HISTORY AND GROWTH OF CANADIAN FINANCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTIONS

No. 12---THE MOLSONS BANK

The Molsons Bank is one of the time-honored financial institutions of Canada. By no means among the largest of its class, none has a greater reputation for meeting, on a sound and effective basis, the demands of its particular clientele. Ten out of the twenty-three chartered banks now doing business in Canada have a larger paid-up capitalization, but none, it may be unreservedly said, affords depositors a greater measure of safety.

The Molsons Bank, whose head office has always been in Montreal, was incorporated in 1855, prior to which for two years the Messrs. Molson had carried on a private banking business. The capital to begin with was £250,000 (Halifax currency), or $1,000,000.

For fifteen years the entire operations of the bank were confined to the single office in Montreal, but, in 1870, a commencement was made upon that extensive chain of branches which links the institution with the financial and commercial life of the Dominion from Quebec City to Victoria, B.C. The first branch was established at London, Ont. Others followed as necessity arose. There are now ninety-two branches, divided as follows:—35 in the Province of Quebec; 48 in the Province of Ontario; 2 in the Province of Manitoba; 4 in the Province of Alberta, and 3 in the Province of British Columbia.

For many years the Reserve Fund of the Bank fluctuated considerably owing to the prosperous condition of the country in those years and the reverse, but from the year 1879 the Reserve Fund, which, in that year, stood at $100,000, has steadily increased until to-day it stands at $4,800,000, equal to 120 per cent. on the paid-up capital of $4,000,000.

During the existence of the bank a dividend has never been passed in any single year. The total amount which has been paid out in this fashion is $10,366,479.21, being an average rate of dividend since incorporation of 8.40 per cent. per annum.

	Capital.	Reserve.
As already mentioned the capital of the bank at starting was £250,000 (Halifax currency), or	$1,000,000	....
Since then there have been several issues, as follows:—		
In October, 1871, 10,000 shares of the par value of $50 each, issued at 105 realizing	500,000	$25,000
In October, 1872, 10,000 shares of the par value of $50 each, issued at 105, realizing	500,000	25,000
In October, 1899, 10,000 shares of the par value of $50 each, issued at 175, realizing	500,000	375,000
In October, 1903, 10,000 shares of the par value of $50 each, issued at 190, realizing	500,000	450,000
In October, 1907, 5,000 shares of the par value of $100 each, issued at 200, realizing	500,000	500,000
In February, 1910, 5,000 shares of the par value of $100 each, issued at 210, realizing	500,000	550,000

The average capital since incorporation has been $2,026,434.52.

The progress of the bank so far as deposits are concerned may be judged from the following figures:

Total Deposits From the Public, 30th Sept.

1860	$649,000
1865	935,000
1870	693,000
1875	2,334,000
1880	2,924,000
1885	5,291,000
1890	6,678,000
1895	9,446,000
1900	12,925,000
1905	20,284,000
1910	31,342,000
1914	36,000,000

And the following figures as to loans (30th Sept.):

1860	$1,509,972
1865	1,727,713
1870	1,680,395
1875	5,267,348
1880	5,610,958
1885	7,998,177
1890	9,921,732
1895	11,325,423
1900	14,594,500
1905	21,308,166
1910	32,815,154
1914	37,000,000

Only five gentlemen have held the office as president of the bank: From 1855, Wm. Molson; from 1875, John Molson; from 1879, Thos. Workman; from 1889, J. H. R. Molson, and from 1897, Wm. Molson Macpherson.

The Hon. Lieut.-Colonel William Molson Macpherson, the president of the bank, is a son of the late Sir David Macpherson, and was born in the city of Montreal on September 24th, 1848. After a collegiate course acquired in England, he entered the firm of Messrs. A. F. and R. Maxwell, of Liverpool, where he obtained an extensive business experience.

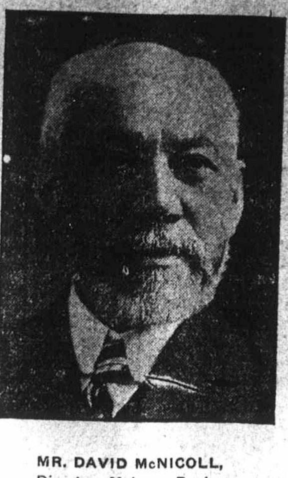
Since 1870 Mr. Macpherson has been a resident of Quebec. In 1872 he took a financial interest in the Dominion Steamship Company, with whose affairs he has since been closely identified. The Harbor Commission of Quebec enlisted his services in 1896, and the following year, after having served for some considerable time on the directorate, he was elected president of Molsons Bank—a position that he has since filled with a great deal of force, ability and public spirit.

Mr. Macpherson's financial interests are quite extended, embracing a position on the Canadian Board of the British Empire Mutual Life Assurance Company, of London, England " and seats on the directorate of the Montreal Trust and Deposit Company, the Pacific Pass Coal Fields, the Dominion Dry Dock Company, and the Lake Edward Sanitorium Association.

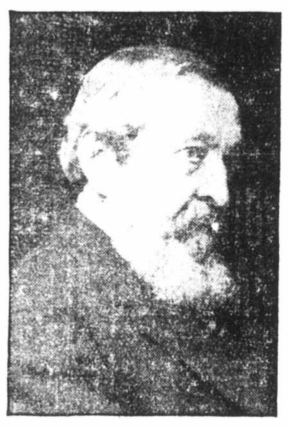
When the movement was inaugurated in 1905 by the citizens of Quebec for the preservation of the Plains of Abraham from desecration, Mr. Macpherson lent it the aid of his not inconsiderable influence. A few years earlier Mrs. Macpherson had accepted the presidency of the organization formed to raise funds for the purpose of erecting a monument in Quebec to the soldiers of that city who fell during the war in South Africa.

Among his military activities Mr. Macpherson numbers the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonelcy of the 8th Regiment of Royal Rifles, the presidency of the Miniature Rifle Club, the first of its kind formed in Canada, and the presidency of the Boy Scouts Association of the Province of Quebec. Mr. Macpherson was created a Knight of Grace of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England in 1910. In 1914 he was presented to the late King Edward VII. at St. James Palace in London.

Mr. E. C. Pratt, who was appointed to the general managership, on the death of the late James Elliott, is only the fourth incumbent of the position since the establishment of the Molsons Bank. William Sache was appointed the first general manager in 1855. The late F. Wolferstan Thomas followed in 1870, the late James Elliot in 1900, and Mr. Pratt in 1913. The existing general manager, who is widely known for the conservative character of his banking methods and for the conspicuous effectiveness with which he has invariably sought to apply them, entered the bank as a junior clerk in 1881, at London, Ontario, branch. He was appointed assistant accountant at the Montreal office in 1889, and successively held the offices of accountant, assistant manager, and manager of that office.

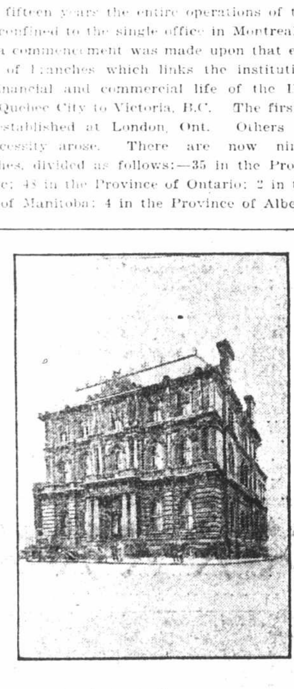


MR. DAVID McNICOLL,
Director, Molsons Bank.

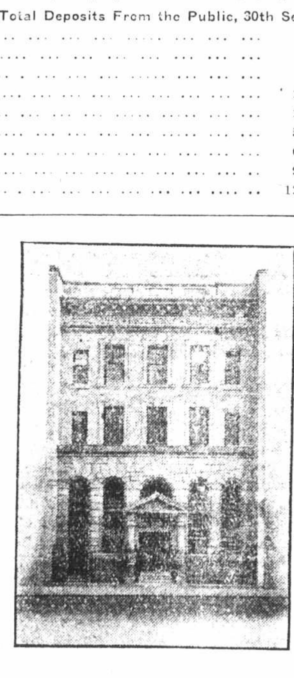


MR. S. H. EWING,
Vice-President, Molsons Bank.

MR. E. C. PRATT,
General Manager, Molsons Bank.



HEAD OFFICE. MOLSONS BANK.



MOLSONS BANK BUILDING, LONDON, ONT.

MR. GEO. E. DRUMMOND,
Director, Molsons Bank.

MR. W. A. BLACK,
Director, Molsons Bank.

NOVA SCOTIA UNDERWEAR DID NOT EARN DIVIDEND.

Halifax, N.S., January 23.—The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Nova Scotia Underwear Company, whose plant is at Eureka, Pictou, was held this week.

The statement showed that the preferred dividend had to be met partly out of reserve. The directors state that, in order to maintain the preferred dividend, they were "obliged to lean to some extent on the previous year's profits."

Reference to the financial statement shows that the amount of the dividend paid was $14,000, but the net profit for the year was $7,226, so that about half had to be taken from the balance brought forward last year, which was $9,572.

After the payment of the dividend this balance is reduced to $2,789.

At the end of the financial year there was cash in the bank, $7,893, and bills receivable were $5,000 in excess of accounts, and bills payable.

The directors state that the company has secured a number of large orders, which, with their regular trade, assure all the business that can be handled for twelve months.

FINEST COLLECTION OF OLD-TIME IRONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

New York, January 23.—The Elmira Water, Light & Railroad Company has a fine collection of scrap iron for sale cheap.

An officer of the company, who was in New York this week, said that the company had been conducting an appliance campaign and decided to make a drive on electric irons.

So an advertisement was placed in the papers making an offer of a $3.50 standard electric iron for $1.48 providing the customer brought in an old iron for exchange.

Early the next morning the women began to arrive and the official says that the Elmira company now boasts the finest collection of old-time irons in the country.

It made no difference how old or of what vintage, any old iron was accepted. Some of them came off scrap heaps, others lacked handles. The old irons did not need to be electrics.

The first day a collection of over 200 was accumulated. The old irons are still coming in and the officer says that he is now getting ready to ask for bids from scrap iron dealers for the entire collection.

NATIONAL TUBE COMPANY.

Fort William, Ont., January 23.— Recently this city entered into an agreement with the National Tube Company for the construction of a plant for manufacturing tubes, with the guarantee that it be kept in operation for at least one year.

When the contract was drawn up the company deposited $50,000, and are now demanding a return of half of the deposit money on the strength of having had the plant in operation for one week.

To facilitate matters the City Solicitors advise that the City secure affidavits from the company, showing that they had operated the plant, thus forming a legal ground for the money being paid over.

The War Day by Day

1914:

June 28—Archduke Francis Ferdinand assassinated.
July 23—Austria sends an ultimatum to Servia.
July 31—Russia orders general mobilization.
August 1—Germany declares war on Russia—French Cabinet orders general mobilization.
August 2—German forces enter Luxemburg—Germany addresses ultimatum to Belgium demanding free passage for her troops.
August 4—England sends ultimatum to Berlin, demanding unqualified observance of Belgian neutrality—Germany rejects ultimatum—German troops begin attack of Liege—President Wilson issues proclamation of neutrality.
August 5—England announces existence of state of war with Germany—President Wilson tenders his good offices to the warring nations.
August 7—Germans enter Liege—French invade southern Alsace.
August 8—Italy reaffirms neutrality.
August 15—Austrians enter Servia—Japan sends ultimatum to Germany.
August 17—British expeditionary force completes its landing in France—Beginning of a five days' battle in Lorraine, ending in repulse of French across frontier with heavy loss—Beginning of five days' batttle between Servians and Austrians on the Jadar, ending in Austrian rout.
August 20—Germans enter Brussels—Belgian army retreats on Antwerp.
August 23—Germans enter Namur and begin attack on Mons—Austria announces victory over Russians at Krasnik.
August 24—British begin retreat from Mons—Zeppelin drops bombs into Antwerp.
August 25—Mulhausen evacuate by the French.
August 26—Non-partisan French Cabinet organized—Germans take Longwy.
August 27—Louvain burned by Germans—Japanese blockade Tsing-tau.
August 28—British fleet sinks five German warships off Heligoland.
August 29—Russians defeated in three days' battle near Tannenberg.
September 2—German advance penetrates to Creil, about 30 miles from Paris, and swings eastward —French centre between Verdun and Rheims driven back—Seat of French Government removed to Bordeaux.
September 3—Russians occupy Lemberg.
September 5—Batttle begins south of the Marne and east of Paris in which the German right wing is pushed back, followed by a general retreat.
September 7—Maubeuge taken by the Germans.
September 12—German retreat halts on the Aisne.
September 16—Belgian commission protests to President Wilson against German "atrocities."
September 20—Germans bombard Rheims and injure the famous Cathedral.
September 22—German submarine sinks British cruisers Aboukir, Cressy, and Hogue in the North Sea —Russians capture Jaroslav and invest Przemysl.
September 26—British troops from India land at Marseilles.
September 28—Germans begin siege of Antwerp.
October 2—End of week's battle at Augustowo in which the Germans are defeated and forced out of Russian territory.
October 5—Belgian Government removed from Antwerp to Ostend.
October 7—Bombardment of Antwerp begins—Japanese seize Caroline Islands.
October 9—Antwerp occupied by the Germans.
October 10—French win cavalry engagement around Hazebrouck.
October 12—A Boer commando in the Cape Province mutinies.
October 13—Belgian Government transferred from Ostend to Havre.
October 14—Allies occupy Ypres—Batttle begins on the Vistula.
October 15—Ostend occupied by the Germans.
October 16—British cruiser Hawke sunk by German submarine.
October 18—Belgian army effects junction with Allied left, batttle on from Channel coast to Lille.
October 20—English gunboats participate in battle at Nieuport on Belgian coast.
October 24—Ten days' battle before Warsaw ends in German defeat.
October 26—After a week of furious fighting German assaults on Allied line from Nieuport to Ypres slacken.
October 27—British dreadnought Audacious sunk off the Irish coast—South African sedition spreads, Gen. De Wet in revolt—Russians pursue retreating Germans and re-occupy Lodz and Radom.
October 28—Berlin admits retreat from Warsaw and Ivangorod.
October 29—Turkey begins war on Russia by naval attacks on Odessa, Novorossysk, and Theodosia in the Crimea.
Octomer 30—Col. Maritz, rebel leader in Cape Province, beaten and driven out of the colony.
November 1—A squadron of five German cruisers, including the Gneisenau and Scharnhorst, defeat a British squadron off Coronel, on the coast of Chili—Turks bombard Sebastopol.
November 3—German squadron makes a raid to British coast near Yarmouth.
November 4—German cruiser Yorck strikes mine in Jade Bay and sinks —Heavy fighting around Ypres.
November 5—England and France declare 2 war on Turkey—Dardanelles forts bombarded—Russians re-occupy Jaroslav.
November 6—Tsing-tau surrenders to the Japanese.
November 7—Russians reach Pleschen in Silesia and enter East Prussia.
November 10—The Emden defeated, and forced ashore at North Keeling Island in Bay of Bengal, by Australian cruiser Sydney.
November 11—Germans capture Dixmude —German submarine sinks British gunboat Niger off Deal.
November 12—Russians occupy Johannisburg in East Prussia—Russians defeated in Vlotslavek.
November 13—Fighting renewed at Nieuport.
November 15—Russians defeated at Lipno and Kutno—Battle in Flanders attains climax with charge of the Prussian Guard against Ypres.
November 16—The Sheikh-ul-Islam at Constantinople proclaims a Holy War against the Allies—British House of Commons votes a war loan of £225,000,000.
November 17—Berlin announces Austrian victory over Servians at Valjevo.
November 18—French capture Tracy-le-Val—Naval battle in Black Sea, in which Turks and Russians both claim victory.
November 19—House of Commons votes a new army of 1,000,000 men—More than 1,100,000 men already under arms, exclusive of Territorials—Germans pierce Russian centre south of Lodz.
November 23—Russians surround two German corps south of Lodz.
November 26—British battleship Bulwark destroyed by explosion in the Medway River—Germans break through Russian circle near Lodz.
November 29—Russians fail in assault on Darkehmen in East Prussia.
December 1—German Reichstag votes new credit of five billion marks—King George visits the army in Flanders.
December 2—Austrians take Belgrade by storm—Gen. De Wet captured.
December 3—London War Office announces landing of Australians and New Zealanders in Egypt —Italian premier in Parliament finds no reasons for a change of policy—Servians turn on Austrians in three days' battle which ends in a notable Servian victory.
December 6—Germans occupy Lodz.
December 7—French attack to the north of Nancy repulsed.
December 8—The German squadron under Rear-Admiral von Spree is attacked in the South Atlantic off the Falkland Islands by a British fleet under Admiral Sturdee, and the cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Leipzig and Nurnberg are sunk —British occupy Bussorah, in Asia Minor.
December 9—Gen. Beyers, Boer leader, killed at the Vaal River.
December 10—The Goeben bombards Batum.
December 13—British submarine sinks the Turkish battleship Messudieh in the Dardanelles.
December 14—The Breslau bombards Sebastopol — Servians capture large Austrian forces.
December 15—Austrians evacuate Belgrade.
December 16—German cruisers bombard Scarborough, Hartlepool, and Whitby on English coast.
December 17—Berlin announces general Russian retreat in Poland—Survivors of Emden captured.
December 18—Egypt proclaimed a British protectorate—Gen. Botha regards Boer rebellion at an end.
December 20-26—Severe fighting between Germans and Russians on the line of the Bzura River.
December 22—French Parliament assembles: Premier Viviani declares for war to the end.
December 23—French Chamber votes war credit of eight and a half billion francs.
December 25—British naval and aerial raid against Cuxhaven—Russians defeat Austrian army at Tuchow near Tarnow—German offensive in Central Poland halted—Italian marines occupy Avlona.
December 28—French occupy St. Georges near Nieuport.
December 30—German aeroplanes drop bombs in Dunkirk.

1915:

January 1—British battleship Formidable sunk in the Channel.
January 3-4— French capture Steinbach, east of Thann.
January 3-4—Russians win decisive victory over Turks in the Caucasus at Sarikamysch and Ardahan—Russians overrun Bukowina and enter Carpathian passes.
January 8—French advance across Aisne north of Soissons.
January 10—German aeroplanes bombard Dunkirk.
January 12—Severe fighting around Cernay in Alsace.
January 13—Turks occupy Tabriz—Count Berchtold resigns.
January 14—French driven back across Aisne River, east of Soissons, after a week's battle—Russian advance in Mlawa region.
January 15—British victory at La Basse reported, Germans being forced back one mile. The French, cut off from reinforcements by floods, driven back at Soissons.
January 16—French partly retrieved losses—News of gallant bayonet charge by Princess Patricia's Infantry reached the outside world.
January 17—Russian official statement told of extermination of 11th Turkish army corps.
January 19—German Zeppelins raid England killing four civilians and damaging property with bombs.
January 20—British Government refuses to guarantee "Dacia" will not be seized but offers to buy cargo or deliver it.

DARTMOUTH'S BOND ISSUE.

Halifax, N.S., January 23.—The Dartmouth Town Council has been having a hard time with a bond issue of $90,000, to which later was added $17,000 more.

It looks as if the town was out several thousand dollars by not accepting offers made in the middle of July for their issue.

At that time the Nova Scotia Trust Company offered 93¼ for $20,000 of the bonds, and the Sterling Securities Company 97¾ for all or any part of the issue.

The Town Council will not accept, because they want a higher figure, and newer tenders were called for, to be in on July 31st, but there were then no offers, because of war demoralization.

Then the town sold about $40,000 of the bonds to brokers at 97½, and finally the balance of $50,000, and the $17,000 additional were sold to the Eastern Securities Company at 91. Dartmouth loses something like $5,000.

Bradstreet's reports 551 business failures in the United States this week against 600 previous week and 434 a year ago.

NEW HIGH RECORDS SCORED IN GRAIN

May Continued the Dominant Fact Throughout the Week --- Cry of Higher Bread Once More

EXPORT DEMAND CONTINUES