BANK OF ENGLAND FAVOURS REFORM.

Any idea that opposition to the proposals to revise the Bank of England's system of operation would be met in the bank itself, has been dissipated by the valedictory address of Lord Cunliffe, the retiring Governor of the bank, at the recent half yearly general court.

He began his address by dealing with the financial results of the bank's operations in the half year ended February 28, and said that after making provision for all contingencies the profits were £543,237, making the amount of the "Rest" on that day £3,564,960. The dividend would be 5 per cent, less tax, leaving the "Rest" at £3,019,222.

Lord Cunliffe proceeded to say that as that was the last occasion on which he would have the honor of presiding over the court, he wished to tender the proprietors his heartfelt thanks for the consideration and confidence placed in the directors during these past years of war. The bank had not been so fortunate in escaping outside criticism, much of it just, some a little unfair, but he thought they would agree that the bank had not done so very badly when it was considered that they had been working with a somewhat antiquated instrument, and that they were confronted in August, 1914, with a crisis of such magnitude as not even the most farseeing of them could have expected and prepared for.

There could be no doubt, he said, that when war broke out British finance was caught unawares. They had not been deliberately setting their house in order, as their enemies had done, in readiness for a prearranged struggle for world supremacy, and many problems had had to be solved without its being possible to give to each one due and proper consideration, leading inevitably to some mistakes. He was anxious to emphasize the importance of the share taken by the other banks of the United Kingdom in bringing the country into comparative safety or, at any rate, in avoiding any very serious financial trouble or breakdown. Complete confidence had been established between them, so that any crisis brought about by want of cohesion now was inconceivable. Had the same cohesian and mutual confidence existed in August, 1914, he continued, they could have sailed through those very stormy waters, possibly under bare poles, but without material damage, and certainly without any bankers' moratorium, which particular moratorium, however, was never, in his opinion, really necessary.

He said that he wished also to record his personal gratitude to the three Ministers who had filled the office of Chancellor of Exchequer during his governorship. The city was to be congratulated upon the very generous treatment accorded to it by the special Ministers of the Crown whose rulings most affected them there.

Taking up the proposal for the revision of the Bank Act, Lord Cunliffe said:

"We have been reading of meetings and resolutions adopted by the various chambers of commerce suggesting many and drastic alterations in the Bank Charter and the Bank Act of 1844. The proprietors may rest assured that better and more up-to-date machinery is in course of being set up, and will, I trust, be ready and obtain parliamentary sanction in time to combat successfully the many difficulties I see in store for the bank after the war. Being the chairman of the committee that had been appointed to consider this problem among others, I must say no more beyond assuring you that the committee is fully alive to the fact that both the old charter and the Act of 1844, well as they have served their time, stand in much need of revision.

"Perhaps some may be expecting of me a prophecy regarding the duration of the war. That would be too futile, but I assure you that if our enemies are counting on our financial exhaustion they have many years of hard fighting before them. We must, however, realize that it is imperative that we should exercise the strictest economy in all matters of finance, and subordinate our own interests to those of the nation. The city is ready for any probable eventuality, and with the exercise of watchfulness and due economy we are assured of success in our own fields as in the field of battle."

BIG INCOMES.

In connection with the income tax in the United States now going into operation, ten men confessed to an income of over five million dollars per annum, as follows:—John D. Rockefeller, H. C. Frick, Henry Ford, Charles M. Schwab, Andrew Carnegie, George F. Baker, William Rockefeller, Edward S. Harkness, J. Ogden Armour and Pierre S. Du Pont.

In war times every day should be Fire Prevention Day.