

Meetings.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

The 77th annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal took place in the board room of the bank at one o'clock on Monday, 3rd June, 1895. Among those present were:—Sir Donald Smith, Hon. George A. Drummond, R. B. Angus, W. C. McDonald, Hugh McLennan, A. T. Paterson, W. W. Ogilvie, F. S. Lyman, Q.C., A. W. Hooper, Donald Macmaster, Q.C., Justice Cross, M. Burke, Captain Benyon, Alexander Mitchell, W. R. Miller, John Dunlop, Hector Mackenzie, James O'Brien, J. B. Learmont, John Crawford, J. H. R. Molson, A. T. Taylor, H. Montagu Allan, W. Murray, M. Foley, Jas. Moore, B. A. Boas, Wm. McKenzie, R. S. White, M.P., James Wilson, jr., J. C. Badgley, J. M. McCarthy, Charles Meredith, F. T. Judah, James Tasker and John Morrison.

On motion of Mr. John Crawford, Sir Donald A. Smith, president of the bank, was voted to the chair.

Moved by Mr. J. H. R. Molson, seconded by Mr. B. A. Boas, that the following gentlemen be appointed to act as scrutineers:—Messrs. F. S. Lyman, Q.C., and A. W. Hooper, and that Mr. James Aird be the secretary of this meeting.

The president then called upon Mr. E. S. Clouston, general manager, to read the annual report of the directors as follows:—

REPORT.

The directors have pleasure in presenting the 77th annual report, showing the result of the bank's business of the year ended 30th April, 1895.

Balance of profit and loss account 30th April, 1894..... \$ 804,715 33
Profits for the year ended 30th April, 1895, after deducting charges of management, and making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts..... 1,210,436 77

Dividend 5 per cent. paid 1st December, 1894... \$600,000
Dividend 5 per cent. payable 1st June, 1895.... 600,000
\$1,200,000 00

Balance of profit and loss account carried forward \$815,152 10
A branch of the bank has been opened at St. John's, Newfoundland.

A branch office has been opened in the premises built and owned by the bank on the corner of Notre Dame and Seigneur streets in this city.

With deep regret the directors have to record the death of their esteemed colleague, Mr. W. H. Meredith, who had been at the time of his death a member of the board for upwards of three years.

The vacancy on the board has been filled by the election of Mr. W. W. Ogilvie.

All the offices of the bank, including the head office, have been inspected during the past year.

DONALD A. SMITH,
President.

GENERAL STATEMENT, 30TH APRIL, 1895.

Liabilities.

Capital stock	\$12,000,000 00
Rest	\$6,000,000 00
Balance of profits carried forward..	815,152 10
	<u>\$6,815,152 10</u>
Unclaimed dividends	3,172 69
Half-yearly dividend, payable 1st June, 1895	600,000 00
	<u>7,418,324 79</u>
	<u>\$19,418,324 79</u>
Notes of the bank in circulation.....	\$4,260,962 00
Deposits not bearing interest	9,504,473 34
Deposits bearing interest	24,585,726 73
Balance due to other banks in Canada	5,196 77
	<u>38,356,358 84</u>
	<u>\$57,774,683 63</u>

Assets.

Gold and silver coin current	\$2,814,089 56
Gov'nment demand notes	2,170,133 25
Deposit with Dominion Government required by Act of Parliament for security of general bank note circulation.....	265,000 00
Due by agencies of this bank and other banks in foreign countries.	11,832,651 88
Due by agencies of this bank and other banks in Great Britain....	3,454,321 90
United States railway bonds.....	2,053,791 43
Notes and cheques of other banks ..	1,139,492 33
	<u>\$23,229,480 35</u>
Bank premises at Montreal and branches	600,000 00
Current loans and discounts (rebate interest reserved) and other securities and assets ..	33,733,762 01
Debts secured by mortgage or otherwise	124,913 34
Overdue debts not specially secured (loss provided for)	86,527 93
	<u>33,945,203 28</u>
	<u>\$57,774,683 63</u>

E. S. CLOUSTON,
General Manager.

Bank of Montreal,
Montreal, 30th April, 1895.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The president, Sir Donald Smith, then rose and said: Before taking up the immediate business of this meeting, I would desire to say how deeply we all deplore the loss of our late colleague, Mr. W. H. Meredith. He was in the prime of life, a gentleman of very great promise, who had endeared himself to all who had the privilege of knowing him, and I am sure that each and all of you here, in common with all who knew him, will join with us in this expression of deep regret at the loss we have sustained. You will observe from the report just read, that the net profits of the bank during the past year show a decline of \$103,000 in round numbers, or of less than 1 per cent. upon the paid-up capital as compared with the statement of the preceding year. While we could have desired a better result, under all the circumstances with which the bank has had to contend, we consider it very gratifying, and trust it may be so regarded by you. The causes which have produced this result will be given more in detail by the general manager. I would, however, anticipate his remarks with the observation that the year has been marked by quiet trade at home and by dull trade abroad, by declining prices, by keen competition among traders of all classes, by difficulty in finding remunerative employment for capital and by the continued prevalence of singularly low rates of interest. The period through which we have passed has not been remarkable in new events. A wide-spread prostration of trade has occurred for now many years past, and looking back on the traces upon the path of industry, commerce and finance made by that adverse wave, we are glad to believe that they will be found less deep in Canada than in most countries. In this connection let me draw your attention to the high rank which Canadian securities have maintained throughout the long depression. A leading English authority, writing recently on the appreciation of high class securities, remarked that "Taken all round it will be seen that as compared with fifteen years ago the yield upon first-class securities generally has declined upon an average of about 25 per cent., or in other words that capital values have risen to a corresponding extent, for one fact merely implies the other." In the table supplied by this authority it appears that Canadian 4 per cent. securities have risen 2½ per cent. since 1880, a higher rate than that of the bonds of any other British colony. The suggestion arises that, while a property like the Bank of Mont-

real is owned practically and exclusively in Canada, a comparison upon the lines indicated would not be without interest, and it will be satisfactory to the shareholders to learn that while since 1880 the value of the shares of the Bank of England has risen 25½ per cent., of the London and County Bank 24½ per cent., of the London and Westminster Bank 22 per cent., and of other principal British banks somewhat less, the value of the stock of the Bank of Montreal has advanced since 1880 by 59 per cent. Now, I would venture to direct your attention for a few moments to

THE INDICATIONS OF REVIVING TRADE

which appear the world over, and which are not wanting in Canada. I observe that according to the London *Economist*, of May 11th last, "In several directions there are indications that the clouds of depression and distrust which have overshadowed practically the whole business world since the Baring collapse in the autumn of 1890, are gradually passing away, and that a period of greater activity in the race for wealth is setting in." And the *Economist* adds that "From nearly all the important industrial centres throughout the United Kingdom the reports read more cheerfully, and the long continued complaints of unremunerative prices are becoming somewhat less persistent." In the United States a similar state of affairs has come to prevail, judging by the signs we accept as a reliable index of the commercial barometer. Railway earnings in that country are increasing; the number of mercantile failures is declining; bank suspensions have happily become as rare this year as two years ago they were common; manufacturing industries are reviving, and the Clearing House returns show that the movement of general merchandise is gradually growing. It is, however, more particularly to the reasons which seem to warrant a hopeful view being taken of the commercial outlook in our own country that I would draw your attention, because after all our prosperity as a corporation must mainly rest upon the trade conditions in Canada. These reasons are neither few nor unimportant. If, for instance, we look at the Clearing House returns of this city of Montreal during the past month of May, it will be found that the aggregate amount of the clearings has been \$57,146,200, as compared with \$49,294,200 in the corresponding month last year, and \$54,325,000 in May, of 1893, the figures showing an undoubted improvement in business, even as compared with two years ago. Then as to railway earnings, you are doubtless aware that our two principal arteries of traffic have suffered a serious diminution in earnings since the continental depression set in, although, as compared with United States railways, those in Canada cannot be said to have done badly. The point upon which we have to congratulate ourselves, however, is that since the beginning of the present year the profits of the Canadian Pacific Railway show an improvement up to the close of April over those of the like period last year, the gain for the month of April alone being \$86,840, and that in the case of the Grand Trunk Railway the receipts have risen from \$1,626,500 to \$1,651,830 in the five weeks ending with May 25th. From results of this kind we have, I think, fairly good reason to infer that the turn in the tide of business has come, in which view some confirmation may be found in the rising scale of prices both here and abroad.

The advance in the price of wheat, whether permanent or not, has already given hope and inspired a more confident feeling among the agriculturists of Ontario and the Northwest, and if the promise of better prices for this important serial should be realized during the ensuing year with even less than an average crop, and I am glad to see the indications from latest returns are that we shall have an abundant one, the effect cannot fail to be favorable to business generally in Canada.

I have received to-day information respecting the crop outlook in the Northwest which I am sure you will be pleased to hear. It is as follows:—"Telegraphic reports of Saturday covering all the Canadian Pacific main line and branches in the Northwest as well as the lines of the Manitoba & Northwestern, and Great Northwest Central Railways, state that the wheat and other crops never looked better at this time of year; that the damage to wheat crop by late frost will probably not exceed ¼ of 1 per cent., and to early sown oats and barley 5 per cent. Heavy rain Thursday night was general over entire Province of Manitoba and west to Moosejaw. No more rain needed until