## SIR VINCENT MEREDITH, BART.

The announcement that the honour of a Baronetcy has been conferred upon Mr. H. Vincent Meredith, president of the Bank of Montreal, has been received with feelings of signal pleasure by a very wide circle. An outstanding figure in Canadian banking, of high principles and irreproachable practise, the new Baronet is also known in Montreal as a worthy citizen, keenly interested in the corporate life of the community and constantly influencing it for good, and by those who have the honour of his acquaintance as a most upright and very courteous gentleman. The honour now bestowed, it is felt, is a fitting recognition of a career which has been constantly marked by the strictest probity as well as by outstanding ability, and admirably expresses the feelings of esteem and respect in which his fellow-citizens hold the new Baronet.

Sir Vincent Meredith, whose portrait appears elsewhere in this issue, belongs to a notable Canadian family, many of whose members have played and continue to play distinguished parts in the life of the Dominion. Born at London, Ontario, in 1850, Sir Vincent is a son of the late Mr. J. W. C. Meredith, an English barrister and graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. The family of Meredith is one of the oldest and most prominent of the great number who came from Ireland to Canada. Four of that family originally landed at Quebec, two of whom remained in what was then Lower Canada, the other two selecting Upper Canada as their domicile. The two first mentioned were the late Chief Justice Sir William Collis Meredith and Mr. Edmund A. Meredith (who was Principal of McGill University in 1846), the other two being Mr. J. W. C. Meredith, father of the new baronet, who had eight sons and who settled at London, Ontario, and Mr. Henry Howard Meredith, who in the early days located at Port Hope.

Educated at Hellmuth College, Sir Vincent Meredith, following his graduation, joined the staff of the Bank of Montreal at Hamilton, thus beginning an association which has lasted his entire business life and entering upon the remarkable banking career that has carried him to the presidency of the great bank, with which his first acquaintance was as a junior clerk. Away back in the sixties, the Bank of Montreal was yet in the beginning of its modern development, and Sir Vincent was one of those whose high principles, ceaseless energy and marked ability contributed in no small measure to its up-building into the remarkable position which it occupies to-day among the great banking institutions of the world. Following his Hamilton appointment in 1867, Sir Vincent was rapidly advanced to the post of Assistant Inspector at Head Office, which position he held for ten years, his duties covering the territory from Halifax to the then western terminal of the Canadian Pacific Railway, while he also had jurisdiction extending from New York City to Chicago. In 1889 Sir Vincent became Manager at Montreal, and from 1903 held the title of Assistant General Manager. In 1910 he was elected a Director, in December, 1911, succeeded the late Sir Edward Clouston as General Manager, became Vice-President in 1912 and for the last three years has been President and the chief executive officer of the institution, first acquaintance with which he made, as already noted, as a junior clerk at Hamilton.

Despite the heavy responsibilities and arduous duties attaching to his banking career, Sir Vincent Meredith has found time for many other interests. At present, in addition to being president of the Bank of Montreal, he is president of the Royal Trust Company, chairman of the Canadian board of the Royal Exchange Assurance, a Canadian director of the Standard Life Assurance Company, a trustee for the Mackay Companies and a director of the Commercial Cable Company. His energetic and practical interest in works of charity and education is evidenced in the fact that he is president of the Royal Victoria Hospital besides being unostentatiously associated with numerous other charities and civic bodies, and a governor of McGill University. As president of the Art Association of Montreal, he has done much towards the wise encouragement of Canadian art. The details given evidence not only a busy but also a well-rounded life, in which the manifold duties of the public-spirited and patriotic citizen as well as the arduous responsibilities of the banker have played a prominent part.

Canada, and Montreal in particular, may well be proud of the distinguished citizen who by his career has brought honour to the Dominion and to the city of which for so many years Sir Vincent Meredith has been a prominent resident. Ripe in experience, wise in counsel, constantly courteous in intercourse and entirely self-effacing, it is the general hope at this time that for many years Sir Vincent will be able to enjoy that respect and esteem felt by his fellow citizens towards one who has shown throughout his entire career the profound truth involved in William of Wykeham's old motto—"Manners makyth man."

### NEW CREDIT TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

Following the successful issue of the War Loan, it was announced yesterday that as a result of a conference between the Minister of Finance and bankers, a new credit of $50,000,000 to the British Government on account of the Imperial Munitions Board has been arranged. This makes the total credits given to the British Government by the Dominion Government and the banks, $200,000,000. The first credit of this kind was given last November, following the flotation of the first domestic War Loan.