THE BANK OF MONTREAL—*Continued.*

thing for the Bank and its Shareholders. Mr. Meredith has spent all his active business life in the service of the Bank, is familiar with its policy, is trained in its traditions, and has been uniformly successful in his previous appointments. I have no doubt he will be equally successful in the high office to which he is called, and I am quite satisfied your property will be handled conservatively.

Rev. G. H. Parker then made a brief address, enquiring whether there was a prospect of increased dividends to the shareholders, with the increased earning capacity of the Bank.

Mr. R. B. Angus—"This question has already been dealt with by the retiring General Manager. He was of course only speaking for himself and without any knowledge of what the year might bring forth, when we shall be in better position to ascertain what the profits are. There is no doubt whatever that if the profits are adequate an additional dividend will be paid, but this depends so much on the outcome of the year's business that nothing definite can be said in anticipation."

The annual report was then unanimously adopted.

It was moved by Mr. Hugh Paton, seconded by Mr. George Hooper, that the thanks of the meeting be presented to the President, the Vice-President, and Directors, for their attention to the interests of the Bank.

Mr. Hugh Paton—"I am informed that it is not usual to speak to this motion. I will therefore content myself by remarking that it is peculiarly applicable to the present occasion, judging by the events of the year, and the work of the Bank as shown by the report just presented."

The motion was then unanimously adopted.

The President—"Gentlemen, on behalf of the President, the Vice-President and Directors, I wish to thank you for this mark of your renewed confidence. We have been able to carry on the affairs of the Bank during the year, with the loyal support of the staff, all of whom have been anxious to work for the furtherance of the interests of this Institution. I feel that all the officials and staff have done their duty, and on behalf of them I wish to express our appreciation of the cordial support we have always received in our work." (Applause.)

Moved by Sir Thomas G. Shaughnessy, seconded by Mr. C. R. Hosmer, that the thanks of the Meeting be given to the General Manager, the Assistant General Manager, the Superintendents, the Inspectors, the Managers, and other Officers of the Bank, for their services during the past year.

This was unanimously adopted.

The General Manager (Sir Edward Clouston)—"On behalf of myself, the Assistant General Manager, and the other officers of the Bank, I wish to thank you for this kind motion. I have always realized that the success of anyone in the position I have held depends largely on the efficiency and loyalty of his staff. I feel that I have had that to a great extent in the past, and on behalf of the Staff I have much pleasure in thanking you for your sign of continued confidence."

Mr. C. H. Cahan, K.C.—"As a shareholder I think it would be an expression of the feeling of all the shareholders of this bank if we, as shareholders, moved an expression of our regret at the announcement of the retirement of Sir Edward Clouston from the chief executive office of the bank, and an expression of our appreciation of the valuable services he has for so many years rendered to this bank and its clients. Sir Edward Clouston has during many years held a very important and distinguished place in the banking affairs of Canada. Not only have his experience and services been of invaluable assistance to this bank, but by his clear judgment, keen insight and extended knowledge of business affairs, his advice has been of invaluable assistance to the clients of this Bank, who have frequently used it in times of need.

"As a shareholder, therefore, I beg to move a resolution expressing our appreciation of the services of Sir Edward Clouston and our regret that the circumstances of his health and long service have rendered it necessary in his opinion for him to sever his connection with the bank as its chief executive officer." (Applause).

This resolution was seconded by Mr. James Skeoch, and unanimously adopted.

Sir Edward Clouston: "I must thank the mover and seconder of this resolution, and the Shareholders sincerely for all that has been said. I have always tried to do my best in the interests of the bank during my long connection with it, and feel very keen regret that I am now compelled to sever my connection with it as general manager."

The ballot for the election of Directors was then proceeded with, and without much delay the Scrutineers appointed for that purpose reported the following gentlemen duly elected, the old Board being re-elected:—

Messrs.:—R. B. Angus, A. Baumgarten, Sir Edward Clouston, Bart., E. B. Greenshields, C. R. Hosmer, Sir William C. Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, H. V. Meredith, D. Morrice, James Ross, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., Rt. Hon. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

At a meeting of the Directors held later, the Right Honourable Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., was elected Honorary President of the Bank, Mr. R. B. Angus President, and Sir Edward Clouston, Bart., Vice-President.

The Canadian Fire Record.

QUEBEC, P.Q.—St. Louis Hotel, damaged, November 29.

ST. MARTINS, N.B.—Hunter hotel destroyed, November 28.

WILCOX, SASK.—Imperial oil warehouse destroyed, November 25. Loss about $2,000. Supposed origin, spontaneous combustion.

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.—Government buildings destroyed, November 27.

SPARTA, ONT.—J. T. Donnelly's cheese factory, destroyed, December 4. Some cheese and machinery saved. Building, total loss.

HAMILTON, ONT.—Evaporator plant of M. C. Smith, at Burlington, destroyed, December 1. Loss on building and stock, heavy.

WINNIPEG.—Fire on first floor of Smart Bag Company's factory, 150 Alexander avenue. Originated in sacks piled near a radiator.

OWEN SOUND, ONT.—Dry kiln of Kenen Woodware Company's plant destroyed, December 10, with contents. Loss about $15,000. Supposed origin, tramps.

ST. THOMAS, ONT.—Premises of St. Thomas Packing Company damaged, November 29. Supposed origin, spark from locomotive. Loss covered by insurance.

NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.—Barn in rear of Hotel Rosli, Bridge street, destroyed, December 2, with two horses and contents. Loss $2,500, partially covered by insurance.

EDMONTON, ALTA.—Building and plant of the Courrier de l'Ouest, a French weekly publication, destroyed, November 29. Break in water main prevented brigade fighting fire. Loss $20,000, covered by insurance.

ACQUITTED OF ARSON CHARGE.

Ovila Lambert, charged with inciting to arson in connection with the fire which destroyed Peloquin's hotel at Ahuntsic last summer was acquitted by Judge Choquet, at Montreal, on the ground that there was no reliable testimony against him. The principal witness was Henri Carufel, a bartender, who after denying arson before the Fire Commissioner, subsequently stated that he was paid by Lambert to set the place on fire.