

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

HEAD OFFICE - TORONTO, ONTARIO

CAPITAL PAID-UP	- - - - -	\$6,000,000
REST	- - - - -	\$1,250,000

DIRECTORS:

HON. GEO. A. COX,	- - -	PRESIDENT.
ROBERT KILGOUR, ESQ.,	- - -	VICE-PRESIDENT.
JAMES CRATHERN, ESQ.	- - -	MATTHEW LEGGAT, ESQ.
WM. B. HAMILTON, ESQ.	- - -	JOHN HOSKIN, ESQ., Q.C., LL.D.
JOSEPH W. FLAVELLE, ESQ.	- - -	W. E. H. MASSEY, ESQ.
A. KINGMAN, ESQ.		

B. E. WALKER, General Manager.
J. H. PLUMMER, Asst. General Manager.
A. H. IRELAND, Inspector and Superintendent of Branches.
V. C. BROWN, Asst. Inspector.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES

ONTARIO—

AYR	JOHN WYLLIE.....	Agent.
BARRIE	H. J. GRASETT.....	Manager.
BELLEVILLE.....	C. M. STORK.....	"
BERLIN	E. P. GOWER.....	"
BLENHEIM.....	G. A. HOLLAND.....	"
BRANTFORD.....	JEFFERY HALE.....	"
CAYUGA	W. C. T. MORSON.....	"
CHATHAM	J. E. THOMAS.....	"
COLLINGWOOD.....	JAS. BRYDON.....	"
DRESDEN	R. T. MUSSEN.....	"
DUNDAS	J. L. BARNUM.....	"
DUNNVILLE	R. G. W. CONOLLY.....	"
FORT FRANCES	J. A. SMITH.....	"
GALT	D. H. CHARLES.....	"
GODERICH	R. S. WILLIAMS.....	"
GUELPH	J. M. DUFF.....	"
HAMILTON	WM. ROBERTS.....	"
LONDON	D. B. DEWAR.....	"
ORANGEVILLE	F. Y. CHECKLEY.....	"
OTTAWA	ROBERT GILL.....	"
PARIS	R. C. MACPHERSON.....	"
PARKHILL	G. M. WEDD.....	"
PETERBORO	R. C. MCHARRIE.....	"
PORT PERRY	G. M. GIBBS.....	"
ST. CATHARINES.....	F. O. CROSS.....	"
SARNIA	A. D. MCLEAN.....	"
SAULT STE. MARIE	D. MCGREGOR.....	"
SEAFORTH	F. C. G. MINTY.....	"
SIMCOE	E. COWDRY.....	"
STRATFORD	W. MAYNARD.....	"
STRATHROY	L. H. DAMPIER.....	"
TORONTO (Chief Office).....	JOHN C. KEMP.....	"
	M. MORRIS.....	Asst. Mgr.
268 COLLEGE, COR. SPADINA W.	MANSON.....	Manager.
163 KING ST. EAST.....	H. W. FITTON.....	"
399 PARLIAMENT ST.....	V. E. HART.....	"
712 QUEEN ST. EAST.....	J. G. BOYCE.....	"
544 QUEEN ST. WEST.....	E. M. PLAYTER.....	"
450 YONGE, COR. COLLEGE.	T. S. HARRISON.....	"
791 YONGE ST.....	R. J. MONTGOMERY.....	"

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES—Continued.

TORONTO JUNCTIONR. C. JENNINGS.....Manager.
 WALKERTONG. W. MCKEE..... “
 WALKERVILLE.....J. L. HARCOURT..... “
 WATERLOO.....A. W. ROBARTS..... “
 WINDSOR.....J. L. HARCOURT..... “
 WOODSTOCK.....G. de C. O'GRADY..... “

QUEBEC—

MONTREAL { F. H. MATHEWSON.....Manager.
 W. C. J. KING.....Asst. Mgr.

MANITOBA—

WINNIPEGJOHN AIRD.....Manager.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—

ATLIN.....T. R. BILLETT.....Manager.
 CRANBROOK.....J. W. H. SMYTHE..... “
 FERNIEJOHN KAY..... “
 FORT STEELEJ. W. H. SMYTHE..... “
 GREENWOODD. A. CAMERON..... “
 VANCOUVER.....H. H. MORRIS..... “

YUKON DISTRICT—

DAWSON { H. T. WILLS.....Manager.
 T. MCMULLEN.....Asst. Mgr.
 WHITE HORSEH. M. LAY.....Manager.

UNITED STATES—

NEW YORK { ALEX. LAIRD } Agents.
 Wm. Gray..... }
 NEW ORLEANS.....J. H. FULTON.....Agent.
 SEATTLE.....H. H. MORRIS.....Manager
 SKAGWAY, ALASKAA. SCOTT.....Agent.

BANKERS AND CORRESPONDENTS

GREAT BRITAIN—

The Bank of Scotland.

INDIA, CHINA AND JAPAN—

Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND—

Union Bank of Australia, Limited.

SOUTH AMERICA—

British Bank of South America, Limited.

London and Brazilian Bank, Limited.

MEXICO—

Banco de Londres y Mexico.

WEST INDIES—

Bank of Nova Scotia, Kingston, Jamaica.

Colonial Bank and Branches.

BERMUDA—

Bank of Bermuda, Limited, Hamilton.

SOUTH AFRICA—

Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.

Bank of Africa, Limited.

FRANCE—

Crédit Lyonnais, Paris.

Messrs. Lazard Frères & Cie, Paris.

GERMANY—

Deutsche Bank.

HOLLAND—

Disconto Maatschappij, Rotterdam.

BELGIUM—

Messrs. J. Matthieu & Fils, Brussels.

NEW YORK—

The American Exchange National Bank.

CHICAGO—

North-Western National Bank.

SAN FRANCISCO—

The Bank of British Columbia.

MARITIME PROVINCES—

The Bank of Nova Scotia.

GENERAL STATEMENT

31ST MAY, 1900.

LIABILITIES

Notes of the Bank in circulation	\$ 4,191,693 00
Deposits not bearing interest	\$ 5,486,925 84
Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date	24,193,343 69
	29,680,269 53
Balances due to other Banks in Canada	6,768 39
Balances due to Agents in Great Britain	1,447,479 22
Dividends unpaid	1,767 92
Dividend No. 66, payable 1st June	210,000 00
Capital paid-up	\$6,000,000 00
Rest	1,250,000 00
Balance of Profit and Loss Account carried forward	34,821 05
	7,284,821 05
	\$42,822,799 11

ASSETS

Coin and Bullion	\$2,251,598 25
Dominion Notes	1,399,471 25
	\$ 3,651,069 50
Deposit with Dominion Government for security of Note circulation	175,311 37
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks	821,176 30
Balances due by other Banks in Canada	166,867 85
Balances due by Agents of the Bank in the United States	1,090,246 03
Government Bonds, Municipal and other Securities	6,310,285 80
Call Loans on Stocks and Bonds	3,286,196 18
	\$15,501,153 03
Time Loans on Stocks and Bonds	1,644,532 28
Other Current Loans and Discounts	24,437,142 94
Overdue Debts (loss fully provided for)	113,899 15
Real Estate (other than Bank Premises)	108,399 83
Mortgages	65,393 71
Bank Premises	861,918 58
Other Assets	90,359 59
	\$42,822,799 11
	\$42,822,799 11

B. E. WALKER,
General Manager.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TUESDAY, 19TH JUNE, 1900.

The thirty-third Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of The Canadian Bank of Commerce was held in the banking-house on Tuesday, 19th June, 1900, at 12 o'clock. There were present :—Hon. George A. Cox, John L. Blaikie, Hon. A. M. Ross, A. Kingman, Montreal; John F. Taylor, William McCabe, F.I.A., C. D. Massey, James Crathern, Montreal; J. W. Flavelle, W. B. Hamilton, Edward Martin, Q.C., Hamilton; Matthew Leggat, Hamilton; John Hoskin, Q.C., LL.D., Thomas Gilmour, William Hendrie, Hamilton; William Spry, Philip Browne, R. C. Carlyle, N. Silverthorne, Thomas Walmsley, Charles Niehaus, E. B. Freeland, Henry Beatty, Melfort Boulton, Rev. E. B. Lawler, F. J. D. Smith, R. Wickens, Dr. Dewart, Rev. James Allen, W. M. Flavelle, A. H. Ireland, William Davidson, H. B. Walker, F. G. Cox, and others.

On motion, the President, Hon. Geo. A. Cox, was requested to take the chair, and Mr. J. H. Plummer, the Assistant General Manager, was appointed to act as Secretary.

The President called upon the Secretary to read the Annual Report of the Directors as follows:—

REPORT.

The Directors beg to present to the Shareholders the thirty-third Annual Report, covering the year ending 31st May, 1900, together with the usual Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account, brought forward from last year, was	\$ 55,738 53
The net profits for the year ending 31st May, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amounted to	<u>766,582 52</u>
Making in all	<u><u>\$822,321 05</u></u>

Which has been appropriated as follows:—

Dividends Nos. 65 and 66, at seven per cent. per annum	\$420,000 00
Transferred to Rest Account	250,000 00
Written off Bank Premises	100,000 00
Transferred to Pension Fund	10,000 00
Grant to National Patriotic Fund	5,000 00
Grant to Fund for relief of sufferers by Ottawa Fire	2,500 00
Balance carried forward	<u>34,821 05</u>
	<u><u>\$822,321 05</u></u>

The usual careful revaluation of the entire assets of the Bank has been made, and all bad and doubtful debts have been amply provided for.

The profits of the year have been unusually large, permitting an addition to the Reserve Fund of \$250,000 and a further reduction of \$100,000 in the Bank Premises account. A similar appropriation to the Bank Premises account was

made last year, and the Bank has thus out of profits paid largely for the extensive building operations of the last two years.

During the year the Bank has opened branches as follows :—at Fort Frances, Ontario, a point on the Ontario and Rainy River Railway, which is destined to become of commercial importance ; at Fort Steele, an office worked in connection with our Cranbrook office, in the East Kootenay district of British Columbia ; at White Horse, in the Yukon Territory, being the terminus of the White Pass and Yukon Railway Company ; and at Seattle, in the State of Washington, a city intimately connected with the trade along the Pacific Coast.

The various branches, agencies, and departments of the Bank have been inspected during the year.

The Directors have again pleasure in recording their appreciation of the efficiency and zeal with which the officers of the Bank have performed their respective duties.

GEO. A. COX,
President.

Toronto, June 9th, 1900.

In moving the adoption of the Report the President said :—

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

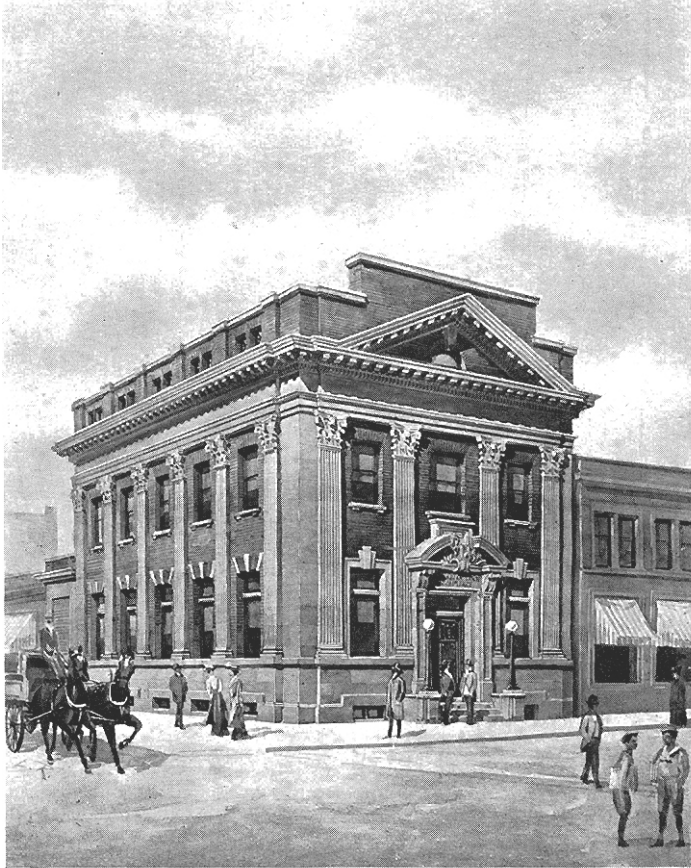
I venture to predict that the Annual Statement and Balance Sheet which I now have the honour to submit, will meet with your very cordial approval.

It will be observed that we have, in common with other financial institutions, participated to the extent of our full share in the general prosperity that has prevailed throughout the country. This year we have again to report an increase of close upon \$2,000,000 in our deposits and of over \$800,000 in our circulation. Our total deposits have now reached the handsome sum of \$29,680,000, an increase of over \$10,000,000 during the last three years, and the note circulation during the same period has grown from \$2,500,000 to over \$4,000,000.

The Report calls attention to the handsome earnings of the past year, which have enabled us to make the substantial addition of a quarter of a million dollars to the Reserve Fund, and also another large appropriation of \$100,000 to our Bank Premises account. The latter appropriation will, I am sure, be approved by our Shareholders in view of the expenditure we have thought it well to incur in providing suitable accommodation for our branches. I am pleased to say that we have little more to do in this direction ; with the completion of the buildings we now have under construction we shall be pretty well through with the changes and additions called for by the growing business of the Bank.

You will no doubt be pleased to know that the Directors have not overlooked the staff, to whose faithful and zealous efforts the success of the Bank in the past year has been largely due. Before closing the books we set aside for them a substantial sum out of the year's earnings and distributed it as a bonus, the distribution being rated in such a way as to do justice to those of the Bank's employees who receive small salaries. We have a very loyal, very capable and very zealous staff, and nothing in the closing up of the year's business has given the Directors greater pleasure than the fact that they were able to recognize these qualities in the substantial manner that I have mentioned.

A contribution of \$2,500 to the fund for the sufferers by the great fire at Ottawa, and of \$5,000 to the National Patriotic Fund will, I have no doubt, meet with your unanimous approval. Theoretically we should distribute the earnings of the Bank amongst our Shareholders and let each give for himself to such funds, but, looking at the matter from the practical side it cannot be doubted that we have a corporate responsibility in regard to, and derive a corporate benefit from, such a national enterprise as sending troops to help in fighting the battles of the Empire in South Africa. Our Canadian soldiers have nobly done their duty on those distant fields of battle, and every true Canadian heart swells



SASKATOON, SASK.
Under construction

with pride at the glorious deeds that have brought so much honour and so much credit to themselves and to the land of their birth. The fire at Ottawa appeals to us on a different ground. We have an important branch there with a large and profitable business and our local connection justifies local aid in such a distressing calamity.

The Act under which we now carry on our business was passed in 1890, and under it the Bank charters would expire on the 1st July next. An Act to amend the Bank Act, which provides for the extension of our charters until the 1st July, 1911, is now before Parliament, and will, no doubt, shortly become law. This is the fourth time since Confederation that the law respecting banks and banking has been brought up for discussion in Parliament, and the practice of decennial revision seems to have become pretty well established. Speaking from the Bank's point of view I do not see much to object to in this, for no doubt as the country grows there will be at the end of each ten years reasons for some extension or modification of the powers of the banks. There are, however, at each revision fewer points to be dealt with. The changes since 1870 have not touched the fundamental principles of the banking law so far as the loaning business of the banks is concerned ; and I hope we shall always hold to the conservative principles which govern in this respect. The amendments made from time to time have been chiefly intended to bring about greater security for creditors, and to minimize, so far as legislation can, the results of misfortune and bad management.

In 1890 the scheme respecting note issues was adopted, which occasions the deposit with the Government, in the Bank Redemption Fund, of the amount which you see in our balance sheet. The provisions then made respecting the circulation have been found entirely adequate for the purposes for which they were intended ; that is to secure bank notes, and to make them payable without discount at every place in Canada, even after the failure of the issuing bank,

should that happen. The amendments in the present bill affecting circulation are in the direction of further protection against over issues. Apart from these the only amendment calling for notice is that which provides for the appointment of a curator for a suspended bank by the other banks acting together as an association.

The incorporation of the banks in a body known as the Canadian Bankers' Association has placed at the disposal of the Government a piece of machinery to deal with matters of this kind of a unique, but, I think, particularly effective kind. The Association has long existed as a voluntary body, its functions being to look after the general interests of banks in such matters as the education of the younger men in the profession, the publication of the Journal of the Association, etc., and the imposition of such duties as those referred to on the Association is an experiment which will be watched with interest by all concerned in financial matters. I think it will be found that as the banks have within reach the most suitable men to be placed in temporary charge of the affairs of a suspended bank, and have also the highest possible interest in seeing its affairs honestly and wisely administered, the experiment is likely to be highly successful. No section of the community is so keenly interested in the maintenance of public credit, and especially the maintenance of the high credit of the Canadian banks, as the banks themselves. Of course, it is not intended to take away the control of the assets of a suspended bank from the creditors and shareholders. The supervision to be exercised by the Bankers' Association, through the curator, is only intended to protect the interests of all concerned, and to maintain the *status quo* until a liquidator is appointed or the bank resumes business.

Speaking of circulation, it will interest you to know that owing to the great activity of business during the past year, the note circulation of the banks reached the highest point it has ever touched. The maximum amount was \$50,845,200, which is so much beyond the maximum of the previous year

—\$44,024,600—as to be quite remarkable. We had our full share of this expansion, our maximum having been \$5,635,000, against a maximum of \$3,904,000 in 1898.

The General Manager spoke as follows :—

GENERAL MANAGER'S ADDRESS.

When we come to the close of a year which has not been profitable or in which the conditions have been varied and not altogether satisfactory, the bank manager may find occasion to speak at some length in explanation of the different features which have influenced the whole result, but at the present moment it would doubtless be sufficient to remind you that the past year has been the most prosperous in the history of our country. Prosperity speaks readily for itself and needs little explanation, still the object of the remarks made at our Annual Meetings is not to excuse the lean or congratulate you upon the full years, but to endeavour to understand causes and effects with a view to safety in the conduct of the somewhat difficult business of banking. It is clear that in many things affecting our future the people of Canada are taking new steps of great importance, and that in doing so they will make some mistakes and receive some checks, and it would be well for us to bear this steadily in mind and keep a sharp lookout for the turn of events. It is not very many years since we were an agricultural people with a few struggling manufactures, an uncomfortably small population and a vast area of territory with apparently unlimited natural resources for most of which there was no market. Our political experiment of confederation was regarded by many with grave doubt, our trans-continental railway as an impossibility as an earning property, and our influence in Imperial affairs was very limited. This has all been changed in so short a time that we need not wonder if there are some who hesitate to accept the future which is apparently in store for us. It looks now as if the world wants our iron and coal even more than the so-called precious metals, and wants every forest product which can be made into wooden articles or into

paper, and as if our problem is to supply these things in as advanced a state of manufacture as possible instead of in a raw state. It looks as if at last we are to have fleets of steel ships upon our lakes owned by Canadians and even built in Canada. It is clear that our trans-continental railway is with its gross earnings of \$30,000,000 and net of over \$10,000,000 no longer a doubtful experiment except as to its ability to carry the freight coming from the areas it traverses. Our political experiment of confederation which did not even interest the people of Great Britain in 1867 is now so completely beyond doubt that the attempt to form a similar confederation in the Southern Seas is regarded in London as an event of Imperial interest only second to the war in South Africa. Added to this a dark moment in the history of the Empire gave us the opportunity of showing our conception of our duty to it. Indeed, with India, the new Australasia, the British South Africa of the future, and Canada, all steadily growing in importance, it is hard to overestimate the influence of the "Men of the Four New Nations and the Islands of the Sea," especially now that our "English brother" begins to "understand."

TRANSPORTATION.

We have on similar occasions endeavoured to draw attention to the imperative demand in Canada for increased facilities of transportation. We all recognize that rapidity, efficiency and cheapness in transportation are just as vital to a new country as that the products it creates shall be high enough in quality and low enough in cost to satisfy the markets of the world. We have undoubtedly done a good deal, both publicly and privately, to improve our transportation, but we have much more to do, and although we shall hope that some day such things may be left almost entirely to private effort, it is clear that we cannot do this as yet. As we advance in experience we shall expect to see greater skill exercised by our governments in granting aid to transportation, but we cannot study the commercial development of our

country without concluding that what we are, apart from the natural richness of our country and the energy of our people, we owe mainly to aid given by our governments to facilitate transportation. Whether we have regard to the inland transportation by railroads, the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence, or from our Atlantic Coast to Europe, or our Pacific Coast to Asia, our geographical position shows that we should carry all of our own products and much from the United States beside. But against these natural advantages we have to meet the facilities actually established by a nation with an enormous population, vast wealth and greater genius for land transportation than any other country in the world. We are glad to see that great warehouses and improved terminal facilities are being built at Montreal, a shipyard for steel vessels at Collingwood, and that companies are being created with steel vessels of sufficient size for modern lake traffic, but persistent effort on a large scale will be necessary to turn to our St. Lawrence route our natural share of the products which have so long reached the Atlantic by way of Buffalo and New York. It would be well not to take much satisfaction from the concern exhibited at Buffalo and New York regarding the freight already diverted to the St. Lawrence. Our problem is to obtain as early as possible the facilities in ships, warehouses and general conditions of navigation so as to enable us to seize as much of the traffic as we can before the Erie Canal is enlarged and transfer arrangements at New York are improved. In rail transportation the lack of cars last year almost paralyzed some classes of business, while the lack of vessels at Canadian sea ports put freights out of the reach of some shippers, notably cattle dealers. It is true that the South African war was partly responsible for this, but the main reason was the smallness of the fleet available for Canada. We should have on our lakes and on the Atlantic a far greater number of freighters of the latest models, than we have been accustomed to think necessary, even in our sanguine moments. We should, doubtless, frankly admit

that the St. Lawrence Gulf needs the serious attention of the Government. What the expenditure should be, whether merely more light-houses and telegraph stations, or expenditure having a much wider range, we are not prepared to say, but whatever is necessary to satisfy the reasonable demands of shippers and underwriters and to make it a favourite route, should be done as early as possible. On the Pacific, apart from the Canadian Pacific Railway steamers to Japan, the situation is even worse. It is easy to understand that it will try the patience and wisdom of the Ministers of the Dominion and of the Provinces to know just how and when, out of limited national wealth, to give the most useful aid. The errors of the past of this character, however, are as nothing to the benefits conferred, and more railroads and ships we must have.

MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

We have apparently passed that stage when our manufacturers were chiefly engaged in the endeavour to compete successfully with foreigners for the trade of our own people. We have now an extensive range of manufactures, and year by year we are building up a large foreign trade. It is also noticeable that in most branches of manufacture there are strong, thoroughly established firms or companies who have demonstrated that their particular goods may be made here at a steady profit, and many of these take a forward place among their fellow-manufacturers throughout the world. I notice, for instance, that three customers of this Bank claim to be the largest manufacturers in their particular line in the British Empire. Even in manufactures such as cotton, sugar and rubber, where the raw material is not of Canadian origin, we are building up good and profitable industries. There are said to be over 30 cotton mills in Canada, employing over 12,000 people. These are, of course, small figures when compared with those of the United States, but the mills are mainly connected with the commerce of Montreal, and form an important feature in our smaller affairs. In our more natural

field of pulp and paper-making we are pushing ahead rapidly. There are already 34 paper and 35 pulp mills in operation, and unless we fail to manage this great national resource with wisdom the figures will soon be much larger. The initial difficulties of learning the business of pulp-making and the more difficult one of paper-making are disappearing, and if we can so manage our forests that we sell the product as pulp, or better still, as paper, instead of selling the wood, we must have a great source of wealth and opportunity for enterprise. In Ontario we have dealt successfully with this problem as applied to lumber, and we are endeavouring to do so as applied to nickel. The lumber manufacturing clause, so loudly abused, is now pretty generally accepted as a natural and wise regulation, and we can but hope that legislation looking to the same end will be passed in the interest of Canadian pulp and paper makers. We are witnessing extraordinary developments in iron and coal. For a few years Europe has bought iron from North America and now she is asking for coal, the rapid rise in price and fear of actual famine having even affected the shares of British railways and other enterprises largely dependent on coal. We can assuredly supply both coal and iron to Europe cheaper than the United States, and if this is a permanent change in consequence of which Europe will afford a continuous market for both articles, although a varying one as to quantity, we shall be able at last to develop our great stores of both minerals and build up manufactures in iron and steel on a scale which seemed quite impossible but a few years ago, while the effect on our own railway and other construction work and upon our existing manufactures which require iron as a raw material must be most helpful to Canada as a whole. The fact that the recent rise in the prices of iron, lumber and other structural materials was so unreasonable in its proportions is unfortunate and the check which has already been administered need cause no surprise. When prices go beyond a certain range construction work of almost all kinds is greatly

reduced as the natural result. There is not as much railroad or house building or construction of any kind going on as last year, and doubtless in view of the strain on the money market this is just as well. Still from cities and towns, large and small, throughout all Canada we hear the statement repeated that houses are well occupied and that there has been a decided improvement in rents. Reports from twelve or fifteen manufacturing towns and cities in Ontario state that almost all classes of manufacturers have done an unusually large and profitable business during the last year and that the demand for all classes of goods, except structural materials, continues. Nevertheless, although trade generally seems to be in a healthy condition, there are some signs which prudent people should watch with care. The handsome balance in our favour between our imports and our exports has been changed to a balance against us, although of moderate proportions; the staples which have declined are those which generally lead a downward wave in prices; the volume of capital already fixed in new ventures, and not available as liquid capital, has already affected the cost of money; and in the North-West at least, there are clearly too large stocks in the hands of merchants, due to the mild winter, the strikes and other mining troubles in British Columbia, and the restricted paying power of many farmers who have invested their savings in purchases of new land. As the retailers dispose of the high-priced goods purchased last year, the manufacturers and wholesale importers cannot expect that the retailers will refill their shelves as readily as in 1899.

The conditions of the lumber trade have already been suggested. After very high prices enabling new and old stocks to be readily sold with large profit, sales have been rendered difficult by the check to building. Operations in the woods have been made expensive by the general rise in prices, while the mild winter has made it probable that quantities of logs will not float down to the mills. Altogether the outlook is not as satisfactory as last season.

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

Taking Canada as a whole the year has been a very good one for the farmers. Regarding wheat in the North-West our Winnipeg Manager writes as follows :—

“While the earlier forecasts of last year as to the quantity of the grain crop were considerably over estimated, it is a fact nevertheless that there was harvested in Manitoba and the Territories the largest and one of the most perfectly matured crops which has ever been handled during the few years that Manitoba has been recognized as a grain producing province. Although slight frosts appeared in some parts of the Province and Territories the inspection returns prove that barely one per cent. of the total quantity harvested was affected in this way, and that a very large percentage of the wheat marketed has been inspected as of the grade of Manitoba No. 1 Hard ; this, too, in face of the fact that the standard for that grade was made considerably higher by Act of Parliament than that required by law during previous years. The price has been somewhat disappointing, but this has been counterbalanced to a large extent by the high grading referred to.”

The fall wheat in Ontario was a failure, but the result from other cereals was satisfactory. Cattle, horses and hogs all brought good prices. There was a handsome increase in the money value of both cheese and butter, bringing the total of dairy exports up to nearly \$25,000,000, a gain of over \$5,000,000 from the previous year, and the highest figures in money yet recorded. There are a few localities in Ontario where it is said that the returns from farming and the collection of debts by merchants were not satisfactory, but almost everywhere the report is the reverse of this. Without doubt during another year further substantial progress has been made, mortgages have been reduced or paid off, new land has been settled, and whether it be in merely breaking new land or in improving the higher conditions of farming, such as horse breeding or dairying, there is a feeling of confidence in the future of agriculture which is a healthy condition for the

whole community. The prospects for new crops now that we have had rain are fairly good in the east, but still in doubt in Manitoba and the Territories; the winter season in the ranching country has been very favourable for cattle; the inducement in the east to raise hogs is unusual and the profit from intelligent horse breeding is once more satisfactory. During 1899 over 40,000 immigrants entered Manitoba and the Territories, and in 1900 a much larger number is expected. The sales of land as a natural consequence, are the highest yet recorded, and the average price paid for land also exceeds anything heretofore known in the North-West. In British Columbia labour disputes have wrought heavy damage to property interests, to the claims of labour itself, and to the reputation of the province, but we must hope that better counsels will soon prevail and that the energies of those who desire to make it a great mining province will not be thwarted by a policy which is a benefit to none.

In the Yukon District the output of gold has carried Canada from a position of insignificance as a gold producer to the fifth position among other nations. From 1887 to 1894 inclusive, we produced only about a million dollars' worth of gold annually. For 1899 official records give us credit for \$18,000,000, counting the Yukon District as \$14,000,000. Our own careful examination of assay office records, however, gives \$16,000,000 for the Yukon, making a total for Canada of \$20,000,000. This year the results will be larger. It is of course unfortunate for the Klondike region that the rush to Cape Nome in Alaska may lessen the supply of labour and thus prevent the reduction of wages to a more reasonable figure. But the adverse influence of this can only be temporary.

As we have so often been obliged to refer to the currency and other business conditions in the United States, it is a pleasure to record that at last the gold standard has been definitely confirmed by legislation. Although no attempt to improve the banking system in its principles has been made, the conditions of the present system have been rendered less

unbearable by some amendments, and for the immediate future there will probably be sufficient currency for the wants of the people.

While we are greatly pleased to see our trade with Great Britain grow so rapidly it would be foolish to minimize the value of our relations with the United States. There are always some frank writers in that country who try to keep before the people the value of mutual good relations between the United States and the British Empire. In a recent number of the *New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin* a careful abstract is made of the foreign trade of the United States for the last 20 years, the actual figures being quoted for 32 countries, and in drawing some conclusions certain statements are made which are well worth repeating. After referring to the effort made by the United States to make its trade move north and south instead of east and west the writer says:—"Our largest and most profitable customers are in British America and Northern Europe. Our exports to British North America are greater than our exports to all South America." And regarding the value of the friendship we have referred to he says:—"Our trade follows the *British* flag. The preceding tables do not include the entire world, but of the (32) enumerated countries the United Kingdom, British North America, British West Indies, British India, British Australasia and British Africa took 10,121 million dollars of our exports in the 20 years, and all the rest of the world took 6,944 millions."

The returns for 11 months of the fiscal year of the Dominion show that our foreign trade (imports and exports) amounted to \$325,000,000, or if the growth for the last month is the same as in 1899, about \$375,000,000 for the whole year. However small these figures may be by comparison with the great nations of the world, a foreign trade of a million dollars a day, with the material comfort to our fellow countrymen which it produces, is to many of us who can remember the day of very small things in Canada a cause of profound thankfulness.

Mr. Crathern.—I am much pleased to hear the General Manager's remarks respecting the transportation and handling of grain. The Harbour Commissions at Montreal have made a contract which we hope will give us by next spring an elevator with a capacity of one million bushels, and storage room in addition of two million bushels. These elevators will permit of the unloading of inland vessels at the rate of 250,000 bushels per day, and they can put grain on ocean vessels at the rate of 60,000 bushels per hour. These facilities will aid the export business of this country very much.

The President's motion being put was carried.

On motion of Mr. Edward Martin, seconded by Rev. Dr. Dewart, the following resolution increasing the number of the Board of Directors from seven to nine, and their remuneration from \$12,000 to \$16,000 per annum was adopted :—

That By-law No. 1 of the Bank be, and the same is hereby amended by altering the word "seven" in the first line to "nine."

Also that the amount named in By-law No. 5 be altered to read "sixteen thousand dollars."

After the transaction of some formal business Mr. John L. Blaikie moved the usual vote of thanks to the President, Vice-President and Directors. Mr. Blaikie said :—This resolution needs hardly any words to commend it. The Directors and General Management have had the handling of something like \$42,800,000, and they have brought out magnificent results. I am sure we have all listened to the remarks of the President and General Manager with a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction, and have felt that this is a great institution. I notice as an evidence of the confidence which the public have in this Bank that they have entrusted to it about five millions and a half of deposits for which they ask no interest. I wish depositors would do something like that for other institutions as well ; it would assist materially in the payment of handsome dividends.

The motion was seconded briefly by Mr. Spry and Mr. C. D. Massey and carried unanimously.

The President.—I am sure that I voice the sentiments of the Vice-President, who is not in Canada at the moment, and of my fellow Directors, when I say that we very much appreciate the kind manner in which this resolution has been received.

Mr. McCabe.—I have much pleasure in offering the following resolution:—That the thanks of the meeting be tendered to the General Manager, the Assistant General Manager and other officers of the Bank, for the satisfactory discharge of their respective duties during the past year.

General terms of commendation have been uttered by all the preceding speakers, and they are certainly justly due from the Shareholders to those who have had to conduct the affairs of the Bank during the past year, especially in view of the fact that those affairs have been conducted so very satisfactorily, as shown by the increase in the net earnings by the very large sum of \$223,000 over the earnings of last year. The gentlemen whom we are thanking have no doubt had many periods of anxiety during the year, but they have succeeded in giving very handsome results. I cannot sit down without alluding to one remark made by Mr. Blaikie. He referred to the great confidence which the public had in the Bank by placing in its control so much money free of interest. Now, the strong reason why the public have such confidence is the result of the specially able manner in which the affairs of the Bank have been conducted under the present administration.

The resolution was briefly seconded by Mr. Henry Beatty.

The President.—It always gives me great pleasure to submit this resolution. Brought, as I am, into daily association with the officers of the Bank, I know and appreciate the zeal, energy and ability which are brought to bear by them upon its affairs, and I know that they deserve the Shareholders' thanks.

On being put the resolution was unanimously adopted.

The General Manager.—I have to thank you very much for this resolution. It comes up every year, but we would not like you to think that it is regarded as a mere formality.

Our large staff, whose future is in this institution, appreciates, I am sure, this expression of the thanks of the Shareholders for their services. We have now 460 officers in the service of the Bank. It is a very large staff to care for, and it is difficult to keep it a first-class staff, but I think I may say that it is so. I think we may feel satisfied that we have as good men in our service as any other institution possesses. The work they perform is difficult and arduous, especially so since we have extended our field of operation to the far West and North, but we have never yet lacked for good men to go where they are needed.

With regard to our Statement, I wish to remind you that good years have their anxieties as well as bad years. I suppose we would be poor bankers if we had not always a certain feeling in good years that bad years will follow. We have had very handsome results for the year that has passed, but we may quite honestly say that we have taken pains to present a very conservative statement of our affairs.

It was moved by Mr. J. W. Flavelle, seconded by Mr. A. Kingman, and resolved, that the meeting do now proceed to elect Directors for the coming year, and that for this purpose the ballot-box be opened and remain open until three o'clock this day, the poll to be closed, however, whenever five minutes shall have elapsed without a vote being tendered, the results to be reported by the scrutineers to the General Manager.

The meeting then adjourned.

The scrutineers subsequently reported the following gentlemen to be elected Directors for the ensuing year:— Hon. George A. Cox, Messrs. James Crathern, William B. Hamilton, John Hoskin, Q.C., LL.D., Robert Kilgour, Matthew Leggat, Joseph W. Flavelle, W. E. H. Massey and A. Kingman.

At a meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors held subsequently, Hon. George A. Cox, was re-elected President, and Robert Kilgour, Esq., Vice-President.