

Meetings.

MOLSONS BANK.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Molsons Bank was held on Monday afternoon, 8th instant, at 3 o'clock, in the bank premises, St. James street, Montreal. The president, Mr. J. H. R. Molson, occupied the chair, and among those in attendance were Messrs. R. W. Shepherd, vice-president; D. Wilson, R. W. Shepherd, jr., Henry Hogan, S. H. Ewing, D. McCarthy, J. McCarthy, J. Torrance Molson, John Crawford, Rev. W. S. Barnes, J. Try-Davies, S. Finley, W. N. Evans, W. J. Withall, James Hutchison, J. M. Kinghorn, W. S. McLaren and C. E. Spragge.

The president requested Mr. James Elliott to act as secretary of the meeting, after which Messrs. J. Try-Davies and W. N. Evans were appointed scrutineers for the election of directors.

The secretary read the advertisement convening the meeting, and this was followed by the general manager, Mr. Wolferstan Thomas, reading the report of the directors, as under:—

REPORT.

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the thirty-ninth annual report of the Molsons Bank, being for the year ending 30th September past.

The net earnings for the year, after making full provision for bad and doubtful debts, amount to \$264,817.28. From this two semi-annual dividends at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, equal to \$160,000, have been paid, leaving the sum of \$104,817.28, which, added to the amount carried over from last year, \$90,923.26, makes the sum of \$195,740.54, which has been appropriated as follows:—

Transferred to rest account \$100,000 00
Rebate on current bills discounted. 20,000 00
Carried over at credit of profit and loss account 75,740 54

The amount of credit of rebate on current bills discounted is now \$80,000, which is considerably in excess of the sum actually required for that purpose.

All the branches of the bank have been inspected once or oftener since last we met you.

To meet the requirements of the increasing trade in the upper part of the city, and for the convenience of our customers, a branch of the bank has been opened on St. Catherine street west. We have every reason to believe that this step will prove satisfactory in retaining and adding to our present city business.

The members of the staff continue to perform their duties efficiently and to possess the confidence of the board.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Balance at credit of profit and loss account, 30th September, 1893 \$ 90,923 26
Net profits for year, after deducting expenses of management, reservation for interest accrued on deposits, exchange and provision for bad and doubtful debts 264,817 28

\$355,740 54

Appropriated as follows:—

77th dividend at rate of 8 per cent. per annum, 2nd April, 1894 \$ 80,000 00
78th dividend at rate of 8 per cent. per annum, 1st October, 1894 80,000 00
Rebate on current bills discounted .. 20,000 00
Rest account 100,000 00

280,000 00

Leaving at credit of profit and loss account on 29th September, 1894 \$75,740 54

The Molsons Bank, Head Office, Montreal, 2nd October, 1894.

General statement of the affairs of the Molsons Bank on the 29th September, 1894:

Liabilities.

Capital paid up \$2,000,000 00
Rest account \$1,300,000 00
Rebate in full on notes discounted 80,000 00
Profit and Loss account 75,740 54

1,455,740 54

Interest, exchange, etc., reserved....	117,279 83
78th dividend	80,000 00
Dividends unclaimed	1,090 00
Notes in circulation	1,746,399 00
Balance due to Dominion Government	30,233 55
Balance due to Provincial Governments	9,261 14
Deposits not bearing interest	1,695,484 31
Deposits bearing interest	7,355,923 57
Due to other banks in Canada	121,232 89
Due to foreign agents	5,289 10
Other liabilities....	416 96
	11,162,610 35
	\$14,618,350 89

Assets.

Specie.....	\$196,874 37
Dominion notes	735,949 50
Deposit with Dominion Government to secure note circulation	90,000 00
Notes and cheques of other banks	302,063 00
Due from other banks in Canada	75,165 60
Due from branches.....	33,829 84
Due from foreign agents.....	304,174 32
Due from agents in United Kingdom.....	54,537 18
Dominion Government debentures	104,375 00
Canadian municipal and other securities	593,342 99
Canadian, British and other railway securities.....	741,104 22
Call loans on bonds and stocks..	361,714 42
Bills discounted and current ..	10,605,331 32
Bills past due (estimated loss provided for).....	155,076 06
Real estate other than bank premises	56,280 00
Mortgages on real estate sold by the bank.....	6,351 17
Bank premises at head office and branches.....	190,000 00
Other assets	12,182 40
	\$14,618,350 89

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President then rose and said: Well, gentlemen, you have heard the report read. It is not very long; but it is very satisfactory. We have had a good year's business, and I would ask you to adopt this report. I don't think it is necessary for me to say anything, as the report speaks for itself. We have earned, as you see by the financial statement, 13½ per cent., which is very good indeed, when you take into consideration the state of financial matters all over this continent. Last autumn we had our meeting, and did not look forward to a very money-making year; but our expectations have been considerably exceeded, and we are able to present you the flattering—I may almost call it such—statement we now show you. For this we are indebted in a great measure to the energy, skill and devotion of our general manager, Mr. Wolferstan Thomas, who is indefatigable in the interests of the bank. All our officers have taken an interest in their work, and there is an *esprit de corps* among them which is very gratifying.

The business last year, after the crisis which occurred in the American market, did not give much encouragement, as I have said, but it made every one cautious, and we ourselves had to be cautious, as other bankers had, and I am happy to say it has borne good fruit. Our Rest now is \$1,800,000, or 65 per cent. upon the capital, and we have been able to add to the fund for the rebate of interest \$20,000, bringing it up to \$80,000, which is considerably in excess of the amount that can ever be brought against it. With these few remarks I will just merely move the adoption of the report. If any gentleman has any questions to ask or remarks to make, we shall be glad to hear and to give any information he desires. When a statement is so satisfactory it is not necessary to say much. We leave it to speak for itself.

Mr. R. W. Shepherd, vice-president, seconded the motion for the adoption of the report.

Mr. John Crawford asked a number of questions, which were subsequently replied to by the president. In the course of some lengthy observations, he said he thought that the share-

holders would agree with him that the financial statement was very satisfactory. A net earning of 13½ per cent. was not, under all the adverse circumstances against which the bank had had to contend, a bad showing by any means. It proved that there must have been judgment, common sense and devotion to the interests of the bank.

THE PRESIDENT REPLIES.

No other shareholders having any questions to ask or remarks to make, the president replied to Mr. John Crawford's queries. He said: I thought when I stood up and moved the adoption of the report I had said about all that could be expected. It is not my province to make long speeches; I am not in the habit of talking much. People who talk a great deal are apt to talk a good deal of nonsense at times, to which I have a great objection. Mr. Crawford complained that he did not get the financial statement soon enough. Our year closes on the 30th September, and we have about twenty or twenty-one branches, at Calgary, Winnipeg and all over the country. To get in the returns from all these and to go over them certainly requires some little time. I think we got them in very quickly indeed, and as fast as they could be put into print it was done. By our charter the annual meeting is fixed to take place on the second Monday in October. This is the second Monday, and I think that the statement was brought in very quickly for such an amount of work and such a number of branches. Reports have to be received and examined, and sometimes questions have to be asked about them and alterations made, which takes time. As to the meeting being advertised, Mr. Crawford, I am sorry to say, has not exercised his usual vigilance; there have been the usual number of advertisements in the usual city papers, and if he didn't see them, I should say that he was to blame rather than the bank; the advertisements were there.

Mr. Crawford has, as usual—he has asked it here before, and also at the Merchants Bank and the Bank of Montreal—asked to have a statement of the gross profits and the gross losses. He has asked me that question before, and I have always given him the same answer. If any good purpose was to be served, the statement would be given; but as there is no good purpose to be served, this bank, the same as other banks, has said that it does not see the wisdom of giving it. Instead of being an advantage, it would be a disadvantage. The losses have been written off fully, we believe. Mr. Crawford says there ought to be reduced expenditure, by which, I suppose, he means that, owing to business being hard, etc., we could do with fewer employees. That cannot be done; the number of employees is as small as possible. He then comes back to the old question of a quarterly dividend, which he thinks ought to be paid. In the past banks have not done this, although I believe one Western bank is now doing it. One bank did it once before, and it is now out of existence; but I don't make that statement in any disparagement. If a quarterly dividend were to be paid, the bank books would have to be closed four times a year, instead of twice, which would be a serious inconvenience to those buying and selling stocks. If a quarterly dividend were instituted, the next thing would be a monthly dividend, and, perhaps, to some a weekly dividend might be acceptable. As to Mr. Crawford's statement that the president's replies to queries at the annual meeting are not satisfactory, I may say that we are willing to give all the information we can. Regarding the rapid increase of agencies, referred to by Mr. Crawford, we have opened one branch this year for the convenience of our customers in the west end of the city. We think it will be appreciated.

The matter of increased dividends is another important question. We have been able to give an 8 per cent. dividend for some years past, and twice we gave a bonus of 1 per cent. at the end of the year. Now our Rest is getting large and we are doing well, it is quite possible that in the future larger dividends may be given; it is quite possible such a thing may happen, but I neither like to promise nor to prophesy. We have set aside \$80,000 for rebate of interest on notes discounted. We think, after going through the books, that the amount required probably may not be more than \$60,000 or \$70,000 at the outside. I find that our account is in excess of what other banks have put aside for the purpose.

After some further remarks from Mr. John Crawford, the president said: Mr. Crawford