

# THE MOLSONS BANK.

## FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The 57th annual general meeting of the Shareholders of The Molsons Bank was held in the new Board room of their Banking House, 200 St. James street, Montreal, at 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon, October 21st.

The President, Mr. William Molson Macpherson, took the chair, and there were also present Messrs. S. H. Ewing, Vice-President; George E. Drummond, George Durnford, David McNicoll, Chas. E. Spragge, F. W. Molson, Kenneth Molson, Herbert Molson, Alexander D. Fraser, Percival Molson, W. H. Evans, A. Piddington, James Elliot, General Manager, and W. H. Draper, Superintendent of Branches.

In opening the proceedings, the President called upon Mr. W. H. Draper to act as Secretary and to read the notice calling the meeting, which was done.

The President then called upon Mr. James Elliot to read the Annual Report of the Directors as follows:

### ANNUAL REPORT.

Your Directors have pleasure in submitting to the Shareholders this the Fifty-seventh Annual Report of The Molsons Bank and Statement of its position on 30th September, 1912.

The business shows a steady increase in volume and the demand for money has been good during the year.

The net profits after providing for Operating Expenses and Bad and Doubtful Debts amount to \$684,779.25. After payment of 11 per cent. in Quarterly Dividends, writing off \$66,515.65 to Bank Premises, and subscription to our Pension Fund, etc., \$109,000 has been transferred to the Reserve Fund, raising it to \$4,700,000. The balance, \$42,522.30, has been added to Profit and Loss Account, making it \$161,828.42 at credit.

During the year Branches have been opened at Belleville, Ont., and in Montreal at Bernard Avenue and at Ville St. Pierre (Blue Bonnets); whilst our Branch at Dashwood, Ont., has been closed.

Besides alterations and extensions in this our Main Building, now completed, your Directors have found it necessary and advisable to provide premises at various Branches, namely, Calgary, Drummondville, London and Vancouver, involving heavy expenditure. To meet this, \$400,000 has been added to our Bank Premises Account, making it \$1,100,000. The market value of your properties much exceeds this.

By the much regretted and tragic death of Mr. H. Markland Molson, lost on the "Titanic," the Bank loses the services of an able and energetic Director, one untiring in promoting its interests. Mr. Fred W. Molson, his brother, has been appointed in his place.

Mr. A. D. Durnford's sudden death also makes a void on the Staff deeply felt, after an efficient and faithful service of over forty years. Mr. W. H. Draper, late Inspector, has been appointed Superintendent of Branches in his place.

All Branches of the Bank, and the Head Office, have been inspected during the year, and the Officers have efficiently performed their duties.

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President made the following statement:—

Gentlemen,—We have much pleasure in again meeting you, our Shareholders, and hope you will be satisfied with the Bank's Statement now submitted, showing its progress, which you may see by comparison with last year's figures, placed opposite.

As to the future, business prospects seem very satisfactory. Settlers are coming, in even increased numbers, of a good class—many with full experience of farming—and with means to invest in our country, becoming at once both producers as well as consumers. The new arrivals this year from 1st April to 1st October have been 273,649. Our manufacturers, because of this additional population to be provided for, are doing well, and both imports and exports are growing, and are now at the highest point ever attained. For the twelve months

ending 30th September, according to Government returns, the total imports are \$616,842,090, and exports, \$351,852,292; total imports and exports, \$968,694,382—a truly great trade for our small population—but I must say I would like to see the exports greater in proportion to the amount of imports. Development is proceeding rapidly, and we are borrowing immense sums, mainly from Great Britain, which is right and necessary, but we must not forget that we owe this money, and have to pay interest on it, therefore our people should avoid extravagance in living expenditure, and devote themselves to the economical exploitation of our natural resources, and so afford ample means of living to our increasing population, so that the stream of desirable immigration may be kept up.

Our farmers, in the West especially, should go more into mixing farming; this continued cropping of wheat, though it pays best for a time, will ultimately lessen the productiveness of the land, and it does seem absurd to see vegetables, butter and cheese, sent from the East to Western people, who are so well able to produce them. Besides, it would tend to afford employment all the year round to an agricultural population, and so lessen the necessity of the migration of labourers from the East during the wheat harvest months. The establishment of manufactures at places having favourable conditions, will also tend to lessen the evil.

That our country is growing in wealth, is shown by the steady increase in banking figures of 31st August last:

	Last year.	
Capital Paid up . . . . .	\$ 114,098,525	\$103,716,950
Note Circulation . . . . .	101,501,270	90,630,530
Deposits by public . . . . .	1,004,239,021	886,852,624
Loans . . . . .	929,065,879	801,420,146

the number of Branches in Canada, now 2,739, affording ample banking facilities to the whole country.

The Dominion Government is exercising every endeavor to establish and foster new markets for our products in the West Indies, South Africa and the Northern Countries of Europe. The result will, doubtless, be increased demand for our fisheries and agricultural products.

Cheap transportation East and West is our great need. The railways are using their best efforts to increase mileage, but they are much hampered by want of labor; great progress, however, is being made. Their plans for new lines and double tracking of existing lines, are very extensive indeed, besides which, the orders given for additional locomotives and cars will keep the locomotive and car works of the country busy for many months ahead.

The estimated wheat crop in the North West for this year is probably 200,000,000 bushels, and the oats, barley, and flax crops are also very large.

The supply of cattle, sheep and horses in the North West is inadequate for the needs of the country, in addition to the requirements of the export trade, and should receive greater attention at the hands of the farmers.

It is to be expected that the Banking Act will receive consideration by our Government and Parliament during the coming Session. From practical experience, the existing Act has proved satisfactory—we do not, therefore, anticipate any radical change in it. Full inspection by Government would be very difficult to carry out, but a moderate system of audit and inspection of a Bank's position, and securities, would prove of advantage, and tend to prevent a repetition of some failures of the past.

Our Board has suffered a very serious loss through the tragic fate of the "Titanic" which caused the death of one of our most valued and esteemed Directors, Mr. H. Markland Molson. His close attention, banking experience, as well as strong family interest in the Bank, made him an exceptionally valuable and able director. He was also director of several other large financial institutions, and will be greatly missed. His place on our Board is filled by Mr. F. W. Molson, whose experience in general business cannot fail to render most valuable services to the Bank.