

stockholders of the Bank have received 13 per cent. on their investment is, I think, quite sufficient to satisfy any reasonable man, and when we consider the difficulties under which the President and Directors, and particularly the General Manager, must have labored during the past two years, it is evident that the result can only have been arrived at by the exercise of the greatest prudence and greatest caution, and I am satisfied that there is not another banking institution in the Dominion which can make a better exhibit. The losses in the commercial community have reacted upon the Bank, and these losses have resulted in a shrinkage in the values of real estate and in stocks of goods. This was felt by the whole community, and the Bank of Montreal can not expect to escape without experiencing some of the effects of the depression, but I think that, with the exercise of that prudence and good judgment which has been characteristic of this Bank for the past twenty or twenty-five years, it will come out triumphant, and in a year or two will return to the fourteen per cent. dividend and make the faces of the stockholders smile in a genial way. I am sure the whole commercial community looks to the Bank of Montreal as the head and front of the monetary institutions of this country, and its example will be followed by all other institutions. Its position is more like the Bank of England in England than that of any other Bank. It is as it were the banker of the other Banks of the Dominion, and therefore it is necessary that it should continue in the future as in the past, strong in its resources, and under the present management I am satisfied that will be the case. (Applause.)

Mr. Andrew Robertson—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution. With reference to what the chairman has said, I am afraid that he is not strictly correct. I am not prepared to say he is incorrect, but as far as dry goods are concerned, I think bottom has been touched, and that the trade is in a fair way to improve. Last year, there was a large amount of stock held over, but there has been none held over this year, and the future of the trade is more hopeful than it has been during the last eighteen months. With respect to manufactures, five or six manufacturers have failed, and it was put down to the fact that home manufactures have been overdone. I think it is well that we should keep down to the lowest point home production, as well as importations, and not produce more than we can find a market for. It is only in this country that a market can be found for most of our productions, and therefore we must come down to the price that will suit the consumer in this country. I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the resolution.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman—On behalf of the Directors, my colleagues and myself, I beg to thank you, gentlemen, for this mark of your approbation. I am safe in saying that should it continue to be your pleasure to charge us with the guardianship of your property, we will do our best to promote your interests. With regard to the remarks made by Mr. Robertson, nothing will please me better than to find that I have taken too gloomy a view. I have to thank you for the resolution. (Applause.)

Hon. D. A. Smith—I have a resolution to propose, gentlemen, and it is in these terms: "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. Chairman, when some four years ago I had the pleasure of seconding a similar motion to this, moved by Sir Alexander Galt, at the time the former General Manager, Mr. King, was about to be succeeded by Mr. Angus, I took occasion to say that I considered it was cause for great satisfaction, and should be the source of great confidence to the shareholders, to find that Mr. King, who had done so much for the Bank, was to be succeeded by the present General Manager. If I were to dwell ever so long and to speak ever so warmly of the manner in which the business of the Bank has been conducted by

that gentleman, it would be impossible for me to speak more impressively than the deeds speak for themselves. Deeds are more eloquent than words, and I am sure that speaking to such an audience, to gentlemen who are all so thoroughly conversant with the business of banking and mercantile affairs, it would be presumption on my part to point out to them what every one must see for himself—that the business of the Bank in the hands of the General Manager is conducted with eminent ability and success. (Applause.) With regard to all the other officers of the Bank, the General Manager has expressed his very great confidence in them, stating that he could not possibly desire a better staff. That is quite sufficient for the Directors to assure them that these officers are well fitted for the positions they hold, and I have no doubt that it will be sufficient for the shareholders.

Mr. Edward Mackay—Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution. It is looked upon very probably as an act of courtesy more than anything else; at the same time I think it is one that is well deserved from the Directors, and is equally well deserved from the shareholders. I am afraid that our friend, Mr. Workman, who proposed the last resolution, was overdrawing a great deal in the resolution giving credit to the President and Directors. I do not want to detract anything from the earnest desire on the part of the Directors to do the best in their power for the shareholders, but I think that our manager and sub-manager deserve, if not all the credit, at least the biggest part of it. (Applause.) There are very few here to-day, I suppose, but know the responsibility of having the overseeing of the amount of money that is at the disposal of the Bank of Montreal. You are aware that altogether it amounts to between thirty and forty millions, and you may depend upon it that the person who has the overseeing has a great anxiety—the interest of every shareholder in the Bank. I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution, and I am perfectly satisfied that every one that is here to-day, and every one that is interested in the Bank, will be disposed to endorse everything that Mr. Smith and myself have said with respect to it, and are convinced that the general manager, the sub-manager and other officers of this institution deserve all the credit that can be given them.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

Mr. R. B. Angus, general manager, said: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I have to thank you on my own account and on behalf of the executive officers of the Bank, for the very generous manner in which you have received our report on this occasion. It is a much less flourishing report than we should have liked to submit to you, embracing as it does a period of very great trial and difficulty that will long be remembered in this country. There are few men engaged in business, whether they be importers or manufacturers, or traders of any description, who during that time have not had to witness great shrinkage in their property. It is very much to the credit of the community that so few firms in Canada of first-class reputation have had to succumb to the difficulties that have been encountered. The Bank of course has had to participate to some extent in the losses incident to the time. In some respects, however, we have to congratulate ourselves upon the progress made. You will observe that notwithstanding the reduction in the rate of interest our deposits have considerably increased. This Bank has not attempted to enter into competition for deposits at excessive rates of interest. We have been very conservative in that respect, I may say, and have freely allowed people who were able to obtain better rates for their money to take it elsewhere. We have not offered any competition for such deposits, though by giving an equal rate of interest we should probably have in many cases obtained the preference. We considered that it was a dangerous method of conducting business, and we trust the example that has been shown by this institution in reducing the rate and making it uniform will be followed by other Banks, and

that the dangers of this system will be avoided to a great extent in the future. Amongst the minor facts which I may notice on this occasion are some changes in the offices. With the view of bringing the business at Lindsay and Fergus more immediately under control, both of these places have been erected into independent agencies; the office at Simcoe, which had an unremunerative business, has been closed, and an office has been opened at Oshawa, where we had already formed some business connections. We have also during the year instituted the system of travellers' circular credits for the convenience of our customers and shareholders. We have to acknowledge, doubtless, that mistakes have been committed during the past year; I trust that in the future we shall be able to avoid a repetition of the more glaring errors. Of this you may be well assured, that the executive officers of the Bank will use every effort to increase the prosperity and to maintain the reputation of the institution which they have the honor to serve. (Applause.) As continuing a piece of information which was given at the last meeting, I will, with your permission, state the number of shareholders we now have:—The number of shareholders on 1st June, 1875, was 1,831; on 1st June, 1876, it was 2,011; and in 1877 on the 1st of this month it was 2,227. The average number of shares held by shareholders was about 27. The number of shares held by bankers and brokers on the 1st of June, 1875, was 6,675; on the 1st of June, 1876, 4,920; and on the 1st June, 1877, it was 1,462. (Applause.) Thus you may see that the floating shares—stock that was perhaps issued prematurely and in excess of the investing capacity of our shareholders—have now been absorbed. The total number of shares on the Montreal Register is 59,277; on the Toronto Register, 517; and on the London, England, Register, 206. It is not apparently found to be a very great convenience to shareholders in England to have this Register in London. It involves trouble, and this country is after all the great market for the stock when it is to be realized. The estimated number of shares held by parties residing abroad is 10,485. I have been asked for this item of information several times, and have not been able to give it, but I have now made an estimate of the amount.

Mr. Henry Lyman—I beg leave to move, "That the ballot now open for the election of directors, be kept open until 3 o'clock, unless fifteen minutes elapse without a vote being cast, when it shall be closed, and until that time, and for that purpose only, this meeting be continued."

Mr. T. W. Ritchie, Q. C.—I beg to second that resolution.

The resolution being carried, the election of directors was proceeded with.

At the close of the ballot, the Scrutineers handed in the following report:—

MONTREAL, 4th June, 1877.

Sir,—We declare the following gentlemen duly elected Directors this day:—

G. W. CAMPBELL, M.D.

SIR A. T. GALT.

ALLAN GILMOUR.

EDWARD MACKAY.

PETER KENDRATH.

HON. THOS. RYAN.

GILBERT SCOTT.

HON. DONALD A. SMITH.

GEORGE STEPHEN.

We are, Sir,

Your very obedient servants,

(Signed),

W. B. CUMMING,

THOS. DAVIDSON.

To the General Manager, Bank of Montreal.

—The agent of the Scottish Meat and Produce Company, which has just been organized in Scotland with a capital of £20,000, has been on a visit of inspection to Cowansville, Que., in search of a suitable location for the establishment of the company's works; but owing to poor railway accommodation, a local paper fears that village will be passed by and some other point selected.