General Manager. The Montreal Bank may be regarded almost as a national institution, for if there should be any trouble in its usnally serene chambers, the credit of the country would feel it to its centre.

There are seven other banks in Montreal and eight branches of banks, and financial agencies and correspondents representing every financial centre in the world. The four leading banks, Montreal, Merchants, Molsons and British North America, have sixty-eight branches in Ontario, seven in New Brunswick, five in Manitoba, four in British Columbia, two in Nova Scotia, and live agencies in London, New York, Chicago, and San Francisco.

The smaller banks, People's, Hochelaga, Jacques Cartier and Ville-Marie, have their twenty-four branches all in the Province of Quebec. These figures illustrate the steady growth of the Banking Houses:—

Capital.	*Deposits.*	*Circulation.*
1858—13,457,904	6,123,958	6,205,866
1868—18,781,283	20,388,171	2,462,317
1878—33,895,111	30,718,571	10,147,426
1888—27,554,396	43,489,428	13,503,531

Discounts.	*No. of Banks.*	*No. of Branches.*
1858—26,803,031	5	39
1868—28.167,554	8	68
1878—58,746,750	11	112
1888—53,245,217	8	118

The statement of deposits does not include those of the Government, except for 1858, at which date the bank returns did not distinguish such deposits.

It will be seen that in 1868 the circulation fell to $2,462,317. This was partly due to the large influx of American silvcr coin which, to a great extent, took the place of bank notes, and was only removed in 1870, and partly to the use by the Bank of Montreal of Provincial and Dominion notes from 1866 to 1871, at which latter date the total outstanding circulation of the leading bank was only $182,683. The other banks having declined the offer of the Government to pay them a commission to abandon their own circulation and to use that of the Government, the attempt to monopolize the bank circulation was abandoned. The Bank of Montreal resumed its own issues, and by the 30th April, 1872, had an outstanding circulation of $3,116,037. The increase in bank circulation since that date shows how remarkable bas been the development of Canadian trade.

The greatest advance, however, is seen in the increased deposits, which have risen from $6,153,958 in 1858 to $43,489,428 in 1888.

Over twenty millions of these deposits bear no interest; adding to this amount the reserve funds, over ten millions, and the circulation, over thirteen millions, it is found that the city banks have (including capital) the use of over seventy million dollars to earn dividends on $27,554,396, to say nothing of the profits on interest-bearing deposits.