

MR. G. F. C. SMITH.

BANQUET AND PRESENTATION ON RETIRING FROM THE SERVICE OF THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE.

Mr. G. F. C. Smith, who is well known throughout the Dominion, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, as the resident secretary of the Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Company, on the 31st ult., was tendered a banquet at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on the occasion of his retiring from the service of the Company, after a connection extending over fifty-three years, during forty of which he controlled the business of the institution in Canada. The banquet was given by the Company, and was presided over by Chief Justice, Sir Alexandre Lacoste, one of the local directors, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. W. J. Buchanan, the Chairman of the Canadian Board. On the right of the Chairman was seated the guest of the evening, Mr. G. F. C. Smith, also Mr. George E. Drummond and Mr. J. Gardner Thompson; and on his left Mr. E. S. Clouston (general manager Bank of Montreal), Mr. Cushing and Dr. McCallum.

The banquet, in all senses, was a great success. The Ladies' Ordinary of the Windsor, where it was held, was tastefully decorated.

After the toast of the "King" had been duly honoured, "Our Guest" was proposed by the Chairman in very felicitous terms. Sir Alexandre spoke of Mr. Smith's popularity among both the French and English, and in the course of his remarks, referred to his untiring energy in efforts to improve the Montreal Fire Brigade. He also referred to him as the Father of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association.

Mr. E. S. Clouston, a director of the Company, said that he had known Mr. Smith for a long period of years, and spoke of the high character and esteem in which he was held by the community. He also expressed the hope that if he himself should be spared and have the privilege of serving the Bank of Montreal for fifty years, he had no greater ambition than to retire with as much honour as was enjoyed by Mr. Smith at the close of his distinguished official career.

Mr. J. Gardner Thompson, Mr. Smith's successor, then read numerous letters of regret from agents in different parts of the country, who were unable to be present, and presented Mr. Smith with a beautifully illuminated address and handsome silver service on behalf of the directors, officers, agents and staff. The service was engraved with the family crest, and an inscription recording the occasion of the presentation. Mr. Thompson referred in fitting terms to his connection with Mr. Smith as joint resident manager for the past twelve months, and expressed the pleasure he felt in presenting on behalf of the subscribers this token of their appreciation and esteem.

Speeches were also made by two of the Company's agents, Mr. Lemoine, of Montreal, and Mr. Tone, of London, Ont.

The following is a copy of the address:

To G. F. C. SMITH, ESQ.:—

We, the Canadian Directors, Officers, Agents and Employees of the Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Company, cannot permit you to retire from active service without placing on record our high appreciation of those qualities of head and heart, which have endeared you to those with whom you have been so long associated. After over half a century spent in the Company's service, during forty years of which you have, with becoming dignity, filled the position of chief Canadian officer, it is no light matter to sever the official tie which has so long bound us. We realize, however, that you have well earned the rest that the directors have kindly accorded you, and it must be no small satisfaction to you to know that you carry into your retirement, the sincere good will, affection and respect of all those with whom you have so long laboured. It is in no perfunctory sense that we assure you of how much we shall miss your considerate and courteous leadership, your wise counsel and ever ready assistance in our efforts to promote the interests of the great Company we represent; and we shall ever cherish in happy memory our long and pleasant relationship. Your unswerving devotion to duty, your unfailing courtesy, and your kind consideration for the rights and privileges of both friends and rivals, have not only endeared you to all, but have proved an uplifting influence, especially to those engaged in similar pursuits.

Will you kindly accept the accompanying "silver service," as a slight testimony of sincere regard, and as a tribute to the integrity and high principles which have been such distinguishing marks of your successful business career.

May the evening of your life be long and serene, and as the shadows lengthen, may you experience still more of those lasting joys which are the crowning reward of faithful work.

Mr. Smith, who was enthusiastically cheered on to respond, was deeply affected. He thanked Sir Alexandre Lacoste, Mr. Clouston, Mr. Thompson and the other speakers, for the kindly feeling displayed by their remarks, and expressed the greatest gratification at the honour done him by those with whom he had been so long associated. He assured his friends how much he appreciated the beautiful address and magnificent souvenir, and declared that the expressions of regard and esteem with which they had been accompanied would be infinitely more prized and the memory of them would ever be treasured.

Mr. Saulters proposed the toast, "Our Agents," to which Mr. Burkholder, Mr. Calder and Mr. Geo. Hiam responded. Mr. Wm. Jackson, deputy manager, proposed "The Company's new building," responses to which were made by Mr. Hutchison, architect, and Mr. J. S. Brown.

Mr. Burkholder proposed "Our New Manager," which Mr. J. Gardner Thompson acknowledged in felicitous terms. "The Chairman" was proposed by Mr. Thompson. This most successful banquet was closed by the company singing God Save the King, and "Auld Lang Syne."