

# THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

WITH WHICH IS AMALGAMATED  
THE BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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HEAD OFFICE - TORONTO, ONTARIO

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CAPITAL PAID-UP	- - - - -	\$8,000,000
REST	- - - - -	\$2,000,000

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## *DIRECTORS:*

HON. GEORGE 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.		

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## *LONDON BOARD:*

WILLIAM C. WARD, ESQ.,	-	Chairman.
HENRY J. GARDINER, ESQ.		T. G. GILLESPIE, ESQ.
GUY OSWALD SMITH, ESQ.		

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<b>B. E. WALKER,</b>	General Manager.
J. H. PLUMMER,	Asst. General Manager.
A. H. IRELAND,	Chief Inspector and Superintendent of Branches.
H. H. MORRIS,	Inspector.



## BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON—

ATLIN.....	J. S. MUNRO.....	Manager.
CRANBROOK.....	H. HAINES.....	“
DAWSON.....	H. T. WILLS.....	“
FERNIE.....	JOHN KAY.....	“
GREENWOOD.....	J. W. H. SMYTHE.....	“
KAMLOOPS.....	W. H. PEGRAM.....	“
NANAIMO.....	G. WILLIAMS.....	“
NELSON.....	G. V. HOLT.....	“
NEW WESTMINSTER.....	G. E. PARKES.....	“
ROSSLAND.....	II. F. MYTTON.....	“
SANDON.....	T. B. MAY.....	“
VANCOUVER.....	WM. MURRAY.....	“
VICTORIA.....	GEO. GILLESPIE.....	“
WHITE HORSE.....	H. M. LAY.....	“

### MANITOBA—

WINNIPEG.....	JOHN AIRD.....	Manager.
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### ONTARIO AND QUEBEC—

AYR.....	JOHN WYLLIE.....	Agent.
BARRIE.....	H. J. GRASSETT.....	Manager.
BELLEVILLE.....	C. M. STORK.....	“
BERLIN.....	E. P. GOWER.....	“
BLENHEIM.....	J. L. HUBBELL.....	“
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.....	D. B. DEWAR.....	“
LONDON.....	G. de C. O'GRADY.....	“
MONTREAL.....	{ F. H. MATHEWSON.....	“
	{ W. C. J. KING.....	Asst. Mgr.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES—Continued

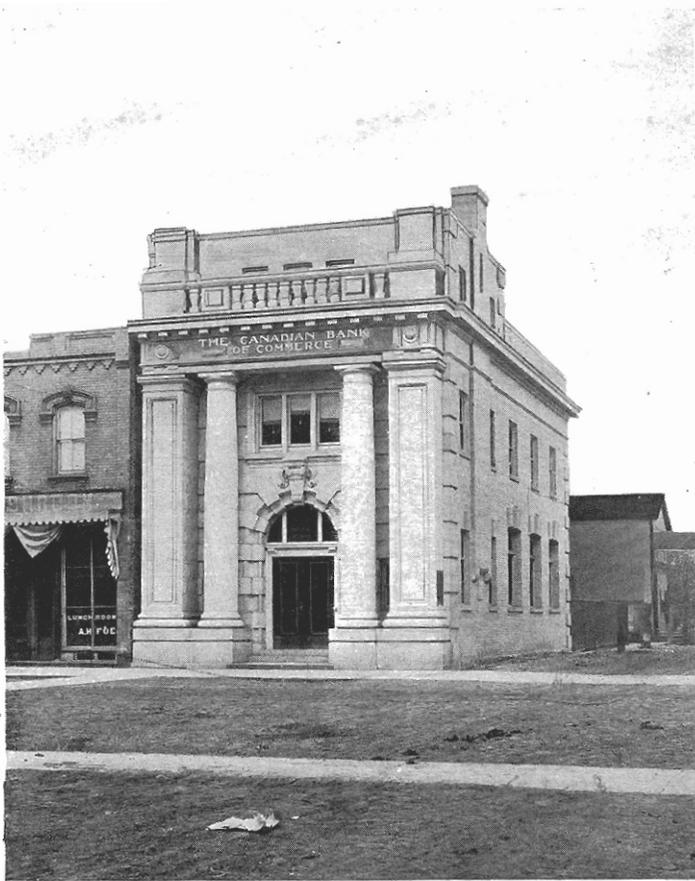
ORANGEVILLE .....	G. A. HOLLAND .....	Manager.
OTTAWA .....	ROBERT GILL .....	"
PARIS .....	R. C. MACPHERSON .....	"
PARKHILL .....	G. M. WEDD .....	"
PETERBORO .....	R. C. MCHARRIE .....	"
PORT PERRY .....	G. M. GIBBS .....	"
ST. CATHARINES .....	F. O. CROSS .....	"
SARNIA .....	A. D. MCLEAN .....	"
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 .....	"
796-798 YONGE, COR. BLOOR	R. J. MONTGOMERY .....	"
TORONTO JUNCTION .....	R. C. JENNINGS .....	"
WALKERTON .....	D. MACGILLIVRAY .....	"
WALKERVILLE .....	J. L. HARCOURT .....	"
WATERLOO .....	A. W. ROBERTS .....	"
WINDSOR .....	J. L. HARCOURT .....	"
WOODSTOCK .....	G. W. MCKEE .....	"

UNITED STATES—

NEW YORK .....	{ ALEX. LAIRD .....	} Agents.
	{ WM. GRAY .....	
PORTLAND, ORE. ....	E. A. WYLD .....	Manager.
SAN FRANCISCO .....	W. POWELL .....	"
SEATTLE .....	D. A. CAMERON .....	"
SKAGWAY, ALASKA .....	C. J. K. NOURSE .....	Pro Agent.

GREAT BRITAIN—

**LONDON**, 60 Lombard Street, E.C.  
S. CAMERON ALEXANDER, Manager.



STRATHROY, ONT.



## BANKERS AND CHIEF CORRESPONDENTS.

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### GREAT BRITAIN—

The Bank of Scotland.  
Lloyds Bank, Limited.  
Messrs. Smith, Payne & Smiths, London.

### FRANCE—

Crédit Lyonnais, Paris.  
Messrs. Lazard Frères & Cie, Paris.

### GERMANY—

Deutsche Bank.

### HOLLAND—

Disconto Maatschappij, Rotterdam.

### BELGIUM—

Messrs. J. Matthieu & Fils, Brussels.

### INDIA, CHINA AND JAPAN—

Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.  
Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

### SOUTH AFRICA—

Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.  
Bank of Africa, Limited.

### AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND—

Union Bank of Australia, Limited.  
Bank of Australasia.

### HAWAIIAN ISLANDS—

First National Bank of Hawaii.  
Bishop & Co., Honolulu.

### 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.

# GENERAL STATEMENT

31ST MAY, 1901.

## LIABILITIES

Notes of the Bank in circulation :

Issues of The Canadian Bank of Commerce.....	\$ 5,157,783 00	
Issues of the Bank of British Columbia...	288,990 00	
		\$ 5,446,773 00
Deposits not bearing interest.....	12,199,832 90	
Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date.....	35,804,766 68	
		48,004,599 58
Balances due to other Banks in Canada.....	284,436 63	
Balances due to other Banks in foreign countries .....	445,860 39	
Balances due to Agents in Great Britain .....	2,983,512 59	
Dividends unpaid .....	2,186 58	
Dividend No. 68, payable 1st June.....	268,333 33	
Capital paid-up .....	\$ 8,000,000 00	
Rest.....	2,000,000 00	
Balance of Profit and Loss Account carried forward.....	117,876 03	
		10,117,876 03
		\$67,553,578 13

## ASSETS

Coin and Bullion .....	\$ 1,798,357 07	
Dominion Notes .....	1,498,220 50	
		\$ 3,296,577 57
Deposit with Dominion Government for security of Note circulation.....	294,000 00	
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks .....	1,993,112 76	
Balances due by other Banks in Canada .....	158,925 89	
Balances due by Agents of the Bank and other Banks in foreign countries.....	1,063,976 22	
Government Bonds, Municipal and other Securities.....	10,367,229 68	
Call and Short Loans on Stocks and Bonds .....	7,295,451 89	
		\$24,469,274 01
Other Current Loans and Discounts .....	41,555,151 37	
Overdue Debts (loss fully provided for).....	200,064 17	
Real Estate (other than Bank Premises).....	173,790 50	
Mortgages.....	117,472 38	
Bank Premises.....	1,000,000 00	
Other Assets .....	37,825 70	
		\$67,553,578 13
		\$67,553,578 13

B. E. WALKER,  
General Manager.

# THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

WITH WHICH IS AMALGAMATED

THE BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TUESDAY, 18TH JUNE, 1901.

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The thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of The Canadian Bank of Commerce was held in the banking-house on Tuesday, 18th June, 1901, at 12 o'clock. There were present:—A. Kingman, Montreal; William Hendrie, Hamilton; John Taylor, A. E. Ames, M. Leggat, Hamilton; W. E. H. Massey, W. B. Hamilton, James Crathern, Montreal; J. W. Flavelle, J. W. Langmuir, William Ross, S. Nordheimer, John M. Bond, Guelph; E. R. Wood, Robert Kilgour, A. E. Kemp, M.P., C. D. Massey, H. P. Dwight, G. B. Smith, John Nicol, Edward Gurney, Rev. E. B. Lawler, R. Wickens, William Spry, Thomas Gilmour, Rev. E. H. Dewart, D.D., John L. Blaikie, F. J. D. Smith, Henry Beatty, S. J. Moore, F. H. Arkell, Edward Martin, K.C., Hamilton; C. S. Gzowski, Walter S. Lee, F. W. Gates, W. T. White, J. Lorne Campbell, H. M. Ferguson, A. V. Delaporte, Charles Niehaus, Robert Thompson, H. B. Walker, Z. A. Lash, K.C., A. E. Webb, R. H. Temple, Æmilius Jarvis, W. Powell, San Francisco, and others.

On motion, the Vice-President, Mr. Robert Kilgour, was, in the absence of the President, requested to take the chair, and Mr. J. H. Plummer, the Assistant General Manager, was appointed to act as Secretary.

The Vice-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-fourth Annual Report, covering the year ending 31st May, 1901, together with the usual Statement of Assets and Liabilities:—

The balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account, brought forward from last year is . . . . .	\$	34,821	05
Surplus derived from purchase of assets of Bank of British Columbia as per statement at foot is . . . . .		562,776	11
Net profits for the year ending 31st May, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts amounted to . . . . .		854,323	17
Making in all . . . . .	\$	<u>1,451,920</u>	<u>33</u>

Which has been appropriated as follows:—

Dividends Nos. 67 and 68, at 7 per cent. per annum:—			
For the year on \$6,000,000 . . . . .	\$	420,000	00
For five months on \$2,000,000 new stock . . . . .		58,333	33
	\$	<u>478,333</u>	<u>33</u>
Transferred to Rest Account . . . . .		750,000	00
Written off Bank Premises . . . . .		95,710	97
Transferred to Pension Fund (annual contribution) . . . . .		10,000	00
Balance carried forward . . . . .		117,876	03
	\$	<u>1,451,920</u>	<u>33</u>

The result of the purchase of the assets of the Bank of British Columbia is as follows:—

Surplus of assets over liabilities, at our re-valuation .....	\$2,949,776	11
Paid to Shareholders in cash....	\$ 312,000	00
Transferred to Pension Fund to provide for claims of the staff of the Bank of British Columbia.....	75,000	00
Credited to Capital Account for 40,000 shares new stock issued to the Shareholders of the Bank of British Columbia	2,000,000	00
	<u>2,387,000</u>	<u>00</u>
Balance transferred to Profit and Loss Account.	\$ 562,776	11

During the year this Bank has acquired the business of the Bank of British Columbia, assuming its offices at the following places:—Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Nelson, New Westminster, Rossland and Sandon, all in British Columbia; San Francisco, California; Portland, Oregon; and London, England. In this connection meetings of our Shareholders were held on 20th August and 11th December last, and the result was conveyed to the Shareholders in a special Report. Since the meeting in December the very arduous duties in connection with the actual taking over of the business have been accomplished, and on 2nd January last the formal assumption took place.

In addition to the customary careful re-valuation of the assets of the Bank, it may be well to state that those acquired from the Bank of British Columbia have practically undergone two examinations during the past year, one before this Bank was committed to the purchase and another in connection with our usual annual revision. All bad and doubtful debts in connection with our entire assets have been amply provided for.

The profit arising from the purchase of the assets of the Bank of British Columbia, after making the special addition of \$75,000 to the Pension Fund referred to in the Statement, amounted to \$562,776. This practically constitutes the premium received on the stock of this Bank issued in that connection, namely \$2,000,000. From this source, together with the ordinary profits of the Bank, which have continued to be very satisfactory, we have been able to add to the Reserve Fund \$750,000 and to make a further appropriation of \$95,710 to Bank Premises Account.

The office established at Fort Steele as a sub-agency of Cranbrook in 1899 has been closed.

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.

ROBERT KILGOUR,

Toronto, June 11th, 1901.

Vice-President.

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

VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Allow me to preface my remarks regarding the ordinary business of the meeting by expressing my regret that the President is not with us on this occasion. He was called to England in May by the ill health of a member of his family, and in view of his keen interest in the more than usually important events in the Bank's history during the past year I do not need to assure you of his very great regret at not being present here to-day.

The year which has just closed has been to the Directors and the management the most important and one of the most prosperous in the history of the Bank. At the special meeting of the Shareholders held on 11th December, of which a report has been made, we were authorized to take over the business of the Bank of British Columbia. This was accom-

plished, and on the 2nd January last the various establishments of the Bank of British Columbia, including that in London, England, became branches of this Bank. During the interval since that time the various credits granted to customers of the Bank of British Columbia have been considered afresh by this Bank. We have thus had a further opportunity to judge of the character of the staff as well as of the business we have taken over, and we feel fully warranted in saying that we have made a most important and valuable acquisition. On the other hand, the Shareholders of the Bank of British Columbia, almost all of whom are now our Shareholders, are to be congratulated on the outcome. The disadvantage which the branches of the Bank of British Columbia laboured under in having a head office so remote from the actual business of the Bank is now removed, and the single institution which now controls the business done hitherto by both banks, may hope to show better results than could have been achieved otherwise than by amalgamation.

As you may imagine, this transaction coming at a time of great growth otherwise in our business, has thrown upon the staff an unusual quantity of labour, and in this connection I am sure you will be glad to know that the Directors before closing the books again set aside a sum in order to provide a bonus to the employees of the Bank.

As the time seems opportune for a comparison with other years of a more extended nature than usual, I shall leave this task to the General Manager.

I must not, however, allow the opportunity to pass without alluding to the death of Sir Robert Gillespie, who for so many years guided the affairs of the Bank of British Columbia, and who by the amalgamation of that bank with our own became the Chairman of the Local Board of our branch in London, England. Although he had reached the ripe age of 82 years, he was still keenly interested in the affairs of the corporations with which he was connected, and as Governor of the Canada Company, Chairman of our London

Board, and Director of other companies, he remained to the last a prominent figure in the city.

The General Manager spoke as follows :—

GENERAL MANAGER'S ADDRESS.

As the Balance Sheet of the Bank exhibits changes of unusual importance we have thought that the Shareholders would be interested in comparing the present situation with the past in a more extended manner than is our ordinary custom. Three causes have combined to increase abnormally the figures with which we have to deal. We have had a year of most gratifying increase at all of our branches ; we have incorporated the figures of another bank ; and we have by the change in the Bank Act, been required to bring into our balance sheet the assets and liabilities of our agencies in the United States, instead of merely showing the resulting balance due us, as was the previous requirement of the Act.

Our Statement shows that the resources at our command at the present time are \$67,553,578, an increase since last year of \$24,730,779. The resources at our command in recent years have been as follows :—

1890 .....	\$22,596,520
1895 .....	28,408,274
1898 .....	34,256,103
1899 .....	39,682,786
1900 .....	42,822,799
1901 .....	67,553,578

The increase in our deposits during the past year has been \$18,324,330, which may be divided as follows :—

Deposits of the Bank of British Columbia assumed .....	\$ 8,253,384
Increase during past year in branches of The Canadian Bank of Commerce, apart from those which were formerly establishments of the Bank of British Columbia, and in the latter for five months .....	7,527,726
Increase due to change in form of Balance Sheet.	2,543,220
	<u>\$18,324,330</u>

The increase in our Note circulation during the past year is \$1,255,080, of which about \$1,000,000 is attributable to the business taken over from the Bank of British Columbia.

It will interest you to consider again, as we did a few years ago, the relative growth of this Bank as compared with the growth of all banks in Canada combined.

In 1896 our deposits constituted 9.27 per cent. of the entire deposits in chartered banks in Canada, at present they constitute 14.31 per cent. of the whole, an increase of 5.04 per cent.

In 1896 our Note circulation was 7.79 per cent. of the entire circulation of Canadian banks. It is now 11.49 per cent., an increase of 3.70 per cent.

You will observe that the Bank Premises Account stands at precisely \$1,000,000. After writing off \$18,000 to bring the properties to a safe value we took over bank premises from the Bank of British Columbia which added to our account \$125,000. This with our own expenditures on new structures for the year made it necessary to take from the profits of the year \$95,710.97 in order to reduce the total to \$1,000,000. Unless there is some material further enlargement in the scope of the Bank's business it is our purpose to make all further additions, improvements and repairs to our buildings out of profits. We have in recent years dealt so vigorously with the Bank Premises Account that we feel that the asset at its present figure is beyond criticism. We have since the present management began, that is during the past fourteen years, written off and otherwise paid for out of profits, within a trifle of \$600,000, half of which has been accomplished in the last three years.

After this somewhat lengthy review of the Bank's affairs, we shall not attempt to discuss very fully the general state of business. As we had occasion to say a year ago, prosperity does not need much explanation, and we are still enjoying decided prosperity, although the pace in some directions seems rather giddy, and thoughtful people continue to remind

us with increasing emphasis that each year brings us just so much nearer the inevitable depression which must follow the present expansion.

One of the effects of our own growth is that we cannot any longer attempt to set forth in close detail, to the exclusion of wider interests, the conditions which surround our prosperity in eastern Canada, especially Ontario, as has been our practice heretofore. We are now interested about equally in the trade conditions of almost the whole area of Canada and of a large portion of the United States.

If we regard Canada as a whole, we realize that while Manitoba has been forced to bear the effects of one of the worst crop failures in its history, the general results of agriculture, including dairying and the raising of cattle, horses and hogs, have been so excellent that I am sure there will be scarcely a dissenting voice to the statement that our agriculturists have reached another stage of prosperity in the extent of money saving or of debt paying, with the natural accompaniments of a steady growth in the cash trade of country shop-keepers and a decline of the rate of interest on renewed mortgages. It has been very interesting to watch the effect on Manitoba of a grain crop damaged to the extent of fully 80 per cent. Ten years ago there would have been an almost absolute suspension of paying power, accompanied by many failures, and a despondent feeling as to the future. The past year has, however, witnessed no failures of importance. About 20 per cent. of the crop maintained the splendid standard of Manitoba wheat for flour making, and most of the balance, instead of being fed to cattle, was dried artificially, and otherwise so handled as to minimize the enormous loss which the farmers would have been forced to bear, but for the recent creation of proper facilities for treating a damaged crop. As to the present crop, it is estimated that the area under cultivation in Manitoba and the Territories is 15 to 25 per cent. higher than in 1900, and the prospects, now that plentiful rain has fallen, are very good indeed.

In mining, other than coal and iron, we must recognize the collapse in the value of the shares of certain companies and the effect for the time upon other ventures, the facts regarding which, however, may be full of ground for encouragement. It is quite evident that our people are learning only by bitter experience how to estimate the value of a mine. The movement in the prices of shares, however, is not mining, and is often not even an evidence of the condition of mining looked at as a national industry which will continue to progress as long as any profit is made in excess of the cost of working. Much more serious than the fall in shares is the persistent tendency toward labour troubles and the fall in the price of lead. If one or more refineries on an adequate scale result from the bounty granted by the Dominion Government, doubtless the silver-lead mines will be generally worked even at the present low prices, and in a few years we may succeed in smelting all the ores of British Columbia in our own country. In Rossland the ore shipments have increased as compared with the previous year and in the Boundary district the outlook is quite satisfactory.

The total figures of the year, as we had a right to expect, exceed those of any previous year. The total results of mining, both metallic and non-metallic, for the year 1900, are given by the Geological Survey as over 63 million dollars, and while there is an increase in the non-metallic products the great growth is due to the metallic products. The figures for the previous year were less than 50 millions, and in 1890 the total was less than 17 millions.

Regarding coal and iron we do not need to add to our remarks of last year. The proportion of space in our public journals devoted to these commodities makes it impossible for the least progressive Canadian to remain blind to the great future that lies before us. The noticeable incident of the year is the formation in the United States of a combination of iron and steel industries so enormous in extent that the mere mention of the capital involved in the undertaking

staggered those who try to measure the possibilities of all kinds involved in enterprises of an important character. The main point for Canadians, however, is to consider the possible effect on our own enterprises in iron and steel of such a gigantic rival. Personally we do not see any ground for alarm. The conditions under which our iron and steel ventures, looking to the world for a market, will work, are so much more fortunate than those of the United States, that we ought to prosper in any event. We must, however, remember that bonuses are temporary expedients; that competition will doubtless in the next period of depression be very keen; and that geographical position and excellence of raw material alone, will not conquer unless accompanied by expert management and the most complete knowledge of the constantly fluctuating conditions surrounding this great industry. As we have had occasion to say elsewhere we wish the growing Imperialism in Great Britain would cause the British manufacturer, who finds his profits disappearing because of dear coal or iron, to feel that his dividends would be just as pleasant to receive if they were earned somewhere else in the British Empire than in England or Scotland or Ireland. Why should Great Britain be, as she doubtless is, so depressed about her coal and iron supply if we have both articles much nearer to the world's markets than her greatest competitor? But as yet we are not to the British manufacturer a portion of the same industrial unit as himself. We are almost as foreign to him for all practical purposes as *Germany or the United States*. This is a condition which time will surely alter, and it is our duty, not that of the British manufacturer, to exploit the facts.

In our manufactures the noticeable feature is that, while a year ago there was no overproduction or almost none, there are some lines such as pulp and some classes of textile fabrics in which production has gone ahead of demand, or other elements have lessened the profits and interfere with the outlook. It is, however, also noticeable that in many lines

of manufacture the demand is still in excess of the supply and extensions to plant are necessary in order to increase the output.

In lumber, while prices are a little lower than those of 1900, in some grades there is still an active market. The prices for labour and for all supplies, however, have greatly increased the cost of production in some districts, although the winter was in other respects favourable to the operations of lumbermen. On the other hand building operations which were apparently checked by the high cost of lumber in 1900 are projected on a large scale throughout North America this year, and were it not for the prospect in so many localities of labour troubles, there would doubtless be a very satisfactory feeling about the outlook for lumber in the East.

A few words may seem desirable regarding our interests in the United States. The Pacific States, in which we have branches at San Francisco, Portland and Seattle, have apparently recovered from the depression following the panic of 1893, and the census returns exhibit a great increase in the population of the cities referred to, while the new buildings and the recovery in values of real estate reflect the abundant prosperity they are enjoying. The large trade with the Philippines caused by the war, the marketing of the sugar crops of the Sandwich Islands at San Francisco, the growing industries in canning fish, fruit and vegetables, the prospect of large development in manufactures owing to the important oil discoveries and the consequent effect upon the price of fuel, all seem to point to a satisfactory future for this part of the United States. Apart from these particular items and the great interests involved in mining, there is a growing conviction that both the United States and Canada on their Pacific coasts are destined to develop a traffic with Oriental nations and with Australia, and a coast line traffic between California and Alaska, the proportions of which it is idle to estimate, but which in any event will cause a great increase in the

Pacific coast population of North America, and will permit of the profitable employment of a large amount of capital by the eastern people.

In the eastern United States we have conditions similar to those in eastern Canada. The foreign trade of the United States increased during the last year for which we have returns about \$320,000,000, the total exceeding two billions of dollars. Our own foreign trade is not much more than the increase of the United States for one year, but the proportions per head are very gratifying. If our population may be called 6,000,000 our foreign trade is fully \$60 per head, while that of the United States is about \$26 per head, or perhaps slightly more if we had the figures down to date. With their enormous foreign trade, and with the largest stock of gold in the Treasury ever known, the shipment of gold to Europe is no longer a menace to the financial situation. The country is saving enormously and spending a smaller proportion on railroads, public improvements, plant and other betterments, than ever before, and as a natural outcome it is becoming the best market for its own securities, which are gradually finding their way back from Europe. The one serious menace to the general prosperity of the United States is the discontent of the working men and the fear of strikes on the part of employers. That this acts as a paralysis on many kinds of enterprise there is unfortunately no room for doubt.

Although Canada resembles the United States in some things we are not near the end of our expenditure on railroads, canals and other public improvements. We have but commenced. We do not wish to refer too persistently to the subject of transportation, but we have not yet succeeded in solving many of the problems which have been prominently before us for the past few years. We still require better elevator and shipping facilities at Montreal and conditions more satisfactory to the marine insurance companies in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. For our Pacific trade we require not

mints or assay offices, but transportation facilities which will make Vancouver or Victoria a more desirable port than Seattle as the southern terminus of the great coastwise trade with Alaska and the Yukon district. In both trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific trade, if we are to obtain the share to which we are entitled by our products and our geographical position, we must bestir ourselves. The problem as a whole does not become easier, and whether it be the building of railroads and canals, or of shipping for our inland lakes and rivers or to cross the great oceans which wash our long shore-lines, no subject is likely to command the attention of legislators in Canada to so great an extent for years to come as transportation.

The Vice-President's motion being put was carried.

Mr. J. W. Flavelle moved, seconded by Mr. Kingman, that By-laws No. 1 to 8 as read be and are hereby adopted as the By-laws of The Canadian Bank of Commerce.

In moving the resolution Mr. Flavelle said :—There are certain changes necessary in the By-laws of the Bank, and we have decided to submit them all to be re-enacted with the needed amendments embodied therein. I will only call your attention to the two alterations which are of importance. The first is the change in the date of the Annual Meeting, the reason for which I will ask Mr. Walker to explain ; the second is the proposed increase in the sum placed at the disposal of the Board, from \$16,000 to \$20,000. Speaking to a group of business men it is hardly necessary for me to say that while the assets have grown from \$22,000,000 in 1892 to \$67,000,000 this year, the responsibility resting upon the President, Vice-President and Directors has proportionately grown, and that a larger sum might now be reasonably allotted for their remuneration.

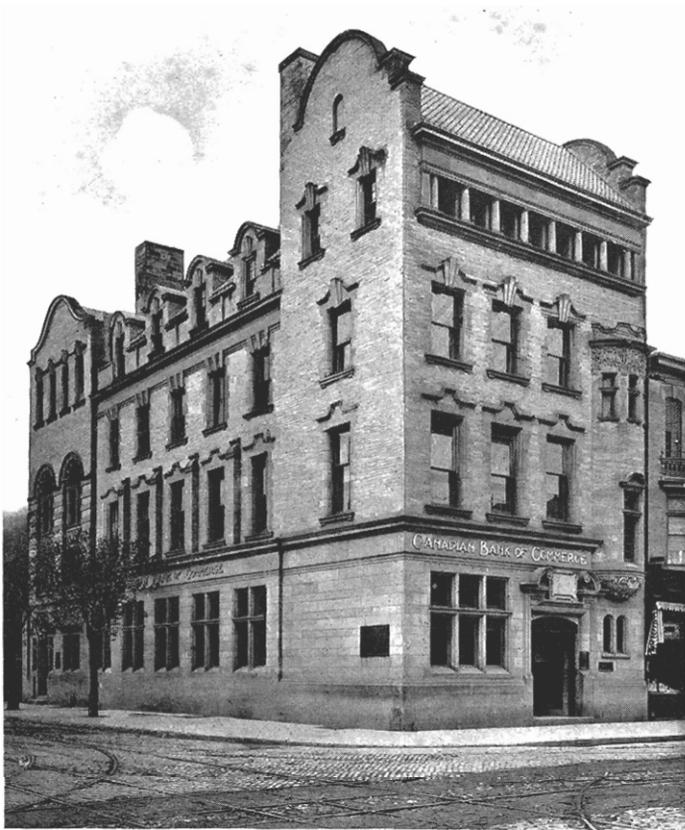
The General Manager.—The change in the date of the Bank's Annual Meeting is proposed to meet the practical difficulties which in the present scope of our operations are occasioned by holding the meeting in the summer. When the country was small and the business of the banks did not

extend beyond the two Provinces, of which Montreal and Toronto are the centres, the present arrangement was quite satisfactory, but the conditions have entirely changed. We have found the meeting in June interfere seriously with the proper supervision of the Bank's business elsewhere, and this disadvantage will increase rather than diminish now that we have a large business in England and on the Pacific Coast to watch over. We hesitated to change the date, but after much consideration we have concluded that it would be best to have the meeting in the winter time. The work of the inspectors is not interfered with by the date of the meeting, but the General Manager and Assistant General Manager are tied down at a time when they ought to be free to pay personal visits to the outlying branches. In settling upon another date for the meeting we have been careful not to interfere with the comfort of the Shareholders. Their dividends will be paid at the usual half-yearly periods just as heretofore.

The proposed By-laws 1 to 8 were then read, and the resolution put was unanimously adopted.

The Vice-President.—In 1894 you authorized us to contribute annually to the Pension Fund a sum not exceeding \$10,000. By the amalgamation with the Bank of British Columbia the staff of the Bank has been so much enlarged that an increased contribution from the Bank to the fund would seem justifiable. The Board think the amount should be increased to \$15,000, and I will ask one of the Shareholders to move a suitable resolution.

Mr. A. E. Kemp, M.P.—I move the following resolution :—That the Board of Directors be, and they are hereby authorized to contribute annually to the Pension Fund, for the employees of the Bank, such sum not exceeding \$15,000 in each year, as they in their discretion may deem proper. This is a motion which does not require much to be said in its support. It seems to me that the management are fully warranted, especially after such a splendid year, in making this appropriation.



TORONTO, ONT.  
Bloor & Yonge Branch



At the suggestion of the Chairman, Mr. Plummer gave some information respecting the Fund, its financial condition and the annual contributions from the Bank and the staff, and the motion being seconded by Mr. Walter S. Lee, was carried unanimously.

Mr. Edward Martin, K.C., moved the following resolution:—That the thanks of the meeting are due, and are hereby tendered to the President, Vice-President and other Directors for their careful attention to the interests of the Bank during the past year.

I need scarcely say that we all feel this to be the best, as well as the most important year in the Bank's history, and we are sure such splendid results have been gained only by great care and labour by the Board. It must be gratifying to them to know that not only are their own Shareholders pleased, but that, as I believe, all who are interested in the prosperity of Canada feel that the great step which the Bank has taken is one of importance to the whole community. We feel proud that The Canadian Bank of Commerce was in a position to take advantage of the opportunity which presented itself. I look forward to see the Bank take its place not only among the leading banks of Canada but among the leading banks of the world.

It was, I think, only reasonable that the Shareholders should cheerfully and willingly assent, as they have done, to the addition which is proposed to be made to the remuneration of the Directors. This is fully warranted by the enlarged business of the Bank. We are all very sorry that Mr. Cox has not been here to-day, although the Vice-President has filled his chair admirably.

Mr. Gurney seconded the resolution briefly, and it was unanimously carried.

The Vice-President.—On behalf of the President, who is unfortunately absent, and on behalf of my fellow-Directors and myself, I thank you for this expression of your appreciation of our services. I take advantage of the President's

absence to say that the Bank is particularly fortunate in having at its head a gentleman of such large financial experience, with such widespread interests, who keeps himself in touch with financial matters from one end of the Dominion to the other. We cannot overvalue the advantages which the Bank derives from having Senator Cox as its President.

Mr. John L. Blaikie.—It sometimes happens that the mover of a resolution has to use all his persuasive powers to induce a meeting to adopt his views, but I have a very easy task in that respect. I move :—That the thanks of the meeting are tendered to the General Manager, Assistant General Manager and other officers of the Bank, for the satisfactory discharge of their respective duties during the past year.

We see that our officers have to handle \$67,000,000 of assets, and to do this with safety, not keeping it locked up in a vault but actively employed, with success and profit to the Shareholders, calls for the exercise of great skill and care on the part of those on whom the duty has fallen. They have shown themselves fully qualified for this duty, and they deserve our thanks.

Mr. J. W. Langmuir.—I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution. We have only to think for a moment of the enormous care that is involved in the management of such a large amount of money to come to the conclusion that the General Manager and the Assistant General Manager are entitled to our thanks. I am glad to know that they are so ably assisted by a competent staff. I come into contact with their officers daily, and I hear them spoken of on all hands in the highest terms.

Mr. James Crathern.—Having been a Director since 1883, I can speak of the exceptionally arduous duties which have fallen upon the General Manager, the Assistant General Manager, and the members of the staff during the year just closed. I feel that in no previous year have the Shareholders owed a greater debt to the officers of the Bank.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The General Manager.—I have again to thank you for your kind resolution, and I wish especially to thank Mr. Blaikie, Mr. Langmuir and Mr. Crathern for their personal remarks. The year has been a very arduous one indeed to myself and to Mr. Plummer, but we would not like it to be supposed that it was more so to us than to the other officers of the Bank. If we had not taken over the business of the Bank of British Columbia it would have been a year of great growth and strenuous effort in any case. Our staff now numbers 575 men. It is a good staff, with a strong feeling of esprit, composed of men who will do their part. The work that has been done and is still going on could not be done except by a strong body of men who desire above all things the prosperity of the Bank.

Mr. Plummer.—It always gives us pleasure to return thanks for this annual vote. The past year is one of which we may never see the like again; but as regards the extra work that has fallen on us, while it has been heavy, it has been interesting in character and fruitful of great results. Such work, though arduous, is very easily borne. It has been a great pleasure to us that our work has been successful, and to know that it has your appreciation.

Mr. Powell, Manager of the San Francisco branch of the Bank, also briefly acknowledged the vote of thanks.

It was moved by Mr. W. E. H. Massey, seconded by Mr. J. W. Flavell, 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 3 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. Geo. A. Cox, Messrs. James Crathern, William B.

Hamilton, John Hoskin, K.C., LL.D., Robert Kilgour, Matthew Leggat, J. 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.