

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

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Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

JOHN T. P. KNIGHT,  
Editor.

VOL. XVIII. No. 48. MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1898.

SINGLE COPY - - .10  
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - \$2.00

**Bank Dividends Declared.** The advertisements of dividends declared show fifteen of the chartered banks about to distribute \$1,682,888 to their shareholders, as the dividend for six months on \$39,929,620, being an average rate of 8.42 per annum on the total capital represented. As will be observed by scrutiny of this table, the half yearly dividends vary from 2 1-2 to 5 per cent., but, of course, the amount of revenue percentage derived by holders cannot be ascertained without knowing the price paid for stock.

Bank.	Capital.	Rate %	Half Year's Dividends.
Bank of Montreal .....	\$12,000,000	5	\$600,000
Merchants Bank of Canada ..	6,000,000	4	240,000
Canadian Bank of Commerce.	6,000,000	3 1/2	210,000
Quebec Bank .....	2,500,000	3	75,000
Bank of Toronto .....	2,000,000	5	100,000
Molson's Bank .....	2,000,000	5	100,000
Imperial Bank .....	2,000,000	5	100,000
Bank of Ottawa .....	1,500,000	4	60,000
Bank of Hamilton .....	1,250,000	4	50,000
Standard Bank .....	1,000,000	4	40,000
Hochelaga Bank .....	1,000,000	3 1/2	35,000
Ontario Bank .....	1,000,000	2 1/2	25,000
Traders' Bank .....	700,000	3	21,000
Jacques-Cartier Bank .....	500,000	2 1/2	12,500
Ville Marie Bank .....	479,620	3	14,388
	\$39,929,620		\$1,682,888

\* Average rate on total capital, 4.21

### What Happens.

In THE CHRONICLE of the 18th ultimo, we had occasion to question the veracity of a Viennese, who claims to have celebrated his one hundred and eleventh birthday. He advanced as the reason of his longevity that he never worried and never grieved, and, in consequence of his freedom from care and anxiety, is able to enjoy a glass of beer and laugh at the nonsense of a girl. In connection with our comments upon the cachination and beer-drinking of this aged Austrian, we published an article embodying the question, "What happens when age 100 is attained," and elsewhere we publish a reply from the Minneapolis District Agent of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company of Newark, N. J. The course pursued by this company

in treating its members who have reached their tabulated limit of life, ninety-six, is commendable, and we gladly direct attention thereto, and congratulate the holders of the policies referred to in outliving the mortality tables of the Mutual Benefit.

But we note that our esteemed Minneapolis correspondent does not claim for his venerable friends that they are sprightly enough to enjoy the rapid circulation of decanters and sufficiently virile to find pleasure in the laughter of women. May we assume that they are simply old men in whom the pulses no longer beat high, who are not flushed with health and vigour, but men for whom the evening of life has set in with its visioned recollections of preceding comforts to enhance the pleasures of the past. Old age has gratifications of its own, which fully balance those of earlier days, and which, if life has been rightly employed, carry on the stream of happiness to its grave. But, failing better evidence than has been produced, we decline to believe that this beer-drinking, nonsense-loving patriarch of far away Vienna has outlived the mortality tables of all insurance companies by eleven long years. We would just as soon think of accepting a more recent newspaper story of two lively old boys of 99 and 91, who are credited with having a rollicking time in Massachusetts. The report states these youthful rivals of the Viennese celebrity are able to climb apple trees, chase the cows, pick ten quarts of blackberries, swim in the brook, and indulge in other juvenile sports. A legitimate deduction from all the facts which are truly material in such a case as the one under review warrants a belief that the remarkable longevity of this breaker of the mortality tables in far away Austria is a fictitious and wonderful tale, and the recital of his extravagant fondness at such an age for beer and women only serves to deepen our distrust and engender a want of confidence in his memory. To secure respect for his claim to age and extraordinary vigour, he must produce a family bible record, a certificate of birth, a nurse, or a statement from an insurance company, such as we publish elsewhere, proving he has passed the tabulated limit of life.