

that the suspended firm owed the Metropolitan only the small sum of \$50,000, for which it held security. Mr. Ames has resigned the office of President and is succeeded by the Reverend Dr. Warden, a well-known Presbyterian clergyman. Mr. Ames succeeded Sir Oliver Mowat as President of the Imperial Life Assurance Co., and last year was President of the Board of Trade of Toronto.

We trust that, when the affairs of the firm are straitened out, the suspension will be found to have been precipitated by temporary conditions in the stock market.

Before shares are sold to cover advances their *actual value*, on an investment basis, should be weighed and the interests of their owners should not be sacrificed simply because the market value is depressed under temporary influences and ephemeral conditions.

Now that the principal cause of the slump has been revealed, without, we may say, exciting any great surprise in well-informed circles, and it being made quite clear that the depression in prices is wholly disconnected with the condition of the enterprises represented, it will be in order for a reaction to set in and confidence re-established, signs of which were apparent in the revival of prices the day following the break on Tuesday last.

THE BANK OF MONTREAL.

The Bank of Montreal is very justly regarded with pride by Canadians. Although established in a young country with a sparse population it has for many years held a position amongst the larger banks in the world. It has a larger capital than any bank in Scotland, and, as to those in Ireland it stands in this respect alongside the Bank of Ireland. There are only 5 banks in the United Kingdom with a larger capital than the Bank of Montreal and four of those, as Bank of Ireland, Barclay & Co, Lloyds, London and Westminster are very little ahead of it in this feature. Amongst the Colonial banks with London offices the Bank of Montreal ranks second or third in extent of capital. For eighty-five years this institution has provided banking facilities to Canada, and through all the vicissitudes incident to the development and growth of such a country it has maintained the highest reputation and has helped materially in giving Canadian banking its eminent distinction for stability. The Presidents of this bank have all been men of the highest rank in the world of finance, not the least able or least honourable being Lord Strathcona, the present incumbent of that office, who is honoured throughout the Empire.

The statement laid before the annual meeting on 1st inst. was the most favourable on record. The net profits of the year were \$1,813,483, which found enough to pay two 5 per cent. dividends amounting to \$1,220,000, and leave a balance of \$593,483.

This surplus being augmented by \$165,856, the balance from last year, and by the receipts of \$965,468, premiums on new stock, made a total of \$1,724,807, out of which \$1,000,000 was transferred to Reserve Fund, and \$724,807 left at credit of Profit and Loss to be carried on to next year. In this case we should have said "next half-year," for another annual meeting will be held on first Monday in December next, owing to the shareholders, on 7th January last, having decided to change the date of the annual meeting from June to December.

The statement showed the Reserve Fund to be \$9,000,000, the circulation, \$7,968,972, and deposits, \$93,397,919. This one bank has deposits exceeding those held by all the banks in April, 1868, by \$64,336,421; that is, they are more than three times the total bank deposits in Canada in 1868, and its loans and discounts exceed the whole of those of the banks in that year by 51 millions.

The meeting altered two by-laws, by one of which each Director must be the owner in his own right of 100 shares of the bank, and the other reads as follows:—

"XI. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, appoint local Directors for the management of the affairs of the branches of the Bank, and may fix their qualifications and remuneration, define their powers and duties, and revoke their appointment; but no such local Director shall at any time be appointed or serve as a local Director unless he be, and during his service continue to be, a holder in his own and sole name and right (and not in any other name or right, or in trust for any purpose, person or party, or *in trust* simply), of not fewer than twenty paid-up shares of the capital stock of the Bank."

The General Manager, Mr. E. S. Clouston, was the recipient of cordial thanks tendered by the shareholders which are endorsed by all the rest and all the connections of the Bank.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

The London Assurance Corporation is one of the remnant of the pioneer institutions founded early in the 18th Century, which have had sufficient vitality to extend their life into the 20th. Its record extends over 180 years, dating back to the year when England was convulsed by speculators, those arising out of the South Sea Company being so well known as to be almost household words. It was "a growing time," and one healthy plant was this insurance company, which still thrives and rejoices in its strength. As the statements of the Corporation and Balance Sheet are published on a later page, we draw attention to them as very interesting exhibits. The company confines its business in Canada to fire insurance, but it may be incidentally named that the fund of its life department amounts to \$10,760,150, and of the marine department, \$1,190,875.