

THE COMMERCIAL CONDITION OF CANADA

at the opening of the year was fairly good, and in this Province it might be described as prosperous, but we could not expect to escape for any length of time the demoralization in trade prevailing among our neighbors. While, therefore, we have enjoyed some advantages, I cannot be blind to the fact that trade with us now is both dull and depressed, the farmer is receiving low prices for his grain, manufactured products are extremely low in price, work is slow, indeed it would be folly to imagine that we could escape in this age of steam and electricity when interchange of ideas and commodities is so rapid, without feeling some sorrow from the unfortunate condition of affairs throughout the world. The shock has been too great to recover immediately, some improvement is visible in England, though in the United States the legislators are doing their best to prevent any. A redeeming feature in our situation is the condition of the dairy industry, which is steadily increasing in volume and returning good profits to the farmers. The local trade grows well, and I am informed that the importations of merchandise generally this spring are on a much smaller scale than usual. I took occasion last year to advert to the desirability of ceasing for a time from the large

BORROWINGS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES

to which governments and municipal corporations have been addicted, and threw out then a warning, that the policy, if persisted in, might seriously endanger the credit and disturb the financial stability of the country. I am glad to observe that this feeling has prevailed in influential quarters, and that on the part of the Dominion and Provincial Governments new undertakings, involving large capital expenditure, are being avoided. If the estimates of the Federal Government are adhered to, the expenditure on capital account during the ensuing year will be very considerably less than for a long time past, and as none of the funded debt of the Dominion, outstanding, matures before 1904, Canada as a borrower to any large extent in the British money market is likely to be conspicuous by her absence. I regret to say, however, that the same prudent foresight is not being displayed by some municipal corporations, whose civic rulers continue to incur liabilities at an excessive rate when compared with the increase of the surplus revenue available for interest purposes. An impairment of credit is thus risked, to say nothing of the contingency of higher taxation which is incurred. Hearing all these past troubles in mind and remembering also that we have large interests in the United States, where during the first half of the year it was difficult to say who was solvent, and during the second half we could not even net 1 per cent. for our money on call; bearing in mind, also, that the resources we carried gave confidence to the country, and that we cramped no deserving customer, that we came through the year with increased credit to the Bank, I venture to say that the shareholders

HAVE REASON TO BE SATISFIED with the statement laid before them to-day. I only hope that we will do as well next year. At present the outlook is not encouraging, we cannot be prosperous if the general community is not making money, prolonged depression must surely bring losses no matter how careful a banker may be, and our foreign balances are producing very poor results. At the date of this statement we had large amounts of money which could not be lent at any price, and competition is as keen as ever. As one of our most respected constituents said at one of our meetings, "Shareholders must begin to realize the inexorable logic of events, and that in the present days of keen and cutting competition fancy dividends and bonuses must be relegated to the indefinite future," and I agree with him. I am more than ever convinced that in order to keep up our present dividend it is absolutely necessary in the good years to husband our profits to meet years of depression and low rates of money, particularly in a heavily capitalized bank like ours.

The General Discussion.

After some remarks by Mr. John Morrison, Mr. John Crawford said that the directors, the shareholders and the public had good reason to be proud of the conservative policy pursued by the Dominion banks during the past year, and especially by the Bank of Montreal during a prolonged period of general commercial depression in the neighboring country. He went on to ask the character of the bonds, representing \$2,500,000, which were invested in American railways; also what amount had been charged to Profit and Loss account for rebate on current loans, and the aggregate amount loaned to directors and their firms. It was gratifying, he thought, to learn that the Profit and Loss account was nearing the figure of \$1,000,000, only \$300,000 more being required to bring it to that amount. When it reached that sum he hoped that it would become stationary, and would not be called upon unless for the equalization of dividends. He congratulated Mr. Gault, who was one of Montreal's foremost and most liberal citizens, upon his appointment to the directorate. He alluded to the Bank of England episode, and said that it furnished an excellent object lesson to bankers the world over, who should, he suggested, adopt as their motto the word "Vigilance." No one, he believed, would attach the slightest suspicion of dishonesty or disloyalty to any bank officials in the Dominion, who, as a class, would compare favorably with those of any other similar institutions elsewhere; but he considered that if the Bank of England had adopted the practice of appointing some of its directors, say, for a period of three months each, to enquire, if even only partially, into some of the principal accounts of the Bank, Mr. May could never have succeeded in hoodwinking the directors as he did.

Mr. John J. Arnton spoke in favor of dividends being paid quarterly, instead of semi-annually, believing that such a step would do very much to popularize the Bank, besides being a great advantage to those Shareholders who had what might be called a fixed income.

Mr. John Crawford also favored the paying of dividends quarterly; but the suggestion was opposed by Mr. John Morrison. The President then spoke as follows: Perhaps it would be well that I should just say a word or two. Our friend, Mr. Morrison, had an idea that we were putting the best face on the statement; we were putting it in the most explicit and clearest terms that we could before the Shareholders, to show that all had been done for their interest that was possible with the capital of the Bank during the past year. Mr. Crawford spoke of railway bonds, and wanted to know something about those held by the Bank. We look upon them as being absolutely good, and it was because they were considered to be the very best security that they were chosen. Moreover, they are readily convertible into cash at any time. As to the rebate of interest on bills under discount, they are something like \$300,000, and the amount loaned to the directors is about \$1,500,000. The English banks, as my friend

mentioned to those of Canada; and they have one advantage that we have not, and that is very much larger deposits for which they pay nothing. The Bank of England has been mentioned as an example of a bank that had met with some difficulty, and one which might have been avoided, possibly, had more care been taken by the Board. Mr. Crawford perhaps is not aware that it has a committee sitting daily to deal with all matters connected with the Bank. As to the paying of a dividend quarterly, spoken of by Mr. Arnton, I would say that the remarks I made last year upon this subject were earnestly meant, and the question had not been absent from the minds of the directors. The past year, however, would hardly have been an opportune time to deal with the question, owing to the crisis which we have, happily, in a great measure averted. But after the argument of Mr. Morrison—economy and providence—I think that I need not say much more on the subject. Economy is a very great virtue, and those who most closely exercise it will be best off at the end of the quarter, half year or year, or at whatever period the dividend may be paid.

The motion for the adoption of the report was then agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Director Mackenzie moved:—That the thanks of the meeting be presented to the President, Vice-President and Directors for their attention to the interests of the Bank.

This was seconded by Mr. James O'Brien and carried unanimously.

In returning thanks on behalf of the Board, the President said: During the past year, as in former years, we have always endeavored, as trustees of your capital and your interest in the Bank, to do all we could for your benefit. I have no doubt that such directors as may be elected to-day will continue to do their utmost, and that the Bank of Montreal will enjoy the prosperity that the circumstances of the country may permit.

Mr. A. F. Gault moved:—

That the thanks of the meeting be given to the General Manager, the Inspector, the Managers and other officers of the Bank for their services during the past year.

In making the motion Mr. Gault said: It is not necessary, I am sure, for me to say anything with regard to the General Manager. You are all aware of the very great ability he has put forth ever since he was connected with the Bank, but more especially during the year which has just passed. In that period he has had a very trying time, but to use a common expression, he has come through with flying colors. With regard to the Inspector, you all know he is a gentleman who has given a great deal of time to the work, and he has the utmost confidence of everyone connected with the Bank. As to the managers, I know many of them personally, and they would be a credit to any institution. It is not necessary for me to detain you by giving any single instance, but I may say that we have in London one of the best men, perhaps in the banking community, and one who would do credit to any banking institution in the world, whilst the manager here, Mr. Meredith, has proved himself a gentleman of very great ability, and in the affairs of the Bank he has displayed much zeal. As regards the officers of the Bank, it is only necessary to say that there has not been one defalcation or irregularity during the year. I think that is sufficient to show that we have a staff of officers of whom we may well be proud, and who deserve our cordial thanks.

The motion, which was seconded by Mr. W. H. Meredith, was unanimously carried, after which the General Manager briefly returned thanks.

Captain Beuven moved, seconded by Mr. F. S. Lyman, Q.C., and it was agreed to unanimously.

That the ballot, now open for the election of directors, be kept open until three o'clock, unless fifteen minutes elapse without a vote being cast, when it shall be closed, and until that time, and for that purpose only, this meeting be continued.

On the motion of Mr. John Morrison, a vote of thanks was accorded to the president for his conduct of the business of the meeting.

The Directors.

At the close of the poll the scrutineers declared the following elected as directors: Mr. R. H. Angus, Hon. George A. Drummond, Messrs. A. F. Gault, E. H. Greenfield, W. C. McDonald, Hugh McLennan, W. H. Meredith, A. T. Paterson, and Sir Donald A. Smith, K.C.M.G.

The President and Vice-President will, in the ordinary course of business, be elected at to-day's Board meeting.

Durham.

Bishop Dowling arrived on Saturday, 2nd inst., and was the guest of Rev. Fr. Malony. About nine o'clock the following morning they started for Glenelg where his lordship was due at 10.30 to dedicate the new Catholic church. A number of conveyances awaited at the parsonage and fell in after the bishop. All through the township the number increased and long before the church was reached the procession had become a very long one. The impressive dedicatory services were witnessed by a large assembly. Afterwards his lordship administered the confirmation rites to about fifty children and his address to them abounded in wise admonitions and advice. Then turning to the older portion of his congregation, his remarks took a wider range. The collection taken up resulted in a generous sum being contributed to liquidate the debt on the church.—*Durham Chronicle*.

Our readers will kindly bear in mind the picnic on the Exhibition Grounds in aid of the Industrial School at Blantyre Park. It takes place on July 1st. Every effort should be made to warrant its success for the sake of the venerable Archbishop who takes a special interest in this most important work—the care of the young boys.

Loretto Abbey has obtained at the recent examination in art, held by the Educational Department, in the primary course, the bronze medal, 4 full certificates, 31 proficiency certificates; in the advanced course, 1 full certificate, 22 proficiency certificates; in the mechanical course, 4 proficiency certificates. In extra subjects—painting, oil colors, 6 certificates: painting on china, 4 certificates.

The League of the Sacred Heart.

This month of the Sacred Heart in the Golden Jubilee year of the League has been marked by special and very impressive celebrations at St. Michael's Cathedral. The Feast itself, the first Friday and first day of the month, was given to the women and children of the League. After special and devout preparation, an unusually large number approached Holy Communion on that day at the beautiful altar of the Sacred Heart, where Mass was celebrated by Father Ryan, in presence of the Blessed Sacrament solemnly exposed for the entire day. In the evening the Very Rev. Vicar General McCann, spiritual director of the women's League and altar society, delivered a most impressive discourse, read a solemn act of consecration, and gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. As the second Sunday of the month was the quarterly communion day for the Men's League, Father Ryan, their spiritual director, determined to make it a grand jubilee day. A solemn Triduum of thanksgiving and preparation was held in the cathedral. All the members of the League were invited to this Triduum, and the exercises were splendidly attended. Father Ryan gave an instruction each evening on the end and object and progress of the League, and earnestly exhorted all to renewed zeal in this grand apostolate of the laity. At 9 o'clock Mass on Sunday the men and carlets of the League approached Holy Communion in a body and made a magnificent showing.

The Mass was said by the Very Rev. Vicar General McCann, and, Father Ryan being absent with the Archbishop on a confirmation tour, Father Kuhlender gave a brief and stirring address in which he warmly complimented the men on their splendid attendance. The Very Rev. Vicar General conducted the solemn evening service and preached one of his masterly sermons. A beautiful celebration held by the Vicar General himself on the preceding Sunday, illustrates very well how the League of the Sacred Heart helps on every other society and good work in a parish. The impressive ceremony of the preceding Sunday was the solemn reception of new members into the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin of which Very Rev. Father McCann is spiritual director.

In preparation for the celebration all the members of the sodality made a Triduum, which was held in their hall in Loretto Convent, Broad street, and was conducted by Father Ryan.

On Sunday morning the Young Ladies of the Sodality went to communion in a body at 9 o'clock Mass in the Cathedral, and on Sunday evening, the weather being fortunately favorable, they marched in procession from the convent to the church wearing their long white veils and bearing their beautiful banners. Having walked in procession up and down the aisles of the church, singing in full sweet chorus as they entered, they took their places in the Blessed Virgin's aisle which they entirely filled. After a very beautiful and touching discourse from their Very Rev. Director over fifty new members were received into the Sodality.

But perhaps the Altar Society of the cathedral shows even more than the sodality how powerfully the League helps to promote good works. The Altar Society is attached to the League, is formed of League Bands and follows League devotions, but its special work is to provide vestments and altar furniture for the church. This society is only a few years in existence, but animated by the zeal of the League, and wisely and efficiently conducted, it has contributed already to "the splendor of divine worship," over two thousand dollars.

Peterborough.

The regular monthly meeting of the Separate School Board was held in the Murray street school Wednesday night last. There were present Dr. Brennan (chairman), Messrs. Corkery, Lynch, Kelly, LeHane, Hickey and Goelein.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Communications were received from Mr. Burke and Miss Ryan asking for re-engagement, also from Mr. McFadden tendering for seating accommodation. The above communications were referred to the proper committees.

Several accounts were presented and referred to the Finance Committee.

The Property Committee recommended the purchasing of 24 double seats from Mr. McFadden.

On motion of Mr. LeHane, seconded by Mr. Lynch, the report was adopted.

It was moved by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. LeHane, that teachers seeking re-engagement make application not later than June 20th.—Carried.

The following is the attendance for the month of May:

	On Roll	Av. Att'd.
Convent.....	236	213
St. Mary's.....	161	151
Central.....	211	190

Total..... 608 554

After transacting other important business the Board adjourned to meet on June 20th. St. Peter's Court, No. 225, Catholic Order of Foresters, intend running their annual

excursion to Jubilee Point on June 21st. The new steamer "City of Peterborough" has been chartered for the day and a most enjoyable time is assured. The arrangements are in the hands of a Competent Committee and a pleasant outing may be looked for.

Posters are out announcing the annual picnic of St. Martin's Church, Kilmore and from present indications it will be a great success. The picnic will be held on Wednesday, June 13th, at the beautiful grove near Shannon's Narrows. Father McCull the zealous Pastor is leaving no stone unturned to make this the "Picnic of the Season."

Phippsion.

His Grace Archbishop Walsh accompanied by Very Rev. Dean Egan of Barrie, and Father Duffy of Orillia drove from Barrie to Phippsion to administer the sacrament of confirmation to the children of the Parish. Although the morning of the 7th inst. was wet and chilly, nevertheless the spacious new church was filled even to the doors. All were anxious once more to see their Chief Pastor whom they respect and love with that reverential affection which is peculiar to the people of Irish nationality. In the sanctuary, assisting His Grace, were Very Rev. Dean Egan, Fathers Labrecque, K. Kiernan, Moyns, Duffy, and Gearin. Before mass, which was sung by Father Labrecque P.P. of Pontiang, His Grace examined the pupils for confirmation, and complimented them on their knowledge of the Christian doctrine. After mass His Grace approached the altar railing and preached an eloquent, powerful and soul-stirring sermon on the sacrament they were about to receive, and on the reciprocal duties of parents and children. The candidates, 85 in number, then came to the rail of the altar, knelt and received the great sacrament "which was to make them stronger and more perfect Christians." The Phippsion choir sang the mass of the Angels with good effect. Lambillottus' Ave Maria was beautifully rendered at the offertory by Mrs. P. McAvoy, Miss Clara Byrne of Barrie. His Grace was well pleased with his visit to Phippsion, and complimented the pastor, Rev. M. J. Gearin, on the good work being done in the parish.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, I. C. B. U.

On Tuesday night the members of Our Lady of Good Counsel Branch, I.C.B.U. met in their hall on Bathurst street to listen with rapture to the eloquent words which they had expected to hear from the Rev. Father Ryan, our distinguished city orator. The presence of the Rev. Father Ryan was greeted with outbursts of applause. He spoke for upwards of an hour on the duties of Christian womanhood, what women have done for society. What they have done for the church and what the church and society expect of them. He told of the necessity of intellectual culture for true Christian womanhood and finally complimented the Ladies on their energy in having annexed a Literary Society to their Benevolent association, for which he predicted a glorious future. The Rev. orator was frequently applauded throughout his discourse.

Our musical repertoire consisted of some fine piano solos, songs, etc., and we fancy that a very pleasant and agreeable evening was spent by those who were present. After some remarks from Rev. Dr. Treacy, Dr. McKewen and our estimable Lady President, Mrs. Brown, the meeting adjourned. The Literary Society intends to have such reunions every month and on these occasions the audience may hope for what is best in the musical and rhetorical world of the Queen City.

Corner Stone.

His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto is to lay the corner stone of the new church at Richmond Hill on Sunday next at 12 o'clock noon. Father Teedy of St. Michael's College is to preach the sermon on the occasion. The zealous pastor, Father McElhoo, is to be congratulated on the success which he is achieving in his good work. The new building is to cost between five and six thousand dollars. The architects, Messrs. Post & Holmes of the city, are providing a very neat structure for the pious people of Richmond Hill.

Mr. James W. Mallon has left the legal firm of Ross, Cameron and Mallon and formed a partnership with Mr. Frank A. Anglin, formerly a partner of the late Dr. O'Sullivan. The offices of the new firm of Anglin and Mallon are in the Land Security Chambers on the South West corner of Adelaide and Victoria streets.

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