

HALF-YEARLY STATEMENT OF THE BANK OF MONTREAL.

The leading position occupied by the Bank of Montreal in the financial affairs of Canada makes for a widespread public interest in its progress. Its half-yearly statements are looked to as indicating the business conditions of the whole country scarcely less than those of the bank itself. The detailed statement for the six months ended April 30, which appears elsewhere in this issue of THE CHRONICLE, shows a most successful half-year. Profits for the six months, after deducting charges of management and making full provision for all bad or doubtful debts, amounted to \$982,858 as compared with net profits of \$840,562 for the corresponding period a year previous—an increase of \$142,296. With the \$159,831 balance of profit and loss at October 31, 1906, there was available a sum of \$1,142,689 from which to pay dividends amounting to \$720,000 and carry forward a balance of \$422,689. The profits for the past seven half-year periods are given below, indicating the bank's recent development in this respect.

	Half-year ending Ap'l.	Half-year ending Oct.
1907	982,858
1906	840,562	957,414
1905	781,960	856,139
1904	804,833	801,375

The rest fund of the bank now amounts to \$11,000,000 as compared with \$10,000,000 a year ago. Assets have increased by \$22,146,797 and now stand at \$167,984,501. Deposits at the close of the half-year totalled \$130,881,130, as compared with \$110,645,982 a year ago an increase of \$20,235,148. Call and short loans in Great Britain and the United States totalled \$27,025,937, as compared with \$23,361,546 on the corresponding date of last year, an increase of \$3,664,391. Current loans and discounts in Canada and elsewhere on April 30, stood at \$104,522,334, as compared with \$91,588,871 a year previous. This increase of \$12,933,463 is a noteworthy indication of the marked business expansion of Canada and of the growing business of the bank under the general management of Mr. E. S. Clouston.

THE CANADIAN NORTHERN report for March, and nine months, follows:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.
March gross	\$ 488,800	\$ 441,600	\$ 273,100
Expenses	394,800	324,200	202,500
March net	\$ 94,000	\$ 117,400	\$ 70,600
Nine months gross .. .	5,089,500	3,796,100	2,850,600
Expenses	3,767,200	2,506,000	1,908,400
Nine months net	\$1,322,300	\$1,290,100	\$942,200

MR. CLARENCE A. BOGART, general manager of the Dominion Bank, during his visit to Scotland, engaged a considerable number of Scottish youths as clerks for the bank's service.

LONDON & LANCASHIRE FIRE COMPANY.

The forty-fifth annual report of the London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Company shows that after the conflagration year of 1906 the total security of policy-holders, including uncalled capital of \$10,260,000, amounts to \$19,170,340—the funds of \$8,910,340 being made up as follows: capital paid up, \$1,140,000; reserve fund, \$3,750,000; fire fund, \$2,850,000; accident fund, \$350,000; staff pension fund, \$300,000; balance carried forward, \$520,340.

The carefulness with which reinsurances have been placed was referred to at the annual meeting, by the Chairman, Mr. Edward H. Harrison. In the case of San Francisco, while the gross loss of the company was larger than that of any other fire office, it was also in the position of having the largest amount of reinsurance effected in reduction of gross liabilities. Hence the net loss of the London and Lancashire ranked only third in the list of British offices. Fortunately the reinsuring companies were so judiciously chosen that, with scarcely an exception, they were able to meet fully their obligations.

The purchase of the home business of the National Union Society of Bedford, England, and of the Law Accident Insurance Society, was an important feature of the company's expansion during 1906. By the acquisition of the latter company, the premiums of the accident branch of the London and Lancashire are brought up to about \$2,500,000.

The company's head office for Canada, under the management of Mr. Alfred Wright, of Toronto, has experienced continued business growth during 1906.

THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY reports for March:

	1907.	1906.	Inc.
Gross earnings	£559,100	£509,500	£49,600
Operating expenses .. .	399,900	363,200	36,700
Net earnings	£159,200	£146,300	£12,900
From Jan. 1 to March 31:			
Gross earnings	£1,502,500	£1,371,300	£131,200
Operating expenses .. .	1,145,600	1,044,900	100,700
Net earnings	£356,900	£326,400	£30,500

THE WINNIPEG FIRE, WATER AND LIGHT COMMITTEE was informed last week that the underwriters had agreed to drop three cents on each \$100 of insurance on the down town district if a salvage corps were established.

The communication of the underwriters to the effect that unless certain of their recommendations regarding increased fire protection for the city were carried out within three months, a raise of 1 p.c. in rates will be put into effect, was also discussed at the same meeting.

THE FOSTERING OF TRADE WITH ITALY was the object of a committee formed in Montreal about two years ago. At a recent meeting there were added to its personnel, Hon. Lomer Gouin, Victor Morin and Thomas Cote. A resolution was passed urging the Dominion Government to take steps towards establishing a commercial treaty with Italy.