

To-day, for example, so low has the rate of interest fallen that the Government found it necessary to accept  $1\frac{1}{4}$  for fifteen millions of dollars placed temporarily with banks in Montreal.

The figures above show that while deposits increased in our banks seven times over in thirty years, circulation very little more than doubled and discounts hardly doubled, all facts that show the stability of our banks and banking system. Dividends paid on the earnings of Banks in Montreal runs from 6 to 10 per cent. Take this table. It gives the present condition of Montreal Banks in a nut-shell.

#### STATEMENT OF BANKS ACTING UNDER CHARTER.

*For the month ending 31st December, 1885, according to the Returns furnished by them to the Department of Finance.*

| NAME OF BANK.                | Capital Authorized. | Capital Subscribed. | Capital Paid-Up. | Reserve Fund. | Total Liabilities. | Total Assets. | Dividend Declared Rate per annum |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Bank of Montreal.....        | 12,000,000          | 12,000,000          | 12,000,000       | 6,000,000     | 28,077,748.47      | 46,749,584.37 | 10                               |
| Bank of British N. America.. | 4,866,666           | 4,866,666           | 4,866,666        | 1,055,100     | 6,714,669.00       | 11,423,842.00 | 6                                |
| Banque du Peuple.....        | 1,200,000           | 1,200,000           | 1,200,000        | 200,000       | 2,147,430.34       | 3,676,680.11  | 6                                |
| Banque Jacques-Cartier ....  | 500,000             | 500,000             | 500,000          | 140,000       | 1,251,552.83       | 1,912,559.25  | 6                                |
| Banque Ville-Marie.....      | 500,000             | 500,000             | 500,000          | 20,000        | 959,737.34         | 1,462,543.94  | 7                                |
| Banque d'Hochelega.....      | 1,000,000           | 710,100             | 710,100          | 70,000        | 1,188,549.75       | 1,973,811.01  | 6                                |
| Molson's Bank.....           | 2,000,000           | 2,000,000           | 2,000,000        | 675,000       | 7,952,303.04       | 10,833,081.98 | 8                                |
| Merchants' Bank of Canada..  | 6,000,000           | 5,798,267           | 5,736,699        | 1,375,900     | 14,622,697.89      | 21,982,369.11 | 7                                |
| Banque Nationale.....        | 2,000,000           | 2,000,000           | 2,000,000        | Nil.          | 2,250,341.21       | 4,399,880.41  | Nil.                             |

#### TRADE OF THE PORT OF MONTREAL.

Having touched upon the heart of our commercial system, on banks let us give the reader a glance at their arteries and feeders. This the trade of the Port of Montreal has to do with. From the report of Geo. A. Hadrill, Secretary of the Montreal Board of Trade, we find that the total tonnage of sea-going vessels for season of 1885 was 683,854 tons, which exceeds the previous highest record (664,263 tons in 1883). Of this tonnage only 9.39 per cent. was sail, showing how completely steamers have supplanted sailing vessels in the ocean carrying trade of this port. Of inland vessels there arrived 5003, with a total tonnage of 724,975 tons, the aggregate of ocean and inland tonnage being 5632 vessels and 1,408,829 tons.

The lumber trade continues to be a large item in Montreal's shipping business. The exports to South America in 1885 employing 47 vessels, carrying a total of 26,465,543 feet, the shipments to the United Kingdom being 89,667,407 feet, of which 84,282,275 feet were by steamers.

There is a large and steady increase in the exports of Phosphate, last year's figures being 24,299 tons; for 1884, 20,461 tons; and for 1883, 17,160 tons.

Receipts of coal by sea in 1885 were, from Great Britain 48,022 tons, from the United States 213,641 tons, and from the Maritime Provinces 215,600 tons, or a total of 478,953 tons.

The port has elevators give great vessel of 120 tons and of 4000 tons water and of 4000 tons the deepening of a river a purveyor of from sea at the port merchandise in 185 were exported value In 1850, the export the expansion goes

In 1887, some from Montreal's port The Cattle Export the value of imported fallen to \$573,690.

to \$10,668,675. The third largest port than the other American Pacific Railway) to Liverpool via Montreal miles shorter by the

The first ocean 700 tons burden, arrived the St. Lawrence harbor ocean steamships, with 870,883 in 1887.

At the time of the Harbor of Montreal harbor proper over \$1,881,000, being a cost more than this sum, harbor, embracing a the river St. Pierre tonnage dues and taxes

The cost of excavation

Here is one way a newspaper:—

"There was then commanded by Captain C a brig of 276 tons, a butcher, whose establish