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BANK OF MONTREAL STATEMENT.

Last year's earnings of the Bank of Montreal were the largest in the history of that institution. Its annual statement, published this week, shows profits of \$1,826,000 against \$1,957,000 a year ago, which is at the rate of 12.68 per cent. on the stock. In view of the low money rates prevalent during a great part of the year, the decrease is small. To the profits is to be added the sum of \$27,628 brought forward from 1908, making a total of \$2,043,796.30 available for distribution. Dividends amounting to \$1,440,000 were paid in four quarterly instalments, leaving a balance of \$603,796.30 to be carried forward to profit and loss.

The following is a comparison of the chief items:—

	1908.	1909.
Profits	\$ 1,957,658	\$ 1,826,167
Profit and loss	699,968	603,796
Rest	12,000,000	12,000,000
Circulation	12,417,132	13,245,289
Deposits, interest	105,192,365	128,445,206
Deposits, no interest	38,766,913	51,401,226
Total liabilities	183,469,159	220,582,746
Coin	5,168,887	5,802,263
Government notes	9,542,088	13,240,587
Due from England	7,331,267	8,719,654
Due from foreign	11,959,588	7,425,676
Call loans	40,689,956	77,212,382
Current loans	94,762,020	91,173,656
Total assets	183,469,159	220,582,746

It will be noted that the Bank of Montreal has shared in the remarkable growth of deposits in the Canadian chartered banks. Its expansion of call loans in the United States and England has also been large. The Bank of Montreal did considerable financing for Canadian institutions in London last year, which probably accounts to some extent for the gain in these figures.

CONSOLIDATED MINING AND SMELTING COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED

The report of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Ltd., for year ended June 30th, shows the following figures:—Profit for year, \$329,004, added to which there is a balance from 1908 of \$31,001, making a total of \$360,005. The total assets are \$7,089,000. The gross value of metals produced from 1894 to date is over \$36,700,000, and for that produced during the year \$5,505,526, as compared with \$5,428,501 the previous year.

Since the Company commenced operations \$1,309,731 has been expended on capital account, and as there is now only \$144,800 unissued capital stock, it has been decided to increase the latter from \$5,500,000 to \$7,500,000. A special meeting has been called for this purpose.

The capital stock of the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company of Canada, Limited, has been increased from \$5,500,000 to \$7,500,000, divided into 75,000 shares of \$100 each.

BUSH FIRES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The government of British Columbia has taken up the question of destruction of timber by fires, caused by sparks from locomotives belonging to railway companies operating in that province, and at the recent session of the Railway Commission, in Victoria, application was made by Mr. H. A. Maclean, deputy-attorney general, for better means of prevention against fires. It was stated that out of 263 fires, 86 were caused by locomotives, 67 were unknown, and 49 were caused by settlers. The application was left over until the sitting in Vancouver in February, and in the meantime consideration will be given to the report of Inspector McCall.