

Sir A. T. Galt to reply on behalf of the Directors. He said:—Our President has been good enough to ask me to respond to this resolution, and I have very great pleasure in doing so. It undoubtedly is more than ever necessary that the Directors should be assured of the support of the stockholders, in times such as this institution has been going through for the last three or four years. I may say that, under the circumstances in which the country has been placed, there is no doubt that unless the Directors, aided by the management, had every year taken a careful review of the position of the Bank and cut down all those loans which they feared would prove losses, we would have been obliged to give a very much worse statement than has been presented to-day. The policy of this Bank has been to face its difficulties as they arose year by year, and the stockholders may receive the statement as conveying as truly the position of the Bank as it is possible for the management to place before it. I, therefore, think, in entering on a new year, that, with another good harvest and improving trade, the position of the Bank may be even more satisfactory than in the past. It is certainly a credit to Canada that it has such an institution as the Bank of Montreal. In every direction its influence has been beneficial, and with the support of a body of shareholders almost wholly residents of Canada (and most of our shareholders are residents of Canada), I trust it will continue to be a matter of pride to Canada that we have such an institution as the Bank of Montreal.

Hon. Thos. Ryan then moved the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Andrew Robertson:—"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the General Manager, the Managers, Agents, and other officers of the Bank for their services during the past year."

Mr. Ryan said:—I can only attribute this motion being put into my hands to the fact that I, being the oldest Director at the Board, may be supposed to have more experience than my *confères* on the subject to which it relates. You have heard the remarks of Sir A. T. Galt taking a great deal of credit to the Board of Directors for their services and attention; and I believe that these remarks have been fully merited. But I need not say that, without a good Manager, a Board of Directors would be of very little service. They can support and they can back up the measures of a Manager, but it is his measures, and his discrimination, and his insight into the business and conduct of the business of the Bank, that gives you your dividends. (Hear, hear.) One of the duties devolving on him is the selection of subordinate officers, and in that I think our friend, Mr. Angus, has shown a discrimination which has certainly been unsurpassed. And I believe besides, that while he has selected good officers throughout in every branch of this widespread Bank, I think I can appeal to all who serve under him to confirm me in the statement that he (Mr. Angus) is highly appreciated by the whole banking community as well as the Managers and subordinate officers of the Bank. Of course, in the management and in the selection of officers there may sometimes be mistakes, and among the officers there may sometimes be men that disappoint the trust reposed in them, but these, I think, in the Bank of Montreal, have been few to an unexampled degree. I think those with whom we have had to find any fault have been very few compared with what we see every day around us. Mr. Ryan, after briefly reviewing the past history of the institution and its management, said he regarded the high position which the Bank now held, was, in a great measure, due to the urbanity of manner, and conduct of the General Manager, who had always looked to the general interests of the country in his dealings for the Bank rather than that of operating to the disadvantage of similar institutions. No one, he thought, had promoted that feeling more than Mr. Angus.

Mr. Andrew Robertson, in seconding the resolution, wished to add only a word. In regard to the services of Mr. Angus, we must not for-

get that, when he took the management, he came in on the flood-tide and he has stood the breakers for two or three years; and no one could have better managed the business of the Bank.

Mr. R. B. Angus, the General Manager, in reply to the resolution, said:—I thank you for this continued mark of your confidence, coming, as it does, at a time when we are surrounded with more than usual difficulty and responsibility in the discharging of our duties. I consider it a very great honour to occupy the position which has been filled by my predecessors—men of great renown and position in the banking world. And I have also much satisfaction in being associated with my fellow-officers, who are known, not only in this country, but in England and in the United States, as men—some of them the leading gentlemen of the profession—of high standing, integrity, and ability in their respective spheres. I have been asked, since I came into the room, as to whether the decline in the discount that was noticed took place chiefly at Montreal? I may say, in reply: Undoubtedly it did; our loans here are larger than elsewhere, and the decline was in a great measure at this office. But the words of the report were correct, that the decline was to be accounted for by the diminution of discounts at the chief commercial centres of Canada. At Toronto the decline was proportionate to that in Montreal, and in some of the larger cities it was also considerable. I may take this opportunity of telling you that the diminution of the value of banking business has been gradual throughout the year; therefore, the full effects of it may not have been experienced, and it is quite possible that it may affect the profits of the coming year to a greater extent than the past. I think it also well to remind you, while you are taking, perhaps, a somewhat sanguine view of the position of affairs, that there is perhaps, no department of business where competition is more keenly felt than in banking. We have, perhaps, as great an excess of banking capital and banks in Canada as in any other line of business. We have to compete, not only with the capital wielded by our neighbours in Canada, but also with the very cheap money of Great Britain, which is finding its way more and more into this country, and with the very low rates of interest that have prevailed, and do still prevail throughout the United States. The time was when we had the opportunity of employing money to very considerable advantage in such great commercial cities as New York and Chicago; but that, I regret to say, has been—almost entirely—reversed during the last two years. Money has ruled very low at these points, and the competition for business has cut down profits to a minimum. While, therefore, there are some favourable indications of the present, that have been already referred to, such as the promise of abundant crops for the coming year, and several indications of a more encouraging nature with regard to business generally in the United States and in Canada, I think it well to caution the shareholders not to look with too much expectation on the probable results of the immediate future. I hope there has been nothing said in the report of the Directors, or in the speeches of our friends, that would indicate the certainty of twelve per cent. dividends being maintained, because I think that it is quite possible that we may be unable to make such a return for the coming year. If the business continues in its present position, it would not be a satisfactory measure for any of us to continue a twelve per cent. dividend, when there was so little margin, or rather, as you have seen this year, no surplus over the amount required for the dividend, and for bad and doubtful debts. Still I may say that I enter upon the year with a considerable degree of hopefulness myself; and the efforts of the executive will be directed, as they have been in the past, to achieve as good results as can possibly be obtained, and I believe that the Bank occupies a position second to none, I may say, on the continent, for profitable prosecution of the banking business. While I have this oppor-

tunity of addressing you, I may mention that the point we have alluded to on several occasions, as to the number of shares held by bankers and brokers—shares held presumably on speculation—that that is a question which, at any rate, for the present, is not a practical one, and which may for the future be dismissed. While in June, 1875, there appeared to be 6,675 shares so held, the number this year, so far as we can make it out, does not amount to 1,000. The number of shareholders is increased from 1,821 in 1875, to 2,286 this year. Mr. Angus then stated that he would be happy to give any further information that was asked, or reply to any questions suggested.

RELIANCE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting was held at the offices, King William Street, London, on April 30th, the chair being occupied by W. W. Duffield Esq.

Mr. E. Butler (secretary) read the notice convening the meeting, the report of the directors, the following accounts being taken as read:—

REPORT.

The directors are glad to announce a satisfactory increase in the business of the society during the past year.

769 policies were issued, assuring \$2,230,618.50, for which the sum of \$65,848.14 was received in annual premiums, and \$5,564.70 in single premiums. From these amounts \$3,494.34 was paid for re-assurances.

The following statement shows the progress made in the acquisition of new business during the last three years:—

YEAR.	SUMS ASSURED.	ANNUAL PREMIUMS.	Total From Income after deducting amount paid for Re-assurance.
1875	\$1,527,782.68	\$47,958.48	\$380,500.22
1876	1,728,449.28	52,327.62	384,489.18
1877	2,230,618.50	71,412.84	415,039.14

The interest received on investments was at the rate of 5.40 per cent., and amounted to \$97,365.24. The total income of the year was \$512,593.92.

There have been 94 deaths. The resulting claims, with bonus additions, amounted to \$217,650.24, reduced by \$19,255.32 re-assured. The deaths and claims were within the expectation.

After the discharge of all liabilities, and making provision for claims not at maturity, and after rating all the society's assets at their present value, the accumulated fund has been increased by \$141,319.91, and amounted at the end of the year to \$2,179,330.92.

The quinquennial period has arrived, when it is required to re-value the entire assurance risks of the society. This duty has been entrusted to an independent actuary of the highest eminence, who will use the method of valuation, which, from recent careful research, is now regarded as the most safe and accurate.

The result of the investigation will be submitted to a special general meeting of the members, to be held in the month of June next, of which due notice will be given.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

Revenue Account for the Year ended December 31st, 1877.

Amount of Funds at beginning of year.	\$2,037,938 94
Less Loan Guarantee Fund.	7,912 08
	\$2,030,026 86
Premiums—Less Amount Paid in respect of Re-assurances.	415,044 00
Interest and Dividends.	97,365 24
Assignment Fees.	184 68

\$2,542,620 78

Claims under Policies, less sums Re-assured.	\$203,864 74
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