

**BANK OF MONTREAL.**

The half yearly report of the Bank of Montreal up to 29th April last shows a small decrease in net profits as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1903-4. In the former term the net profits were \$804,833, as against \$781,960 for the last half-year, the difference being a reduction from 5.75 to about 5.59 per cent. The decline is probably accounted for by the less remunerative rates for money prevailing in the outside money markets where the bank has considerable interests.

The amount brought forward from 31st October, 1904, the end of the banks last year, was \$583,196, which sum added to the net profits of \$781,960, which were realized between that date and 29th April last, makes a total of \$1,365,156 for distribution. Out of this a 5 per cent. dividend will be paid on 1st June next, amounting to \$700,000, which will leave \$665,156 to be carried forward to next half-year, as compared with \$478,821 which was the balance carried forward at the end of the corresponding term in 1904.

The General Statement shows the circulation to have differed by only \$6,379 from its figure a year ago. The deposits not bearing interest, or credit balances of current accounts, are also about the same as at end of April, 1904, the change being an increase of \$14,765. The deposits bearing interest, however, rose much higher in the year, the amount in April, 1904, being \$69,219,605, and in April, 1905, \$79,125,464, an increase of \$9,905,859.

The assets were materially enlarged last year. The gold, silver and Dominion notes were increased to extent of \$2,117,798; the call and short loans in Great Britain and United States rose from \$21,938,199 to \$27,601,510, an expansion of \$5,663,311, the amount due by agencies in Great Britain was larger by \$3,231,578, and those elsewhere by \$500,301. These, with other changes during the year added \$11,738,683 to the assets immediately available, the total assets now being \$135,124,452, as compared with \$125,075,365 a year ago.

As compared with the statement for October 31, 1904, the one for April, 1905, stands as follows:—

	April 27th, 1905.	Oct. 31st, 1904.	Increase or decrease
Capital paid up.....	14,000,000	14,000,000	No change
Reserve Fund.....	10,000,000	10,000,000	No change
Circulation.....	8,206,795	10,925,689	Dec. 2,718,894
Deposits not bearing interest.....	22,383,013	23,681,366	Dec. 1,298,353
Deposits at interest...	79,125,464	71,113,046	Inc. 8,012,418
Total Deposits.....	101,508,477	94,794,412	Inc. 6,714,065
Securities.....	7,677,630	7,893,231	Dec. 215,601
Call and short loans...	27,601,510	22,499,623	Inc. 5,101,887
Assets immediately available.....	54,455,367	48,881,689	Inc. 5,573,678
Bank premises.....	600,000	600,000	No change
Current loans and dis- counts.....	79,847,850	81,304,314	Dec. 1,456,464

The decrease in circulation represents the difference between the maximum and minimum of the year, each position being periodically reached, every year, with as little friction in the machinery of the currency as occurs in a high class watch, while in the United States these changes create as much noise as a coal cart.

The large expenditures on the office building in this city continue to make no sign in the valuation as given in the statement, that remains at the same figure at which it stood eight years ago, some years before the work was commenced which has made the Bank of Montreal office the handsomest banking room in the world, and the entire interior one of the sights of this city, as the whole institution is a source of pride to Canada.

**THE LONDON ASSURANCE CORPORATION.**

The London Assurance Corporation holds one of the largest and most honourable records of British insurance enterprises. Its founders were familiar with the events which led to the Revolution of 1688. As prominent citizens of London, some of them doubtless did their share in giving a welcome to the Prince of Orange who became William III. They had not the experience, nor technical knowledge which is now requisite for the successful conduct of fire insurance, but their eminent financial ability, foresight and prudence re-evidenced by the solid foundations they laid for a new insurance enterprise. The skill they exercised in its organization has enabled the Corporation to weather all the financial storms and conflagration dangers of far on towards 200 years, and yet remain one of the strongest institutions of its class.

During its long career the Corporation has promptly met all legitimate claims, has gone on quietly, growing in resources and in still adding to its claims to public confidence and favour.

Last year the net premium income of the fire department was \$2,771,470, the losses being \$1,496,110. The balance at the credit of the Fire Fund after transferring \$360,795 to profit and loss account amounted on 31st December last to \$3,600,000.

The Balance Sheet shows the total assets of the Corporation to be \$22,457,415 which exceeds the amount at end of 1903 by \$639,565.

The company had its share of last year's conflagration losses, which fell heavily on the business in Canada, but met with characteristic promptitude. The net cash received for fire premiums in 1904 by the Canadian branch was, \$144,315, and the net amount paid for losses \$170,898. That is for each \$100 received for net premiums, \$118.42 was paid out to reimburse the policy-holders for losses. Such are the risks incident to the business of fire insurance. Other companies had a far more disastrous experience, in eight cases the loss ratio