

THE PROGRESS OF MONTREAL.

Our annual statement of the Trade of the city, published in the month of March has placed in the hands of our commercial readers, and through them of their correspondents elsewhere, very full particulars of the course of trade, of the markets, and of other interesting details respecting the business of the Port of Montreal for the year 1871. In this short preface we need do no more than refer to the matters then treated of, and which will be found in the Pamphlet referred to. Among these were especially to be noticed the large increase in all departments of banking business, as evidenced by the returns of deposits, discounts, circulation, &c. Since the opening of the season, however—we can hardly even yet speak of the opening of the navigation—the indications of a still more flourishing year are crowding thickly upon us. Among these we place in the first rank the augmentation in the steam tonnage of the port, for which arrangements have already been made by some of our leading firms. In addition to the now famous Liverpool and Glasgow steamers of the Messrs. Allan, five new lines of steamships are contracted for, and one is to have the service of last year doubled. The new lines are to be one of Mr. D. Shaw, one of Mr. J. G. Sidey, one of Messrs. D. Torrance & Co., all from Liverpool; one of Mr. J. G. Sidey from Glasgow; and one of Mr. J.

G. Sidey, from Barrow-in-Furness. Besides these additions to our steam fleets, the London line of Mr. D. Shaw is this year to be weekly, instead of fortnightly as heretofore. Altogether we have reason to expect that we shall have not less than one steamer daily of regular traders and of supplementary vessels despatched by the same shipping houses to whom these regular traders belong. And we must look for a considerable augmentation of the casual steam vessels from Mediterranean and other European ports, of which several arrived last year almost for the first time. Our wharves will, therefore, during the year 1872, present a very lively aspect. In other ways the outlook for the future is encouraging. This is not the place for political considerations nor for a critical examination of the fiscal policy of the Government; but there can be no doubt that the budget speech of the Finance Minister on the evening of the 30th ult., indicated in a very striking manner the success of the enterprise and industry of the people of the Dominion in creating public resources, such as this country has never known before. This success is, of course, only reflected in the condition of the public Treasury. It is seen in private affairs in the facility and punctuality with which payments falling due are met throughout the country, and in the increase of capital, which is now ready