

MOLSONS BANK.

Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Stockholders of the Molsons Bank, held at their Banking House, on Monday, the 12th October.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of this Bank was held at its Banking House, on Monday, 12th October, 1888.

W. Molson, Esq., President, having taken the chair, the Cashier read the following report:—

GENTLEMEN,—

A statement of the affairs of the Bank for the past year is now submitted:—

The profits for the year amount to.....\$90,083.43

Which were appropriated

To payment of dividend No. 25.....\$40,000.00

Do do do 26.....40,000.00

Bad debts written off.....10,083.43

\$90,083.43

In consequence of the business of the Bank, at present, being entirely local, and from the large amount of American silver in the country, the circulation still continues very contracted.

The Directors will have much pleasure in giving any information required by stockholders, regarding the affairs of the Bank.

(Signed)

WILLIAM MOLSON,
President.

MOLSONS BANK.

Montreal, October 12th, 1888.

1st. It was moved by Thomas Workman, Esq., seconded by John Ogilvy, Esq.:

"That the Report now read be adopted and printed for distribution among the shareholders."—Carried.

2nd. It was moved by G. W. Warner, Esq., seconded by F. X. St. Charles, Esq.:

"That the thanks of the Shareholders are due, and are hereby tendered to the President and Directors for their efficient management of the Bank during the past year, and that the President be requested to accept the sum of \$2,000, in consideration of his valuable services during that period."—Carried unanimously.

Messrs. G. W. Warner and F. X. St. Charles, having been appointed scrutineers, reported the undermentioned gentlemen re-elected Directors for the ensuing year, viz:—

WILLIAM MOLSON,
JOHN H. R. MOLSON,
EPHREM HUDON,
THOMAS WORKMAN,
JOHN OGILVY.

General Statement of the affairs of the Molsons Bank, on the 30th September, 1888.

LIABILITIES.

Capital.....\$1,000,000.00
Bank Notes in Circulation.....101,970.00
Deposits.....\$244,906.13
Do bearing Interest 529,571.04 774,476.15
Balances due to other Banks 86,869.01
Twenty-sixth Dividend.....40,000.00
Dividends uncalled for.....280.00
Res.....160,000.00
Exchange, &c., reserved.....9,874.09

\$1,172,479.25

ASSETS.

Coin, Bullion, and Provincial Notes.....225,734.79
Bills and Checks of other Bks. 136,471.33
Balances due by other Banks, 41,868.80
Government Securities.....107,563.32
Bank Premises and other Real Estate 90,565.15
Notes and Bills Discounted...1,865,848.65
Other debts due the Bank not included under the foregoing head.....204,389.80

\$2,172,479.25

The average amount of paper under discount during the year has been.....1,561,009.58

The average Government Securities.....107,563.32

The average Deposits.....664,330.37

The average Circulation.....92,618.00

The average Specie and Provincial Notes.....174,542.88

A meeting of the new Board of Directors was afterwards held, when William Molson, Esq., was re-elected President, and John H. R. Molson, Esq., Vice-President.

(Signed)

WM. SACHE, Cashier.

MOLSONS BANK,

Montreal, October 12, 1888.

TORONTO, GREY AND BRUCE RAILWAY.—At a late meeting of the Directors of this road, Mr. Henry S. Howland resigned his post of President, and Mr. John Gordon, of the firm of Gordon & Mackay, was chosen in his stead. Mr. R. A. Harrison and Mr. S. B. Harman were chosen directors in place of Mr. Howland and Captain Taylor, the latter of whom designs to join the direction of the Nipissing road.

THE PILES RAILWAY—A Quebec paper says that an American Company has offered to build the Piles Railway, provided the original charter of incorporation is handed over to it.

A "CORNER" IN THE CHICAGO GRAIN MARKET.

HOW IT HAPPENED AND WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

The Chicago Tribune of Thursday says:—

"The Chicago Board of Trade has been unusually agitated this season by combinations to fix the price of grain above or below the figures which would be determined by the laws of supply and demand. Several rings have been formed in both the bull and bear interests, but principally in the former—irregular joint-stock associations or 'pools'—with definite plans of operations sketched out beforehand, and arrangements for pro rata divisions of profits or losses. Some of these have been successful in the accomplishment of their main object; all have succeeded in making the grain markets exceedingly artificial, interfering with the free movement of the crops by the creation of fictitious prices, and in causing diversions of trade to other cities. The wheat corner of June was disastrous to a great number, both in the city and out of it—the reaction having not yet ceased—and the corner on corn, which culminated yesterday, will prove equally disastrous to many, though the loss will not be so great or so far-reaching as in the former case.

"For the information of the general reader, we may state that the 'corner' is usually operated in this wise: A clique of operators go into the market and buy, from all who will sell, a large quantity of grain for future delivery, the seller agreeing to deliver it at the end of the month. The clique also buy up all the grain that comes into the city, or so much of it as is necessary to keep the control of the market in their own hands. The sellers, or 'shorts,' defer buying the grain they have contracted to deliver till the end of the month, in order to save the cost of storage, and are then obliged to buy from the clique, at exorbitant prices, the grain, which must be re-delivered to them. A large majority of the operators being in the habit of buying and selling these 'options' both on their own account and for parties outside, who hope to make money on the turn of the markets, it is possible for the clique to buy a million of bushels, or even more, before the scheme is discovered, and the 'corner' combination can then afford to sustain a loss of several cents a bushel on the grain left on hand after the 'corner' has matured, the difference being more than made up by the previous gain.

"Of course, the profit comes from the sudden pressure of buyers. The operator who undertook to deliver grain yesterday cannot defer it till to-day without losing his standing on the Board, or, in other words, failing. The price is run up by the fact that so many people are obliged to buy at the same instant. To obviate the possibility of similar pressures in the gold market, the Board of Gold Brokers in New York city adopted a rule some three years ago, which has been found to work well, allowing 'short sellers' to defer the time of delivery in such cases on payment of a small percentage for each day of delay. The Board of Trade of this city have now under consideration a proposal to adapt the same rule to our grain markets, making the forfeiture a quarter of a cent on each bushel per day. The adoption of the rule would undoubtedly be a great obstacle, if not an effectual preventive, to corner combinations in the future; but it might seriously impair the obligation of contracts, by putting it in the power of the seller to hold back grain after the buyer had made arrangements to send it away.

"It is the opinion of some of our leading operators that the forfeiture ought to be not less than one cent on the bushel per day, as the market will often fluctuate by that amount from legitimate causes, and no rule ought to be adopted which will shield the seller from ordinary risks, to the detriment of the man who has bought in good faith. It has been urged that all speculation in grain is detrimental to the interests of society, by putting up the price to the consumer. To this it may be answered that it is this very competition among so many parties which prevents monopolies on the part of the heavy capitalists. There are many cases in which sales for future delivery are very convenient—as when grain is on the way and no certain time can be given for its arrival, the seller contracting to deliver within the week or the month. It should also be remembered that where the bargain is purely speculative, it is no worse a transaction than the purchase of real estate, or anything else, in expectation of a rise. It is usually conceded that a man has a right to invest his money where he thinks it will pay best, provided he does not intend to injure others. But the association of several parties for the purposes of compelling others to pay more for property than it is actually worth, is a very questionable transaction. If our Board of Trade can restrain such operations without recourse to a remedy which may in turn be used for evil, it will confer a benefit upon society.

"An unusual share of attention has been attracted to this subject on the part of our business men from the fact that the President of the Board, E. V. Robbins, Esq., a gentleman of well known probity, has been obliged to succumb to the pressure of the corner on corn. The firm of which he is the senior partner has failed, the liabilities being estimated at about \$60,000. Mr. Robbins yesterday tendered his resignation as President of the Board. The resignation has not been accepted, and it is understood to be the intention of some of the more influential members to move that it be not accepted."

The following resolution has been adopted by the Chicago Board of Trade:—

"Whereas, what is technically termed a 'corner' is pernicious and injurious to the best interests of the grain trade of Chicago, therefore,

"Resolved,—That this Board of Trade adopt as a rule that where there is inability to deliver grain sold within the date of the contract, the party so defaulting shall be subject to a penalty of one-quarter of a cent per bushel each day, until the delivery is accomplished, contracts to continue in force and be subject to established rule as to margin."

PETROLEUM.

COMMERCIALLY speaking, the future prospects of Petroleum are one of the most important questions of the day. The following extract from the New York Bulletin is, therefore, both timely and interesting:—

Returns of the production and movement of petroleum for the month ending September 30, and for the previous eight months of the current year, present some features of considerable interest to dealers and consumers. There was a slight decrease in the aggregate of production during the month. For the first two weeks the old wells exhibited a falling off production; but later the deficiency was almost made good by the large yield of several new wells, the product of some of them being over 400 barrels per day. It is supposed that a vein has been struck near the Upper Cherry Run, on a black petroleum bearing sand rock, which runs a distance of twelve miles in the direction of Pine Creek. It is thought that the experience of the month confirms the view that the yield of petroleum may be regarded as having reached an average steady supply from which there will be no important reductions and to which there will be no considerable addition.

The following table gives the total stock and the amount in tankage at the dates mentioned:—

	In Tanks.	Total Stock.
	bbls.	bbls.
November 7th, 1867	469,000	655,000
December " "	480,000	620,000
January " 1868	468,500	534,600
February " "	480,100	541,100
March " "	497,194	552,194
April " "	486,600	559,000
May 1st, " "	381,400	421,600
June " "	243,100	290,400
July " "	231,050	258,450
August " "	221,450	267,450
September " "	2,775,73	295,73
October " "	175,908	282,808

The capacity of iron tankage now amounts to a total of 1,079,539 bbls, being an increase of 6,000 bbls since August. On the 1st of October, 1867, the tankage was only 600,000 bbls, showing an increase of nearly double the capacity during the year. During September contracts for 100,000 bbls of new tankage were effected. This increase of tankage is attributed to the low price of petroleum, which induces producers to adopt this means of retaining stocks in order to prevent a forcing of the market. Of the tankage capacity of 1,079,539 bbls, tankage to the amount of no less than 804,931 bbls are empty.

The following table exhibits the total shipments by all routes of crude and refined petroleum, of 45 gallons, to the bbl, from January 1st to October 1st:

To—	Bbls
New York.....	778,228
Cleveland.....	644,705
Boston.....	77,448
Philadelphia.....	199,390
Portland.....	22,890
Pittsburgh.....	887,341
Other points.....	182,205
Total.....	2,771,932
Difference between crude and the refined shipped.....	90,809

Total shipments of crude of bbls of 45 gallons each.....2,862,771

The shipments during September were larger than in any other month of the present year, and were slightly in advance of the production during that period. The aggregate shipments of the month were 320,032 bbls, of this 13,780 bbls, were moved by the Allegheny River, and the balance by railroads.

The sinking of the new wells continues, and meets with favourable results, so that the new business in the oil region is assuming more and more the characteristics of a settled industry. Capitalists are more disposed to await steady gains, and the former wild excitement and gambling features of the trade now belong only to the past. Nearly all the new wells sunk during the month produce oil in paying quantities. On October 1st, no less than 378 new wells were in process of drilling. This is a falling off as compared with September 1, but is an increase of 49 as compared with August 1.

THE DRUMMOND COLLIERY IN NOVA SCOTIA.

FORMAL OPENING OF THE WORKS—INTERCOLONIAL BANQUET, &C.

THE Halifax Colonist of the 3rd inst. says:—On Thursday last Richmond Depot was crowded with a throng of gentlemen invited by the Drummond Coal Company to be present at the formal opening of the Colliery. About half-past six, two hundred persons or thereabouts, started, very fearful lest the day's enjoyment should be marred by the threatening rain clouds that hung over Bedford Basin. Spat, spat, came the drops, and with despair on the minds of the tourists, Truro and Riversdale, where the new paper factory is to be erected, were passed before the monitory clouds parted, and through the rift poured forth the glorious sun. By the time New Glasgow came into view the sky was beautiful and clear, and the tourists assured of a fine day, dismissed their clouds also and were all prepared for a continuation of the trip.

From Fisher's Grant to Pictou by steamer thence to Middle River, where about four miles from Pictou the steamer was moored alongside the gigantic wharf, towering high above the masts of a schooner near by. This wharf is the Drummond Colliery place of shipment, and deserves especial mention. It is 570 feet