

THE SHAREHOLDER.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 9, 1882.

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BANK OF MONTREAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of this giant institution, with its twelve million capital and five and a half million rest, overshadows in importance all other bank meetings. Its ramifications extend to all parts of the world, and in its dealings the questions involved in its management required a nerve and calmness such as were not found wanting in the able President's speech on the report. In his remarks is to be observed a comprehensive view of the state of the Dominion, from a financial rather than a political point, and, therefore, void of claptrap. Mr. SMITHERS states the present rest is the highest point the Bank ever reached, and at which it stood in 1875 until 1879, when the times required that half a million should be taken from it. The net profits reported last year were \$400,000 in excess of the previous year, and this year an improvement on last of \$188,000. But Mr. SMITHERS states that the increase of business has not been confined to the Bank of Montreal. The total loans and discounts on the 3rd April last show an increase over the same day of 1881 of \$36,000,000, amounting in all to the enormous sum of \$176,000,000, a sum never reached before. Most interesting items to shareholders may be culled from President SMITHERS' remarks. There is not a word wasted, and they will amply repay a careful perusal. On one point the President seemed inclined to prophesy. He clearly stated that banks could not go on expanding at the present rate, and that over-production may cause an unpleasant tightness of money. Coming from such an authority, we repeat President SMITHERS' statement. On a most important point, that gentleman said:—"It is quite certain that we—that is, the banks generally—cannot go on expanding at this rate much longer, and the sooner we understand that the better. Of course, much depends upon the crops, about which there is, of course, as yet considerable uncertainty. I do not wish to make any extravagant or exaggerated statements, but I think it is an undeniable fact that trade is not in an altogether satisfactory condition. Complaints are very general that profits are light, and it is pretty well understood that considerable stocks of merchandise have had to be carried over, and then it is to be feared that manufacturers

are being, or are likely to be, overdone, at least in certain directions—for example, I find from information obtained from the most reliable source, that there are 18 cotton mills now running and 6 under construction, making 19 in all, in addition to which we know that many of them have largely increased their capacity, and others are doing so." Mr. YATES, of Brantford, threw a little life into the meeting, as he generally does, by some remarks humorously put, to close up the rest to the required six million by a *pro rata* call on the shareholders. The General Manager, Mr. BUCHANAN, found that the President had left little for him to say; nevertheless he made some useful points. On the whole, it is a very important report, well recorded and clearly understood, and must have taxed the Secretary's, Mr. R. A. LINDSAY, powers in producing it to no little degree.

THE STOCK MARKET.

"THE STREET" has passed through a dull and uneventful week, the entire transactions having been on a very limited scale. In Toronto and Ontario, the sales were merely nominal in amount, and with a tendency to a fall. People's, Molson's, and Jacques Cartier were entirely unsought. Montreal ranged between 208½ and 211, closing at 209; the fall was attributable to a rumor, well put about, that the proposed great land sale was "off," and the recovery to the fact that satisfactory negotiations for the transfer were about completed: sales this week, 2,554 as against 4,109 in our last report. Merchants' has fallen in sales from 1,038 last week to 776 this, while quotations have ranged between 128 and 130, closing at 128, a slight diminution from last week. Commerce holds its own pretty well, prices ranging from 147 to 148, closing at 147; sales 1,754 this week as compared with 1,765 as shown in our previous table. Montreal Telegraph has somewhat improved in demand, the sales amounting to 1,367 as against 645; quotations, too, have improved a shade, ranging between 132½ and 134, and closing at 133½. It is worthy of record, as being almost without precedent, that during one entire day of this week and last week, not a single transfer in this stock was effected! The excitement in Richelieu continued, its motto being "onward and upward." Sales this week have advanced from 1,876 to 2,526, and prices ranged between 69½ and 72 as against 68 and 70 last week, and closing yesterday at 71. By Thursday, however, the excitement appeared to have died away, as not a single transfer was effected. City Passenger has picked up a little, at about last week's rates, and closing at 143½, with a total of 250 sales. City Gas fairly maintains its activity, the sales this week reaching 4,505, while they were 4,197 in our last report; prices lower than last week, and closing at 170. Cotton has not been "King" this week, as with the exception of 172 sales in Dundas and 19 in Canada Cotton there

were no transactions at all. St. Paul continues to grow in demand, the sales reaching 1,175 this week against 1,100 last, both showing an unusual amount of transactions; prices, too, were something more than maintained, having reached as high as 137, but dropping to and closing at 134.

The money market is unchanged, with rates of 5 to 5½ per cent. for call loans on stocks, and 6 to 7 for time loans and mercantile paper. Sterling Exchange was a trifle stiffer, but rates are unchanged at 9½ to 9¾ prem. for 60-day bills between banks, 9½ to 9¾ prem. counter rates and 10 to 10½ prem. demand. Currency drafts are 1-16 discount to par.

MR. SMITHERS' SPEECH.

THE National Policy does not sit well on the Free Trade and nondescript political parties. They have lost power, and when just wheeling into line with the rest of common-sense people as to the value of protection to this country, Mr. SMITHERS' speech aroused them. They dilate now on how all and sundry are coming rapidly to smash; and all they have said in favor of a modified protection, with a view of sneaking into popular favor—there was nothing real about it—they have suddenly swallowed. Now, we have carefully read the speech of the President of the Bank of Montreal, and instead of all this violent reaction, tattled about, by the electric-eel press, we find a calm and deliberate opinion that the country has highly prospered—under the National Policy of course—but that like many a country as well as many an individual making money too fast, we are warned in a fatherly way to pull up and reflect a little, let us first absorb, in fact, what has been over-imported. A truly sensible advice, which by no means reflects on the National Policy. Mr. SMITHERS, however, appears to have overlooked the fact that a part of the immense discounts he speaks of were once obtained elsewhere. For instance, we, until lately, imported a large number of things, both from the States and Great Britain, which we now manufacture ourselves, and of this change the banks are reaping a rich reward, as well as the people of the Dominion.

SURPLUS REVENUE.—The U. S. surplus revenue of the fiscal year ending June 30 is likely to reach \$150,000,000. It is estimated that \$15,000,000 will be required to satisfy the demands of the pension list next year. The bonded debt decreased \$15,000,000 during May. The total Government receipts for May were \$36,500,000, an increase of \$4,300,000 as compared with May last. The total receipts for the past 11 months were \$374,425,000, nearly \$14,000,000 greater than the receipts for the year ending 30th June last.

ENGLISH TRADE RETURNS FOR MAY.—During May British imports increased £3,500,000 as compared with the same month last year. The exports increased £959,000.