000
Call Loans.....	12,696,000	17,937,000	+ 5,241,000
	* Includes loans to other banks in Canada.		
	DEPOSITS.		
Not Bearing Interest..	\$20,951,000	\$22,231,000	+\$1,280,000
Bearing Interest.....	66,090,000	72,807,000	+ 6,717,000

As General Manager Laird remarked at the meeting of shareholders on Tuesday, of this week, the year now closed has shown a disposition to liquidate old obligations, rather than to create new ones. But the drop of over six millions in current loans is not to be taken as solely due to general business recession; and not at all as indicating any drastic pressure by the bank upon its customers. In this connection the general manager had no hesitation in asserting that so far as the Bank of Commerce was concerned, no lines of credit for customers were cancelled and no customer from the Atlantic to the Pacific was refused accommodation for his legitimate requirements. Contributing to the reduction in current loans was the considerable wiping out of corporate and municipal obligations by the flotation of new securities in London. The combined result of slackened trade and of such flotations, together with various other Canadian issues placed abroad, has been to increase the quick assets of the bank, and on the other side of the balance sheet to augment its deposits notably.

Reference was made by the general manager to the strengthening of the bank's position, by way of increasing the rest fund, and to the spreading of its operations through the opening of new branches. In the latter connection he pointed out that the rapid extension of the bank in the newer parts of the country constantly makes demands for accommodation which necessitates the erection of new buildings. In older centres, too, growing business requirements have called for more adequate business quarters. Notably has this been so in Montreal; and before long the manager for this city, Mr. H. B. Walker, will be directing the bank's important local business in a banking-house as conveniently equipped as it is architecturally perfect.

That Canada would suffer far less than other countries during the past year of unrest, was a prediction ventured a twelvemonth ago by the president of the Bank of Commerce. His comprehensive review of the year's development throughout the Dominion bears out the prophecy. So much so, that Mr. Walker expresses almost a fear as "to whether we have suffered enough for our own good"—so convinced is he that caution and conservatism must characterize the country's progress during the next few years, if it is to make for the highest permanent well-being of the nation.

Speaking of Canada's international dealings commercially and financially, he emphasized the