

**CANADA'S
OLDEST AND GREATEST
FINANCIAL
INSTITUTION.**

BANK OF MONTREAL.

Today the "Exchange News" is for the first time introduced to the public and being an essentially Financial and Commercial Journal, and the only daily paper of this nature, in Canada, it is deemed most appropriate to devote a portion of its columns to a brief outline of the first and unquestionably the most important Financial institution in the Dominion. We, it need hardly be said, refer to the Bank of Montreal, a name that has become a household word throughout Canada, and is almost equally well known throughout the world. Its present unrivalled position reflects the highest credit on the management under the immediate direction of Mr. E. S. Clouston, whose long connection with the bank, and thorough training he has undergone in that institution, fit him in an eminent degree for the onerous position he now occupies. Mr. Clouston's career with the Bank of Montreal extends over a period of thirty-three years; a period marked by steady progress and unvarying success. From his first connection with the bank in 1865, his course has been one of uniform upward tendency until he has now reached the pinnacle. The duties devolving upon him as General Manager are necessarily arduous and trying, but his thorough grasp of the whole business enables him to combine efficiency with economy, which is a matter of the utmost importance where there are so many branches so wide apart to be looked after. That this duty is ably performed is best shown by the standard dividend of ten per cent. which is paid by the Bank year after year, with a bonus when times are exceptionally good.

Volumes might be written in giving a detailed history of the bank from its inception to the present time, but space will only admit of a brief summary.

The Bank of Montreal was the first bank established in Canada, with the modest capital of \$350,000. It was founded in 1817 the exact day being the third of November. When we consider that this was near the end of the second decade of the present century it seems almost impossible to realize the gigantic strides this institution has made, and the almost unparalleled position the bank has established for itself throughout the financial world. At present it ranks second only to the Bank of England in point of capital, but second to none in credit and stability. From the date above alluded to up to the present, the career of the Bank of Montreal has been one of steadily increasing prosperity, with an almost entire absence of those varying fluctuations that have marked, and often marred, the progress of banking and financial institutions. From the time of Mr. John Gray, its first President, down to the present date, when Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal so ably fills that honored position, the affairs of the bank have been handled with remarkable skill, ability and foresight.

The bank had no charter when it first opened its doors, owing to the delay in securing the authorization of the Imperial Government, which was necessary as well as that of the Legislature. The beginning was small, offices being rented at \$750 a year, and the business conducted by Mr. Robert Griffin, Cashier, one Teller and one Accountant. The promoters excepted themselves from the liability of partnership, by declaring the bank a limited corporation, and the first issue of notes bore the inscription "to be

paid out of the funds of the bank and no other." "Where caution marks the guarded way" has been the motto ever-present to the minds of the executive since that time, and to this may be attributed in a great measure the success which the bank has achieved.

The first issue of notes bore date January 1st, 1818, but the bank was not incorporated until 1821. As already stated Mr. John Gray was the first President, Mr. Robert Griffin, Cashier, the original directors being George Garden, Horatio Gates, James Leslie, John Forsyth, Thomas Porteous, Thomas Hiam, F. W. Ermatinger, James Millar, Thomas Torrance, Austin Cuvillier, Peter McCutcheon and David David. The capital, \$350,000, was increased in 1819 to \$650,000, and in the following year to \$750,000. The story of the increase in the paid-up capital of the bank, from this date, is one of the most remarkable in the history of banking. In 1829 the capital had increased to \$850,000; in 1841 it was \$2,000,000; in 1845, \$3,000,000; in 1855, \$4,000,000; in 1860, \$6,000,000. In 1871, the directors were authorized to double this capital, and by January 15th, 1872, the new stock had been taken to the extent of \$2,000,000, and by November 27th, of the same year the remaining \$4,000,000 was subscribed. A remarkable feature in this connection was that the stock was sold at 25 per cent. premium, thus netting a nice profit of \$1,500,000. This amount was added to the Rest which now stands at \$6,000,000. This reserve has several times stood the shareholders in good stead, in times of depression, for among other things it is an earning power.

Reference has been made to the almost uninterrupted career of the success of the Bank of Montreal, but it must not be forgotten that it had its little difficulties to contend with in the early days of its existence. From the time of incorporation up to 1824 the bank made satisfactory progress, when, under the management of Mr. Samuel Gerrard, evil days fell upon the business and during the three years, 1824-1827, the bank lost nearly one-half of its capital. It, however, shortly regained its ground and commenced that steady progress, which has marked its career up to the present time. In writing about the troubled times above alluded to, Mr. H. Dupuy, the only surviving clerk in the service of the Bank of Montreal in 1868, and who had been connected with the bank from its commencement says under date, June 4th, 1868:—

"Samuel Gerrard, Esq., was I think the next President, the head of the firm of Gillespie, Moffatt & Co.; he was a very intelligent experienced man of business. As the Accountant, I was often with him, and knew him well, and am satisfied that he was not spoken of as highly as he merited; however, those times are past and we will not say any more on the subject. I saw nothing wrong in him." Mr. Dupuy should certainly be accepted as an authority on the matter and with him we would gladly say: "De mortuis nil nisi bonum."

In addition to a general banking business in loans, discounts and deposits, the bank issues drafts to all points in the Dominion, letters of credit available in China, Japan and all countries where banking business is transacted. The bank also does an enormous business in the purchase of sterling exchange and drafts on New York. It is pre-eminently the financial institution of which Canada feels proud, and is pointed to as a model of a New World monetary concern, reared upon a financial basis second to none on the continent of America.

Apart from the business transacted at the head office, the executive has control over 40 branches established at various points in the Dominion, and is also represented in Great Britain, and the United States by experienced agents of its own, having special correspondents in India, Australia, China, Japan, &c., thus encir-

cling the globe with its ramifications. The arrangements that have been made during the past few years by which the bank undertakes to float all civic loans for the Corporation of Montreal is highly creditable to the Executive and confers a substantial boon on the taxpayers of the city. Civic loans are arranged through the Bank of Montreal on far more advantageous terms than heretofore obtained.

The present officials are: The Rt. Hon. Lord Strathcona & Mount Royal, President; Hon. Geo. A. Drummond, Vice-President.

Directors: A. T. Paterson, Esq., Hugh McLennan, Esq., W. C. McDonald, Esq., R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., A. F. Gault, Esq., W. W. Ogilvie, Esq.

General Manager: E. S. Clouston.

Mr. G. W. SIMPSON

Retires from the Montreal Stock Exchange after a service of Thirty-Six Years.

Yesterday was a day not to be forgotten in the history of the Montreal Stock Exchange. The last day of May, 1898, virtually saw the last of its oldest member, Mr. G. W. Simpson, as an active member. For the past thirty-six years, he has been one of the most prominent figures. "Where Brokers most do congregate," and the members of the Exchange will not be deprived of his society altogether, as they have elected him an honorary member. This is a distinction rarely accorded, but certainly never more truly deserved. Mr. Simpson, having decided to retire into more private life and enjoy his well-earned rest, has transferred his seat to his nephew, Mr. C. Simpson-Garland, who now enjoys the proud distinction of membership of that necessarily exclusive body of financiers.

Of Mr. Simpson, it may be truly said that few men have been held in higher esteem by his confreres and the public with whom he came in contact, than he has. His ready joke and genial smile possessed a charm that was irresistible. His manner was always unassuming, and he gained upon his friends' good feeling in a manner almost imperceptible.

In the Exchange he filled the offices of Secretary-treasurer, and formed for a long time one of the governing committee. In the discharge of these duties he was ever faithful, punctual and prompt—When his exertions were called in quest on behalf of his numerous clients there was no fear of their interests suffering from any want of thorough independence and hard work on his part, and many have reason to be thankful for having entrusted their affairs with him.

In addition to his Stock Exchange business Mr. Simpson has for many years had the management of several out-of-town estates, and this branch of his business has always been conducted on the same good, old, conservative principle, which guided all his actions.

The sum paid by Mr. Simpson's nephew for the seat he has had the good fortune to secure is \$6,000 although the value of it is said to be fully \$7,000. As a matter of fact the price offered for any seat in the stock exchange that may become vacant after this date is \$7,200.00.

Edward L. Bond,

INSURANCE

**Marine, Fire, Accident,
Plate Glass.**

**30 ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER ST.,
MONTREAL.**

MONTREAL WHEAT AND PROVISION MARKET.

Montreal, June 2.

The wheat market to-day showed a much stronger feeling, notwithstanding the current, though erroneous, report, that June wheat had dropped 15c yesterday. Dealers are confidently expecting an advance in price within the next two or three days, and there is every prospect of steady trade and firm prices.

Flour still remains inactive at recent rates, the following being the quotations:

Strong Patents . . . \$6.90 @ 0.00 per bbl
Strong Winter . . . 5.80 @ 6.15
Straight Rollers . . . 5.40 @ 5.65
Manitoba Strong
Bakers' best brands 6.40 @ 6.50
Manitoba Strong
Bakers' 2nds . . . 5.70 @ 6.10
Straight Rollers, bgs 2.65 @ 2.75

The cheese market shows a firmness in to-day's dealings, and there is an increased demand for export, though not sufficient to affect the price to any material extent, which are as below:

Butter is in fair demand at current rates, the chief enquiry being for finest creamery.

CHEESE.

Western 7 c @ 7½c per lb.
Eastern 6½c @ 6¾c per lb.
Cab. for White 33 s @ 35 s p.cwt
Cab. for Col. . . . 36 s @ 36 s p.cwt

BUTTER.

Finest Creamery . . 15½c @ 16c p. lb.
Townships Dairy . 14 c @ 15c p. lb.
Western 13 c @ 14c p. lb.

EGGS.

There is still a good demand for eggs, and the tone of the market rules firm at 10c to 10½c per dozen.

PORT OF MONTREAL.

Arrivals June 1 and 2.

Steamship Lobelia, Watson, Sydney, McLean, Kennedy & Co., coal.
Steamship Turret Age, Brady, Sydney, Kingman & Co., coal.
Steamship Lake Ontario, Liverpool, D. W. Campbell, general.
Steamship Alcides, Glasgow, R. Reford & Co., general.
Steamship Samara, Walker, Greenock, McLean, Kennedy & Co., light.

Cleared June 1.

Steamship Tritonia, Rollo, Glasgow, R. Reford & Co., general.
Steamship Admiral Ihlen, March, Sharpness, F. R. McCarthy, deals.
Steamship Montrose, Evans, Bristol, Elder-Dempster & Co., general.
Steamship Turret Age, Brady, Sydney, Kingman & Co., light.

VESSELS IN PORT.

Steamships.

Derwentholme, 1830, Holmes, McLean, Kennedy & Co.,
Sheerness, 1413, Norman, McLean, Kennedy & Co.,
Oswestry, 1559, Wilson, McLean, Kennedy & Co.,
Cairo, Rowe, T. P. McCarthy.
Gallina, White.
Scotsman, Skrimshire, D. Torrance & Co.,
Numidian, Macnicol, H. & A. Allan.
Strathmore, Cunningham, J. Thom.
Lobelia, Waters, Sydney, McLean Kennedy & Co.
Lake Ontario, Liverpool, D. W. Campbell.
Alcides, Glasgow, R. Reford & Co.
Gallia, Stewart, Liverpool, Beaver Line.
Straits of Menai, Forest, D. Torrance & Co.
Leconfield, Farnell, McLean, Kennedy & Co.

Barques.

Grei, 329, Arntsen, T. R. McCarthy.
Svithiod, 346, Svensson, T. R. McCarthy.
Eva Lynch, Hatfield, J. R. McCarthy.

Schooner.

W. J. B., 66, Mabe, J. G. Brock.

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