

IMPERIAL BANK'S NEW DIRECTORS

Mr. J. A. M. Aikins, K.C., M.P., of Winnipeg, who from the start of the Imperial Bank's business in Manitoba some thirty-four years ago, has been the bank's legal adviser for that province, has been elected to the directorate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Sir William Whyte. The number of directors has been increased from 11 to 12, and Mr. Ed. W. Cox, president of the Canada Life Assurance Company, has been placed on the board.

APRIL BANK STATEMENT

In the April bank statement of Canadian chartered banks demand and notice deposits show an increase, while the deposits elsewhere in Canada show a decrease. Call loans in Canada and elsewhere show heavy decreases, while current loans in Canada have increased over twelve millions, and call loans elsewhere are down six millions. Note circulation and the circulation of Dominion bills have decreased. A detailed analysis of the statement will appear in the next issue of *The Monetary Times*.

COMPANIES LICENSED

The following company has been licensed to do business in Quebec: La Compagnie d'Assurance Mutuelle de la Municipalite de la paroisse de Sainte-Marguerite.

The following companies with Dominion charters have been licensed to do business in Canada: Imperial Guarantee and Accident Insurance Company of Canada; American Surety Company; American and Foreign Marine Insurance Company; German American Insurance Company; the Etna Insurance Company (Sprinkler Leakage).

The following companies have been licensed to do business in Ontario: S. F. Bowser and Company, Incorporated, of Indiana, U.S.A. Capital, \$250,000. W. K. Kellogg Cereal Company, of Michigan, U.S.A. Capital, \$40,000. Dominion Sanitary Specialty Company, Limited (Dominion charter). Capital, \$90,000. The Canon Lake Lumber Company, Limited, of Manitoba. Capital, \$50,000.

RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANIES INCORPORATED

The following is a list of rural telephone companies incorporated in Saskatchewan, together with their capital and head office:—

- Innes Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$180. Griffin.
- Rhein Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$180. Rhein.
- Troy Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$90. Qu'Appelle.
- Cando Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$225. Hichcock.
- Sinnett Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$170. Sinnett.
- Renown Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$200. Renown.
- Sunny Slopes Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$120. Truax.
- Dummer Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$600. Dummer.
- Little Manitou Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$140. Watrous.
- Maymont Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$450. Maymont.
- Tableland Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$320. Estevan.
- Landon Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$250. Lampman.
- Kandahar Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$300. Kandahar.
- East Mount Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$400. Strassburg.
- Assiniboia Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$400. Assiniboia.
- Colonsay Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$800. Colonsay.
- Hallville Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$400. Aylesbury.
- Swift Current Rural Telephone Company, Limited, \$120. Swift Current.

ESTIMATED PROFITS "ABSURDLY HIGH"

Pecol Oil Combine, Whose Companies Are Registered in Canada, is Criticized in London

The Pecol Oil Combine the shares of which are being offered in London, has some interest in Canada. Not long ago, a number of companies were incorporated in Canada, as Pecol No. 1, Pecol No. 2, and so on. The Pecol Oil Combine's prospectus states that "the companies also have branch offices in the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada, under the laws of which Dominion all the companies are registered."

The London Statist has not a very high opinion of the company's shares. The Pecol Oil Combine, it says, "is described as a confederation of companies formed to develop on co-operative lines certain petroleum lands of a total area of approximately 27,840 acres in the territory known as the Trans-Pecos Region in Eddy County, U.S.A. For development purposes one drilling company, with an authorized capital of £100,000 will drill for all the 29 Pecol companies. The share capital of the drilling company will be owned by the 29 companies and the directors, and it is proposed that 50 per cent. of the net proceeds of oil from the area worked by any one company will be paid to that company, while the other 50 per cent. will belong to the drilling company for its shareholders—that is to say, the whole of the 29 companies.

Vendor Shares are Included.

"Apparently a Mr. Leopold Balbach has secured petroleum drilling rights over the area, which has been split up among 29 companies with a capital of £15,000, in £1 shares, and Mr. Balbach secures 11,000 shares from each company for the rights. But as the present offer of shares consists of the whole of the capital of the individual companies, it is evident that the vendor shares are included. In addition to the shares offered, applicants for 29 shares, or any multiple of 29 have the right to acquire one royalty certificate in respect of each 29 shares, these certificates entitling the holders to a proportionate share of the first 5 per cent. of the proceeds of all oil sold in each year from the field by the combine, the royalty being secured by a trust deed."

"We have not sufficient space to set out details of the manner in which the anticipated profits of the combine are arrived at, but the general nature may be summed up by one statement, that on certain assumptions an annual return of £368 for an investment of £100 is assumed. A considerable amount of emphasis is laid on the advantages of the co-operative system, and even the methods of Lloyd's underwriters are dragged in to back up the argument. The various statements may perhaps be summed up in one in which it is set forth that the system 'will enable investors from time to time to dispose of a premium of shares in companies which are very successful, and which, owing to their small capitalization, will increase in value far sooner than shares of a company with capitalization large enough to embrace the whole area.'

"Absurdly High Profits."

"The oil lands are in the United States, the various Pecol companies are registered under the laws of the Dominion of Canada, and the shares are offered for sale in England. The whole of the arrangements are of an intricate character, and the absurdly high profits estimated do not inspire confidence. While the various reports as to the possibilities of the oil area may be perfectly correct, it should be understood that the field is not developed, that the figures of possible profits are pure assumptions, and the so-called advantages of splitting up the area into 29 sections and forming, in effect, subsidiary companies for dealing with each section are purely problematical. In the circumstances, therefore, and having regard to the ultra-speculative nature of the business investors who are possessed of the slightest amount of caution will do well to ignore the shares that are offered for sale by the Pecol Share Corporation, Limited."

Mr. Allan J. Kerr, of Winnipeg, has been appointed manager of the Victoria branch of the Imperial Canadian Trust Company, and will open the company's office at that place during the present month. Mr. Kerr was formerly an officer of the Toronto General Trusts Corporation, and went to Winnipeg in their service in 1906. Before assuming his present duties he held the office of treasurer of the Imperial Canadian Trust Company.