

MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT.

The forty-third annual meeting of the Shareholders of the Merchants' Bank of Canada was held in the Board Room of that institution on Wednesday, June 19.

The President, Sir H. Montague Allan, submitted the following report of the Directors.—

The Directors beg to present to the Shareholders the annual statement of the affairs of the Bank as at 31st May last.

The net profits are larger than last year, due to favorable trade conditions continuing to prevail, which have had a tendency to further stimulate business activity, bringing about more or less money pressure, with the usual corollary—somewhat higher money rates. Your Directors have this year been enabled to bring the Reserve Fund of the Bank up to the round sum of \$4,000,000, in addition to writing \$100,000 off Bank Premises Account, as well as contributing \$22,000 to the Officers' Pension Fund.

It will be noted that the Paid-up Capital and Reserve Fund of the Bank have now reached the important figure of \$10,000,000.

The various branches of the Bank have been duly inspected during the past twelve months.

It is with sincere regret that we have to record the death, a few days since, of our esteemed colleague, Mr. James P. Dawes, whose counsels and advice at the Board were, during the lengthy period of twenty-one years, as highly valued as he himself was personally esteemed by his co-directors. Mr. Dawes has been associated with the Board of the Merchants' Bank of Canada ever since June, 1886, and in his death we lose a valued adviser and friend.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. MONTAGUE ALLAN,
President.

THE DISCUSSION.

The President congratulated the Shareholders and Management of the Bank on the very satisfactory showing made during the year. "I think," said he, "it is the best statement the Bank has ever shown." He then moved, seconded by Mr. Jonathan Hodgson:—"That the report of the Directors as submitted be and the same is, hereby adopted and ordered to be printed for distribution among the Shareholders."

He intimated that, before putting the motion, he would be pleased to answer any questions that any of those present might desire to ask. Mr. C. R. Black enquired respecting bank premises and furniture, and the President suitably replied. The motion for the adoption of the report was then carried unanimously.

The General Manager, Mr. E. F. Hebden, said he was very glad that so satisfactory a report could be presented, and went on to remark that conditions had been unusual during the past year, favoring average higher rates, not only in Canada, but in the country to the south. These might not prevail another year, and he asked the Shareholders not necessarily to expect a repetition of the present, but be prepared, if necessary, to accept something a little less favorable.

The President.—There is a resolution to come before the meeting, asking the Shareholders to agree to changing the date of the annual meeting from June to December. Nearly all the banks nowadays are ending the year on 30th November, or 31st December, and are holding their meetings in December, or January, which is a good deal more convenient, because many people want to get out of town in June, and particularly so if they are going across the Atlantic, as this month is the best time. If the proposed change in the by-law is approved, the directors elected at this meeting will only hold office until the annual general meeting in December next, and after that the annual meetings will be held on the third Wednesday in December, instead of the third Wednesday in June, as at present.

It was then moved by Mr. C. R. Hosmer, seconded by Mr. Hugh A. Allan:—"That it be resolved that By-law No. 1 be, and the same is, hereby amended by striking out the word 'June' in said by-law and substituting therefor the word 'December.'" The resolution was unanimously concurred in.

Mr. Thomas Long spoke of the pleasure they all felt at seeing their esteemed friend, Mr. George Hague, the late general manager of the Bank, present at the meeting, and seeing him hale and hearty. Mr. Hague expressed his thanks, and complimented the directors and management on the excellent standing attained by the Bank. The President remarked that much of the success of a bank was due to its officers, the men who had the executive part of the work in hand. The Directors might advise them, but they had to carry out the work. A vote of thanks was tendered the President for his conduct of the business of the meeting.

The scrutineers then reported that the following gentlemen had been elected Directors: Sir H. Montagu Allan, Mr. Jonathan Hodgson, Mr. Thomas Long, Mr. C. R. Hosmer, Mr. C. F. Smith, Mr. Hugh A. Allan, Mr. C. M. Hays, Mr. Alex. Barnet, Mr. Bryce J. Allan.

The new Board of Directors met immediately afterwards, and Sir H. Montague Allan was re-elected president, and Mr. Jonathan Hodgson, vice-president.