

# THE MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA

## Fifty-first Annual Meeting

### THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The report of the Directors was read by the President, as follows:—

The Board have much pleasure in submitting the result of the year's business, closing with the 30th April last. On an average capital and rest of \$13,348,100, the Bank has earned 9.13%, which is a little lower rate than a year ago. Meantime, our capital stock has been further augmented by the disposal of the unsold shares, making the dividend disbursements somewhat greater. In the Profit and Loss Statement you will observe \$135,000, applied in reduction of the sum representing the bonds and securities, which during the year have suffered a fall in price. To bring them to their market value the Board have authorized the writing of them down by that sum.

I have great pleasure to-day in congratulating the shareholders upon a very notable event in the history of the Bank—the fiftieth anniversary of its establishment—and also upon the happy attainment of the goal of the Board's ambition for many years back, namely, the placing of the Reserve Fund upon an equality with the paid up Capital. This consummation has been at length attained. The paid up Capital is now \$7,000,000 and the Reserve Fund \$7,000,000, as you will see from the statement placed before you.

During the past year we have opened branches at the following points:—

In Quebec: Chateauguay Basin, Huntingdon, Maisonneuve, Montreal, St. Denis Street, Ormstown and Vaudreuil. In Ontario: Bronte, Clarkson, Hamilton East End, Sarnia and St. Catharines. In Alberta: West Edmonton, Raymond and Rimbey. In Saskatchewan: Eastend, Forres, Humboldt, Kelvinkurst, Limerick and Shaunavon. In British Columbia: Ganges Harbour, Oak Bay and Victoria North End. In Manitoba: Starbuck, and in Nova Scotia, New Glasgow.

And we have closed the following offices:—In Alberta: New Norway, Pincher Station and Walsh, and in Ontario: Sandwich.

All the branches of the Bank have been inspected during the year.

The Board will to-day ask the shareholders to appoint Auditors for the coming year, in accordance with the Bank Act.

The requirements under the new Bank Act, covering the preparation of the Annual Statement, together with the growth of the Bank, make it desirable that more time be given for this work. We find it, therefore, necessary that the date of the Annual Meeting be put forward somewhat. The third Wednesday in May, following so nearly the close of the books on 30th April, does not allow sufficient time. The Board ask you to sanction a change of date to the first Wednesday in June, which will meet requirements.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. MONTAGU ALLAN,  
President.

### The Financial Statement.

Statement of the Result of the Business of the Bank for the year ending 30th April, 1914:

The Net Profits of the year, after payment of charges, rebate on discount, interest on deposits, and making full provision for bad and doubtful debts, have amounted to...\$1,218,694 45  
Premium on New Stock ..... 180,825 00  
The balance brought forward from 30th April, 1913, was ..... 401,014 24

This has been disposed of as follows:  
Dividend No. 104, at the rate of 10% per annum .....\$169,177 50  
Dividend No. 105, at the rate of 10% per annum ..... 169,907 00  
Dividend No. 106, at the rate of 10% per annum ..... 172,549 52  
Dividend No. 107, at the rate of 10% per annum ..... 175,000 00  
Transferred to Reserve Fund from Profit and Loss Account ..... 400,000 00  
Transferred to Reserve Fund from Premium on New Stock ..... 180,825 00  
Contribution to Officers' Pension Fund .... 50,000 00  
Written off Bank Premises Account ..... 100,000 00  
Written off for depreciation in Bonds and Investments ..... 135,000 00  
Balance carried forward ..... 248,134 67  
\$686,574 02  
\$1,800,533 69

Making a total of .....\$1,800,533 69

#### RESERVE FUND ACCOUNT.

Balance, 30th April, 1913 .....\$6,419,175  
Transferred from Profit and Loss Account.... 400,000  
Premium on New Stock ..... 180,825  
\$7,000,000

Average Paid-up Capital during the year, \$6,868,500

E. F. HEBDEN,  
General Manager.

H. MONTAGU ALLAN,  
President.

### Statement of Liabilities and Assets at 30th April, 1914.

#### LIABILITIES.

1. To the Shareholders.  
Capital Stock paid in .....\$7,000,000 00  
Rest or Reserve Fund ..... 7,000,000 00  
Dividends declared and unpaid ..... 176,088 66  
Balance of Profits as per Profit and Loss Account submitted herewith ..... 248,134 67  
\$14,424,223 33  
2. To the Public.  
Notes of the Bank in Circulation .....\$5,597,714 00  
Deposits not bearing interest ..... 13,309,394 11  
Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date of statement ..... 45,946,650 06  
Balances due to other Banks in Canada.... 1,488,333 31  
Balances due to Banks and banking correspondents in the United Kingdom and foreign countries ..... 2,278,387 51  
Bills payable .....  
Acceptances under letters of credit ..... 76,039 00  
Liabilities not included in the foregoing ...

\$83,120,741 32

#### ASSETS.

Current Coin held .....\$2,993,802 06  
Dominion Notes held ..... 4,862,603 00  
Notes of other Banks ..... 519,109 00  
Cheques on other Banks ..... 3,276,399 74  
Balances due by other Banks in Canada .. 2,688 08  
Balances due by Banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada .. 1,089,762 76  
Dominion and Provincial Government securities, not exceeding market value .... 568,991 61  
Canadian Municipal securities, and British, Foreign and Colonial public securities, other than Canadian, not exceeding market value ..... 536,990 65  
Railway and other Bonds, Debentures and Stocks, not exceeding market value .... 4,183,097 70  
Call Loans in Canada on Bonds, Debentures and Stocks ..... 3,119,841 67  
Call Loans elsewhere than in Canada .... 3,770,117 27  
\$24,923,403 54  
Other Current Loans and Discounts in Canada (less Rebate of Interest) .....\$53,603,673 24  
Other Current Loans and Discounts elsewhere than in Canada (less Rebate of Interest) ..... 181,016 45  
Liabilities of customers under letters of credit as per contra ..... 76,039 00  
Real Estate other than bank premises .... 79,704 98  
Overdue debts, estimated loss provided for. Bank Premises, at not more than cost, less amounts (if any) written off ..... 3,720,035 88  
Deposit with the Minister for the purpose of the Circulation Fund ..... 325,000 00  
Deposit in the Central Gold Reserve ..... 137,754 79  
Other Assets not included in the foregoing.

\$83,120,741 32

E. F. HEBDEN,  
General Manager.

H. MONTAGU ALLAN,  
President.

the only hope is that some "movie" producer will some day include it in a photo-play.

The benevolent guide somewhat sadly steers the tourist away from the placid picture of the Bore that hasn't yet come up, to the power-house and electric light works of the town on the banks of the Petitcodiac. Once upon a time it might have been hoped that the Bore would generate electricity enough for Moncton. Now the power people have installed a battery of tremendous boilers that never eat a pound of coal. Gaze into the maw of one of these boilers and you find it seething with flames that come pipping up from the natural gas fields down around Sussex way. That's the hope of modern Moncton, and it looks as though it would last as long as the great Bore itself.

There are no real hotels in Moncton. There are several places that seem to be coining money by cutting down expenses and cramming their rooms full of people at high prices, even when some of them don't happen to have bars. It's all an illusion that a hotel can't be made to pay without a bar. There's one hotel in Moncton that is making money hand over fist without anything stronger than ginger ale on the premises; just because it's possible to stick a traveler two or three dollars a day for a miserable hall bedroom as wide as a railway box car and meals to match. It's a pretty general complaint in the Maritime Provinces that in a magnificent summer land there are very few summer hotels. In Moncton there are neither summer hotels nor winter hotels. And there is probably a barrel of money waiting for some company with gumption enough to adorn our national railway city with at least one bang-up modern hotel that would make the place look like a real city.

### A Trip Down the St. Lawrence (Concluded from page 5.)

yes, he came on some time ago. He knows Lachine. So does the boat which has been down it year by year and, so the story goes, never struck a snag. You feel as though there should be brakes on the boat. The speed is delirious. The motion is drunken. There is no choice. You can't turn her back. She is in. She is going down. Fair ahead are the Scylla and Charbydis, the two rocks, that look as near together as the beams of the boat; and nobody but the crew are dead sure what grinding ledges may be either side. Whoever contrived a passage for a steamboat through that gap? It wasn't Champlain. He had his nerve to be sure; so had the Indians—but they were used to it.

Dead certain that the boat is heading sheer for the larboard rock; morally sure she is making straight for the ledge to starboard—you hang on to the next passenger ahead or behind, he hangs on to you, and you pretend to shut your eyes as the boat, doing her best to snap the wheel chain and carry the whole cargo to Ballyhoo, pokes her drunken nose between the two foam-jawed spikes of stone. Then the boat comes in your way. You see nothing. There is a fine, frenzied silence. If anything is due to happen—it must be now.

But before now is then, you are all through; the power goes on below; the boat becomes a free agent, and you are steaming into view of the mountain of Montreal the smoke and the mists of the harbour.

Next morning, by another boat of the same line, you are off again to make the ten-hour journey to Quebec; which, in the broad main of the real, uninterrupted St. Lawrence, is one continuous panorama of calm and satisfied interest, with the tug of the open sea gradually getting under the bows; with scores of little tin-spined towns gliding past; blue-domed mountain and green meadow and unspoken poems of eternal peace such as never could be seen on any other river in America but the St. Lawrence. For the French folk surely know how to make river banks lovely, at least so far as you can see the result of their efforts from the deck of a river liner.