

et have often been employed for pur-  
trivial, compared with the gravity  
that was created a week ago. Govern-  
se, do not like to touch anything relat-  
transactions—unless they want loans  
ut the Nipissing-Ontario situation is un-  
and justifies unprecedented action.

Business men often become as nervous  
as women do about mice; and the  
may have been sincerely scared by  
But we believe they were honestly  
another direction. The policy has always  
ate everything into which they enter.  
s regarding the Temiskaming region  
quite Napoleonic. They found that  
achieve their ambitions by keeping to a  
The abnormal happened.

ork, the Guggenheim withdrawal has  
as "The Nipissing crime." The reason  
he alleged shakiness of the title—is  
ted as only a bluff put up with the de-  
on of squeezing the public out of the  
mines, purchasing the stocks at low  
ing permanent control of a few square  
which the most experienced engineers  
believe contain scores of millions of dol-  
precious metals. Of course, public con-  
fidence has been shaken by the slump,  
can increase or decrease by five  
the quantity of silver reposing amid  
lost-bound Temiskaming. That the  
e, those of us who have seen it know  
final value can only be determined by  
ce. Everybody knows that mining  
speculative. People should not put into  
which they cannot afford to lose. Cobalt,  
already proven, is a wonderful proposi-  
remain so long after the present dis-  
ended, and long after the wild cats have  
ted.

vo million Canadian dollars were tele-  
w York in the first four days of this  
pissing stock at prices more than three  
which the same parties could have  
onths ago. No blame is to be attached  
orkers for being early on the ground.  
interests of the Nipissing property are  
men of wide experience and very high  
presence on the Board of Directors of  
oulson, General Manager of the Bank  
Mr. David Fasken, member of a lead-  
al firm, has always been a pretty strong  
whatever else might be hidden among  
he Nipissing holdings; there were no  
ealed about the property. The ex-  
hness and quantity of ore shipped are  
coldest fact.

on as to whether Nipissing shares, on  
the mine, are worth \$40 or \$14, does not  
ern us here. The Guggenheims agreed  
ter the examination of the veins by the  
enjoys a unique reputation in two con-  
dividends have already been paid, and  
only that very shortly a third will  
back will be even higher than the last.  
he rate of 20 per cent. per annum. The  
to continue its progress of making good  
the mine of interest will need little in-  
terest.

ing trouble, but brought out valuable  
general position of confidence in the  
mining which is Canada's main  
stock of interest has been maintained  
with regard to which the public  
confidence in the mine is maintained.

Government record of shipments from the Cobalt  
mines for November, so that there can be no doubt  
whatever as to which properties are actually producing  
ore. It is almost certain that most of the ore shipped  
was of that extreme richness which is the wonder of  
men experienced in silver mining in those places,  
which, until Cobalt was discovered, were regarded as  
the best in the world. But the fact that over 1,400,000  
pounds of ore left Cobalt station last month must  
presently be supplemented by proof of its cash value.

A comparison between the list of shipments and  
the advertisements which are flooding the daily news-  
papers should give the investor who has not been on  
the ground furiously to think. It is said that com-  
paratively poor people have mortgaged their homes in  
order to buy the stocks of wild cats. The individual  
who will do that is scarcely fit to be at large. The  
individual, who knowingly trades upon this weak  
streak in human nature, may be fittingly housed at the  
expense of His Majesty's Government.

Propositions have been put upon the market of  
the intrinsic value of which not one scintilla of  
evidence has been produced. Some of the advertise-  
ments are so obviously meretricious that, even allow-  
ing for the credulity of many who only read the daily  
newspapers, it would be impossible to believe that the  
airy representations of the advertiser could produce  
enough money to pay for printers' ink; if the gulli-  
bility of the public were not attested by mountains of  
faithful records.

### BANK OF MONTREAL YEAR.

The annual meeting of the Bank of Montreal this  
week produced nothing of startling newness. The  
premier financial institution has pursued the lucrative  
tenor of its way, and regards the absorption of most of  
the business of the Ontario Bank as a transaction to  
be mentioned quite as a matter of course. Mainly for  
a capital expenditure of \$150,000 in connection with this  
transaction so promptly consummated, the bank shows  
an increase of about \$11,000,000 in deposits bearing in-  
terest, and about \$13,000,000 in current loans. The  
profits for the year are \$160,000 greater than for the  
preceding twelve months, due partly to the high rates  
ruling in London and New York, where a consider-  
able portion of the reserve funds is necessarily carried.

The profits for the year amounted to \$1,797,976,  
which with \$801,855 balance of profit and loss account  
brought forward the year previously, permits the pay-  
ment of four quarterly 2½ per cent. dividends absorb-  
ing \$360,000 each; the addition of \$1,000,000 to rest  
account, and a balance of profit and loss carried for-  
ward of \$159,831.

Here are some comparisons with last year's re-  
port:

	1905	1906	Change
Liabilities to Shareholders	\$25,922,556	\$25,922,099	
Liabilities to public	112,309,812	122,079,111	7.3
Total Liabilities	\$138,232,368	\$147,991,210	6.1
Quick Assets	68,611,037	68,304,761	5.1
Other Assets	68,699,126	102,699,126	14.4
Total Assets	\$137,310,163	\$171,003,887	24.5

Last year the net earnings of the bank were at  
the rate of 11 per cent. of the capital, this year they  
were 12.5 per cent. which might possibly have  
been increased to 13 per cent. if the bank had not  
been obliged to pay the 10 per cent. dividend on the  
preferred stock. The bank's assets are now  
increased by \$33,693,724, and its liabilities by  
\$9,768,842, and its capital by \$1,000,000.

percentage of quick assets to other assets was 77.1; to  
gross assets, 43.5; and to liabilities to the public, 51.8.  
On the liabilities side of the statement the only notable  
change is that of deposits bearing interest, already  
alluded to. In the assets, gold and silver coin is in-  
creased from \$5,089,152 to \$6,232,607. Government  
demand notes dropped from \$7,221,980 to \$5,374,510.  
Money owing the bank in Great Britain increased from  
\$3,745,053 to \$5,597,767, and in foreign countries from  
\$2,293,384 to \$3,027,768. Dominion and Provincial  
Government securities rose from \$432,244 to \$1,346,  
087, railway and other bonds, debentures and stocks  
from \$7,849,207 to \$8,999,865, and the notes and  
cheques of other banks from \$3,532,500 to \$4,418,994.

There is much interesting matter in the observa-  
tions of President Sir George Drummond and Mr.  
Clouston, the Vice-President and General Manager.  
Sir George gives an admirable collection of facts to  
illustrate the expansion of trade generally, and touches  
lightly three subjects that are of first-rate importance  
because of their general bearing upon financial and  
commercial—the increased cost of living, the attitude  
of capital to the general welfare, and the comparative  
failure of the Port of Montreal to keep pace with the  
general growth of business. As to the second, Sir  
George propounds the interesting question as to how  
much of our present prosperity is founded upon sub-  
stantial realizations of our own, and how much is due  
to the increased confidence in our future by outside  
capitalists. The absurdity of regarding capital as  
inimical to the public prosperity is obvious, when it is  
recalled that modern transportation facilities, with-  
out which infinitesimal progress is possible, rest en-  
tirely on imported money. A study of the deepest  
importance lies in the suggested comparison of the  
value of home and imported capital.

Of course, except so far as the inflow of outside  
money may be affected by interior conditions which  
change from time to time, the dominating feature of  
the growth of the last decade is that the capital ex-  
penditure which has distinguished it has been more  
than justified by the natural riches of the country  
waiting only to be developed. The expansion of Can-  
ada has been broad-based enough. Inevitably there  
will be occasional excesses of speculative invest-  
ment; real estate prices will become inflated here and  
there, and the usual crop of wild-cat enterprises will  
rear their contemptible heads. It is natural for bank-  
ers to utter warnings against the extension of this kind  
of thing. They are impartial for they occasionally  
issue admonitions against one another apropos of un-  
necessary multiplication of branches, and other new-  
fashioned methods of the modern manager.

### PROPAGANDA THAT PAYS.

By the same mail come two samples of business  
propaganda that are worth noting—one from  
Havana, the other from Seattle. The first is intended  
to advertise the activities of Cuba; the second is an  
exposition of the raison d'être of the Alaska-Yukon-  
Pacific World's Fair in 1906.

The message from the Antilles is a fraction of  
the Cuban Propaganda League, and is a collection of  
various leading paragraphs intended for publication.  
Leading with the title "A request to the American  
League of Cuba for a collection of important data" is  
a list of questions to be answered by the American  
League of Cuba, and the sending of a national flag to the  
fair. The message from Seattle is a collection of  
various leading paragraphs intended for publication.  
Leading with the title "A request to the American  
League of Alaska-Yukon-Pacific for a collection of important data" is  
a list of questions to be answered by the American  
League of Alaska-Yukon-Pacific, and the sending of a national flag to the  
fair.