THE BANK OF MONTREAL

The ninety-second annual general meeting of the Shareholders of the Bank of Montreal was held in the Board Room of the Institution on Monday, December 6th, at noon.

There were present:—Sir Edward Clouston, Bart., vice-president and general manager; Sir William Macdonald, Sir Thomas G. Shaughnessy, Honorable Robert Mackay, Messrs. A. Baumgarten, R. B. Angus, E. B. Greenshields, David Morrice, Honorable J. K. Ward, G. F. C. Smith, Lieut.-Col. Prevost, James Kirby, K.C.; C. J. Fleet, K.C.; John Patterson, Alfred Piddington, George R. Hooper, B. A. Boas, George Durnford, Hugh Paton, H. Dobell, W. H. Evans, G. Scott, H. Joseph and J. Taylor.

In consequence of the absence of the President Sir George Drummond, K.C.M.G., through indisposition, Mr. R. B. Angus moved that the Vice-president and General Manager, Sir Edward Clouston, take the chair.

This was seconded by Mr. E. B. Greenshields, and unanimously concurred in, after which it was resolved, on motion of Mr. Hugh Paton, seconded by Lieut.-Col. Prevost: "That the following be appointed to act as scrutineers: Messrs. G. F. C. Smith and George R. Hooper; and that Mr. James Aird be secretary of the meeting."

The Vice-president then submitted the report of the Directors as follows:—

The Directors' Report

The Directors have pleasure in presenting the Report showing the result of the Bank's business for the year ended 30th October, 1909.

Balance of Profit and Loss Account, 31st October, 1908		$ 217,628.56
Profits for the year ended 30th October, 1909, after deducting charges of management, and making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts		1,826,167.74
		$2,043,796.30
Dividend 2½ per cent. paid 1st March, 1909	$360,000.00	
Dividend 2½ per cent. paid 1st June, 1909	360,000.00	
Dividend 2½ per cent. paid 1st September, 1909	360,000.00	
Dividend 2½ per cent. payable 1st December, 1909	360,000.00	$1,440,000.00
Balance of Profit and Loss carried forward ..		$ 603,796.30

Since the last Annual Meeting Branches have been opened at Three Rivers, P.Q., Weyburn, Sask., Oakwood, Ont., Moose Jaw, Sask., Outlook, Sask., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and Sub-agencies at Merritt, B.C., Cloverdale, B.C., Spring Coulee, Alta., and Bathurst Street, Toronto.

The Branches at Grimsby, Ont., and Millbrook, Ont., have been closed.

With deep regret the Directors have to record the death of their esteemed colleague, Mr. A. T. Paterson, who had been a member of the Board for upwards of twenty-eight years.

The vacancy on the Board has been filled by the election of Mr. A. Baumgarten.

All the Offices of the Bank, including the Head Office, have been inspected during the year.

G. A. DRUMMOND,
President.

Bank of Montreal,
6th December, 1909.

The General Statement

The General Statement of the Bank on 30th October, 1909, was read as follows:—

Liabilities

Capital Stock		$ 14,400,000.00
Rest	$ 12,000,000.00	
Balance of Profits carried forward	603,796.30	
	$12,603,796.30	
Unclaimed Dividends	2,580.51	
Quarterly Dividend, payable 1st December, 1909	360,000.00	
		12,966,376.81
		$27,366,376.81
Notes of the Bank in circulation	$ 13,245,289.00	
Deposits not bearing interest	51,401,226.27	
Deposits bearing interest ..	128,445,206.58	
Balances due to other Banks in Canada	124,648.04	
		193,216,369.89
		$220,582,746.70

Assets

Gold and Silver coin current..	$ 5,802,263.05	
Government demand notes ..	13,240,587.00	
Deposit with Dominion Government required by act of Parliament for security of general bank note circulation	600,000.00	
Due by agencies of this bank and other banks in Great Britain $8,719,654.41		
Due by agencies of this bank and other banks in Foreign countries $7,425,676.78		
Call and short Loans in Great Britain and United States $77,212,382.00		
	93,357,713.19	
Dominion and Provincial Government Securities	1,445,570.61	
Railway and other Bonds, Debentures and Stocks....	9,575,608.66	
Notes and Cheques of other Banks	4,560,501.23	
		128,582,243.74
Bank Premises at Montreal and Branches		600,000.00
Current Loans and discounts in Canada and elsewhere (rebate interest reserved) and other assets ....$ 91,173,656.56		
Debts secured by mortgage or otherwise	143,552.13	
Overdue debts not specially secured (loss provided for)	83,294.27	
		91,400,502.96
		$220,582,746.70

E. S. CLOUSTON,
General Manager.

Bank of Montreal,
Montreal, 30th October, 1909.

The Vice-President.

The Vice-President then spoke as follows:—

The most important change from last year in the statement submitted to you is the unusually large increase in deposits, amounting to $36,000,000. Part of it is temporary, pending large payments in connection with special transactions, part is the natural increase from depositors as a result of the prosperous condition of affairs in this country, but the largest portion of the increase arises from money brought into Canada from other countries. It is quite possible that if the apprehensions expressed in many quarters as to the consequence of the new methods of British taxation are realized, deposits from this last source may be still further enlarged. It is very importnat, therefore, that nothing should be done in Canada by injudicious legislation, the exploitation of doubtful enterprises, or otherwise, to stop this flow of capital. Our call loans have increased by about the same amount as our deposits, and what is not necessary to retain as a portion of our reserves, will be gradually brought into the country, to meet commercial requirements as they arise.

The profits are some $130,000 less than last year, but considering the low rates ruling for the greater part of our fiscal year in London and New York, the result may be regarded as satisfactory. I am glad to say that the outlook for the coming year, or at least for the earlier months, is more promising, and I shall be much disappointed if we do not make a better showing when next we meet.

The rapidity of the recovery of trade from the set-back following the monetary crisis in the United States two years ago has been as striking as it is satisfactory. Conditions to-day are, as a whole, excellent. The large harvest gathered in the North-Western Provinces in itself affords a basis for active and profitable business for some time to come. How considerable a factor in the commercial life of Canada the agricultural output of our North-West has become may be realized from the fact that the yield of wheat, oats and barley is this year 313,635,000 bushels, as compared with 232,620,000 bushels in 1908, 160,000,000 bushels in 1907, or 32,000,000 in 1900. A ten-fold gain in the grain product of the North-Western Provinces in nine years conveys come idea of the commercial potentialities of the country.

The marketing of wheat has been quite prompt, and the railways have had no difficulty in moving the crop. In the ten weeks to November 14th there had been inspected in the North-West 43,866,000 bushels, being 10,300,000 bushels more than in the corresponding period of 1908, while the shipments from Fort William and Port Arthur amounted to 35,815,000