

# The Provincial Bank of Canada

The Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders was held on the 24th January, 1918, at twelve o'clock noon.

There were present :

Hon. Sir Alex. Lacoste, Hon. H. Laporte, Doctor E. P. Lachapelle, M.M. W. F. Carsley, Martial Chevalier, L. J. O. Beauchemin, Honorable N. Perodeau, Honorable Alph. Racine, M.M. G. M. Bosworth, Alf. St. Cyr, representing the Grey Nuns, Charles Branchaud, G. N. Moncel, Josephat Rufange, P. F. McCaffrey, representing the Estate W. P. O'Brien, G. N. Ducharme, H. G. Lajoie, Pierre Desforges, A. S. Delisle, Alexandre Lacoste, A. J. H. St. Denis, Thomas Prefontaine, jr., Wilfrid Leduc, representing Estate Joel Leduc, A. E. Prudhomme, N.P., U. S. Dandurand and others.

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

Gentlemen :—

In accordance with the Bank Act, we submit to-day our accounts for the financial year 1917, ending on the 31st December last. This is the eighteenth statement issued since the organization of your Institution.

During the last year, as in fact since the beginning of the European war, we have, in co-operation with the other Canadian banks, lent our services to the State in order to place at its disposal, all the resources which it required under the circumstances, while at the same time giving to our commercial and industrial connection, the necessary support to meet the present and future situation.

During the past year, as you know, the Minister of Finance invited all Canadian Banks to co-operate in the subscription to the Victory Loan, the great success of which has astonished the whole world. We placed our branches at the disposal of the subscribers, and we have had the satisfaction of being able to turn in subscriptions amounting to the imposing figure of nearly \$2,000,000. This result shows the patriotic spirit of our customers as well as the abundance of savings in the localities in which our Bank is established, when we take into account that notwithstanding the withdrawals necessitated by these subscriptions the deposits made with your institution show an increase of over \$3,200,000 during the past year.

The total of our liabilities on the 31st December last reached the sum of more than \$21,000,000. You will, no doubt, see in this increase evidence of the confidence inspired by the Provincial Bank of Canada in the Provinces of Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick, where it is now established.

We pointed out last year the remarkable prosperity then existing in the Agriculture, Trade and Commerce of our country. This prosperity has been generally maintained during the past year.

Under the present circumstances, and relying on the approval which you, the Shareholders, have always given to your Directors, we have continued to hold a large amount of cash on hand, and a considerable proportion of other assets readily convertible into cash; in fact, you will notice in the general statement liquid assets amounting to \$13,000,000, being more than 68½ per cent. of our obligations to the public.

As usual, the Bank Inspectors have made their annual inspection of each branch and of the head office, and moreover in conformity with the Bank Act, the two special Auditors chosen by the Shareholders have examined the securities and accounts comprised in the general statement of your institution. The certificate duly signed by them appearing at the foot of the Statement testifies to their entire satisfaction.

Our inventory has been prepared with the same care as in former years, and all expenses in connection with the erection of buildings, purchase of safes and furniture are being gradually written off.

After deducting general expenses, interest paid to depositors, provision for losses, etc., our profit and loss account shows a surplus of more than \$207,000, being nearly 21% on the paid-up capital of the Bank.

From the profits the sum of \$50,000 has been added to the Rest, which now amounts to the large sum of \$750,000, being 75% on the paid-up capital of the Bank.

The Board of Censors (the permanent controlling commission for the savings department) have given most devoted attention to the interests of the institution, as shown by their monthly task in the examination of the investment securities.

During the difficult period through which our country is now passing, when the efforts of all should tend to the same object, our staff has given us fullest satisfaction; the fine spirit which animates it, its industry, its zeal and devotion have greatly contributed to the result shown by the statement which we lay before you and with which, undoubtedly, you will be satisfied.

For the Board of Directors :

H. LAPORTE, President.

TANCREDE BIENVENU,

Vice-President and General Manager.

At a subsequent meeting of the Directors, the following officers were elected :—Hon. H. Laporte, president; and Messrs. W. F. Carsley and Tancrede Bienvenu, vice-presidents.

And at a meeting of the Commissioners-Censors, held immediately after the Directors' meeting, Sir Alex. Lacoste was elected President, and Doctor E. P. Lachapelle, Vice-President, for the ensuing year.

## SHAREHOLDERS' AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE.

To the Shareholders of THE PROVINCIAL BANK OF CANADA.

In accordance with the provisions of sub-sections 19 and 20 of section 56 of the Bank Act, we report to the shareholders as follows :

We have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Books at Head Office and with the certified returns from the branches. We have obtained all the information and explanations that we have required, and are of opinion that the transactions of the Bank which have come under our notice have been within the powers of the Bank.

In addition to our verification as on December 31st, 1917, we have during the year checked the Cash at the Chief Office and verified the securities representing the investments of the Bank at its Head Office and principal branches, and found them to agree with the books of the Bank.

The above statement, to which reference is made in the report of the Directors, is properly drawn so as to exhibit a true and a correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us as shown by the Books of the Bank.

(Signed) ALEX. DESMARTEAU, L.I.C., Montreal.

J. A. LARUE, C.A., Quebec.

Montreal, January 12th, 1918.