

1897.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

Held 7th June, 1897.

(From THE GAZETTE, of June 8th, 1897.)

The seventy-ninth annual meeting of the Shareholders of the Bank of Montreal was held in the Board Room at 1 o'clock yesterday.

There were present Hon. George A. Drummond, Vice-President; Messrs. Hugh McLennan, W. C. McDonald, E. B. Green-shields, Hector Mackenzie, Hon. James O'Brien, Donald Macmaster, W. W. Ogilvie, F. T. Judah, Angus W. Hooper, J. W. Howard, Richard White, James Wilson, jr., W. J. Buchanan, M. Burke, H. Mason, Alex. Mitchell, H. Drummond, W. Wallace, E. Rawlings, F. H. Simms, John Molson and J. McCarthy.

On the motion of Mr. John Crawford, the Hon. George A. Drummond, Vice-President, was unanimously voted to the chair, in the absence of the President, Sir Donald A. Smith.

On the motion of Hon. James O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Donald Macmaster, it was agreed:—"That the following gentlemen be appointed to act as scrutineers:—Messrs. W. J. Buchanan and Angus W. Hooper; and that Mr. James Aird be the Secretary of this meeting."

The Report.

The report of the Directors to the Shareholders at their 79th annual general meeting was read by Mr. Clouston, the General Manager, as follows:—

The Directors have pleasure in presenting the 79th annual report, showing the result of the Bank's business of the year ended 30th April, 1897:

Balance of Profit and Loss Account
30th April, 1896.....\$ 856,908.98
Profits for the year ended 30th
April, 1897, after deducting
charges of management, and mak-
ing full provision for all bad and
doubtful debts.....1,800,561.70

Dividend 5 per cent., paid 1st
December, 1896.....\$800,000
Dividend 5 per cent., payable
1st June, 1897.....600,000

Balance of Profit and Loss Account
carried forward.....\$ 856,908.98

A branch of the Bank has been opened at
New Denver, B.C.

The Directors decided to erect a building
for the Bank's use at Victoria, B.C., and it
is now approaching completion.

All the offices of the Bank, including the
Head Office, have been inspected during the
past year.

DONALD A. SMITH,
President.

30th April, 1897.

General Statement, 30th April, 1897.

LIABILITIES.	
Capital Stock.....	\$12,000,000.00
Reserve.....	\$ 6,000,000.00
Balance of Profits car- ried forward.....	\$ 856,908.98
Unclaimed Dividends, Half-yearly Dividend, payable 1st June, 1897.....	\$ 6,856,908.98 8,046.01
	600,000.00
	7,494,955.99

Notes of the Bank in circulation.....	\$ 4,563,386.00
Deposits not bearing interest.....	11,897,668.27
Deposits bearing in- terest.....	28,137,088.89
Balances due to other Banks in Canada.....	12,363.73
	44,600,530.89
	\$ 64,095,486.88

ASSETS.	
Gold and Silver Coin Current.....	\$ 2,495,062.59
Government Demand Notes.....	3,124,192.50
Deposit with Do- minion Government required by Act of Parliament for security of general bank note circula- tion.....	265,000.00
Due by Agencies of this Bank and other Banks in Foreign Countries.....	7,750,882.14
Due by Agencies of this Bank and other Banks in Great Britain.....	6,893,774.73

Balances due by other Banks in Canada.....	14,644,656.87
Dominion and Pro- vincial Government Securities.....	18,877.18
United States Railway Bonds.....	1,410,798.07
Notes and Cheques of other Banks.....	3,325,010.08
	1,281,658.72
	\$ 25,445,956.01

Bank Premises at Montreal and Branches.....	600,000.00
Current Loans and Discounts, (rebate interest reserved) and other securities at a value.....	30,725,725.42
Debt secured by mortgage or other security.....	98,760.14
Overdue debts not specially secured (loss provided for).....	123,745.31
	36,500,230.87
	\$ 64,095,486.88

E. S. CLOUSTON,
General Manager,
Bank of Montreal, Montreal, 30th April, 1897.

The General Manager.

Mr. Clouston, said: Referring to the balance sheet submitted to you at this meeting, there are several important changes which it may be as well to give some explanation of. In fact, the figures without an explanation would convey a wrong impression. The first change of any importance is an increase of \$3,791,000 in deposits not bearing interest. This is nearly all of a temporary character, caused chiefly by Government deposits, and will probably disappear before long. In deposits bearing interest there is a large increase of \$3,910,000. Aside from the steady increase in our Savings Bank Deposits, there are some special amounts here which also lack permanency. I cannot say that bankers at present regard with any great degree of pleasure the increase in this item, particularly when they, like ourselves, are obliged to lend it abroad at a nominal rate. Our cash reserves have increased \$411,000, a small amount proportionately for the increase in liabilities, but as we are so strong in immediately available resources elsewhere, it is a matter of little moment. There is an increase of \$2,610,000 in the amount due us by agents in Great Britain, which is an immediately available asset, though not a very paying one at present rates. The appearance of the item in the statement of Dominion and Provincial Government Securities, is due chiefly to an operation in the bonds of this province and will very likely not remain there long. Our United States Railway Bonds have increased \$387,000. This item constantly changes, as we are active dealers in them, and frequent participants with other banks in bond issues. Our loans have increased \$1,956,000, principally from a desire on the part of the business community to pay duties in anticipation of a prospective change in the tariff, partly also from a general expansion in our business. Our debts secured and unsecured have increased \$123,826, not a very large sum considering the trying year we have just completed. The same remark applies to our profits, which show a falling off of \$10,635.

Altogether you will admit we are in an exceptionally strong financial position, but one in which we can make much profit with the present low value of money in foreign markets. In fact, each succeeding year seems to increase the difficulty of maintaining our profits, and when, in addition, we are obliged to provide for the shrinkage in values naturally resulting from the prolonged depression in business it is almost a matter of surprise that we are