

The leading commercial journal of the United States recently said:

"Canadian bounties and duties may and will serve as a barrier more or less complete between our American mills and this great project of 3,750 miles, the Grand Trunk Pacific."

Already orders have been placed with the Canadian mills for rails for 1906 delivery, to the extent of 200,000 tons. Of these orders the magnificent works at Sault Ste. Marie will execute 125,000 tons, and the Dominion Iron & Steel Company the balance; the present capacity of both plants is 300,000 tons annually, and it is likely their whole output will be used.

The productive capacity of the Sault Ste. Marie mills is enormous. The works comprise Bessemer Steel Plant and Rolling Mills, Blast Furnaces, Pulp Mill, Sulphite Mill, Iron Works, Car Shops, Vener Mill, Saw Mill, Charcoal Plant, Power Plant and Reduction Works. The turnover of these works for the year ending June 30, 1905, exceeded \$5,000,000, and is likely to exceed \$7,000,000 for 1906. The company operates 100 miles of railway. It owns 8 steamers whose aggregate capacity is 16,000 tons, which are employed in its own business. It derives its iron ore from its own mines, so that the entire processes of manufacture of steel products from the crude ore to the finished article, are carried on in the same works, under one management.

The imports into Canada of iron and steel in 5 past years were as follows:

1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
\$29,300,073	\$26,780,458	\$32,973,602	\$42,009,168	\$41,152,780

Of rails and railway supplies the imports for some years have averaged from 3 to 3½ millions of dollars.

The whole of the iron and steel goods comprised in those imports are produceable in the works now being operated in Canada. The change coming over the steel trade in this country is shown by the exports of steel goods manufactured in the Dominion having increased from \$68,800 in 1890 to \$1,046,279 in 1904.

In Canada are illimitable supplies of iron ore, of fuel, of flux, of building materials, of water power, and conveniences of transportation. The demand for iron and steel enlarges with every step in the development of population, of manufacturing enterprise, and of agricultural progress.

Canada is bound to become one of the world's great steel manufacturing countries, and as the production of steel enlarges so will enlarge other industries which invariably develop alongside that of steel making.

RICHARD BIDDUEPH MARTIN ESQ., M.P., a director of the Sun Fire Office was created a baronet on the King's birthday.

**THE BANK OF MONTREAL.**

88TH ANNUAL MEETING; DIRECTORS' REPORT; LARGE PROFITS FOR YEAR; HEAVY BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD; STATEMENT SHOWS BUSINESS EXPANDING; QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS TO BE PAID; HEAD OFFICE BUILDING COMPLETED; LORD STRATHCONA RETIRES FROM PRESIDENCY; ELECTED HONORARY PRESIDENT; SIR GEORGE A. DRUMMOND, PRESIDENT, AND MR. E. S. CLOUSTON, VICE-PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER.

On the 4th inst. the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal held the 88th annual meeting of that institution. The Hon. Sir George A. Drummond, K.C.M.G., vice-president, presided in the absence of Lord Strathcona. A number of our leading citizens were in attendance.

The report of the directors was read by Mr. E. S. Clouston, general manager. The net profits for year ended 31st October, 1905, were given as \$1,638,650, to which \$583,196 being added, the amount brought from previous year, made a total of \$2,221,855. The distribution of this sum was as follows: two dividends were paid of 5 per cent. each, which took \$1,420,000, leaving \$801,855 as a balance to be carried forward at credit of profit and loss account to next year, 1905-6.

Since December, 1904, the assets and business of the People's Bank of Halifax have been acquired, with 26 branches. Sub-agencies have been established at Altona, Oakville and Logan Avenue (Winnipeg) in Manitoba, Enderby and Nicola in British Columbia, and Hochelaga (Montreal), and sub-agencies are to be opened at Fort Rouge (Winnipeg), and St. Anne de Bellevue.

The Head Office building, Montreal, is now completed and in occupation. The report announces that quarterly dividends will be paid in future, in March, June, September and December.

**THE GENERAL STATEMENT**

As at 31st October last, shows as in the following comparison with the figures of previous year:

	1904.	1905.	Increase.
	\$	\$	\$
Capital paid up.....	14,000,000	14,400,000	400,000
Reserve fund.....	10,000,000	10,000,000	None.
Balance carried forward...	583,196	801,855	218,659
Circulation.....	10,925,689	12,996,181	2,070,492
Deposits not bearing int....	23,681,366	31,438,001	7,756,635
Deposits bearing interest...	71,113,046	87,725,211	16,612,165
Gold and silver coin.....	4,083,672	5,089,152	1,005,480
Dominion notes.....	4,468,798	7,221,980	2,753,182
Total immediately available assets.....	48,881,689	68,833,030	19,951,341
Due by agencies, etc., in			
Great Britain.....	3,555,929	3,745,653	189,724
Due by foreign agencies...	1,112,152	2,293,384	1,181,232
Call and short loans in Gt. Britain and U. S.....	24,499,623	37,961,908	13,462,285
Dom. & Pro. G't. securities	519,863	432,244	Decrease.
R'way and other " ..	7,373,367	7,849,207	475,840
Notes & cheq's of other bks.	2,508,282	3,532,500	724,218
Current loans & discounts.	81,304,314	88,591,703	7,287,389
Total assets.....	131,166,768	158,232,409	27,065,641