

ONTARIO BANK.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Ontario Bank was held at the banking-house, Toronto, on Tuesday, 20th June, 1899.

Among those present were: G. R. R. Cockburn, Donald Mackay, Hon. J. C. Aikins, J. K. Macdonald, A. S. Irving, Dr. J. Carlyle, Wm. Spry, John Hallam, A. P. Choate, F. B. Polson, A. E. Wallace, F. M. Purdy, R. Grass, Henry Lewndes, J. S. Porter, R. Mulholland, John Flett, and others.

On motion, Mr. G. R. R. Cockburn was called to the chair, and Mr. McGill was requested to act as secretary. Messrs. J. K. Macdonald and F. M. Purdy were appointed scrutineers.

At the request of the chairman, the secretary read the following report:

REPORT.

The directors beg to present to the shareholders the 42nd annual report, for the year ending 31st May, 1899, together with the usual statement of assets and liabilities:

The net profits, after deducting charges of management, interest accrued upon deposits, and making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, were \$103,117 09
Profit and Loss (brought forward from 31st May, 1898).. 22,243 49

\$125,360 58

Which have been appropriated as follows:

Dividend, 2½ per cent., paid 1st Dec., 1898 \$25,000 00
Dividend 2½ per cent., payable 1st June, 1899 25,000 00
Added to rest 25,000 00
Reserved for officers' guarantee fund 5,000 00
Written off bank premises 5,000 00

85,000 00

Balance of profits carried forward \$40,360 58

During the year branches of the bank have been opened at Fort William and at Tweed, in the province of Ontario.

The Rest account has been increased to \$110,000, and the Profit and Loss account to \$40,360.58.

The bank premises and furniture account has been reduced by \$5,000.

All the offices of the bank have been inspected during the year.

The business of the bank shows a satisfactory increase.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE R. R. COCKBURN,
President.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

Liabilities.

Capital stock paid up \$1,000,000 00
Rest 110,000 00
Balance of profits carried forward 40,360 58
Dividends unclaimed 1,045 56
Dividend payable 1st June, 1899.. 25,000 00
Reserved for interest and exchange 104,154 09

\$1,280,560 23

Notes in circulation 894,319 00

Deposits not bearing interest 1,279,623 78

Deposits bearing interest 4,965,793 32

Due to agents of bank in Great Britain.. 684,257 63

Due to agents of bank in United States 100,000 00

7,923,993 73

\$9,204,553 96

Assets.

Gold and silver coin \$ 88,776 21
Government demand notes ... 284,666 00
Notes of and cheques on other banks... 250,431 90
Balances due from banks in Canada 55,129 29
Balances due from banks in United States.. 97,567 74
Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation 50,000 00
Municipal and other debentures 1,371,132 33
Call loans on stocks and bonds 433,284 16

\$2,630,987 63

Bills discounted and current loans \$6,372,151 11

Overdue debts... 1,415 22

Real estate (other than bank premises) 30,000 00

Mortgages on real estate sold. 10,000 00

Bank premises (including furniture, safes, etc.) 160,000 00

6,573,566 33

\$9,204,553 96

C. MCGILL,
General Manager.

The Ontario Bank,
Toronto, 31st May, 1899.

After a few remarks by the president, the report was adopted.

By resolution, the sum of \$5,000 was granted to the Guarantee Fund of the Ontario Bank.

The scrutineers appointed at the meeting subsequently reported the following gentlemen duly elected directors for the ensuing year, viz.: Messrs. G. R. R. Cockburn, Donald Mackay, Hon. J. C. Aikins, A. S. Irving, R. D. Perry, D. Ulliyot, and John Hallam.

The new board met the same afternoon, when Mr. G. R. R. Cockburn was elected president, and Mr. Donald Mackay vice-president.

C. MCGILL,
General Manager.

Ontario, Bank, Toronto, 20th June, 1899.

MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA.

The annual meeting of the Merchants' Bank of Canada was held in Montreal on Wednesday last. The president Mr. Andrew Allan, was in the chair, and moved the adoption of the report, which was as follows:

REPORT.

The directors beg to present to the shareholders the result of the bank's operations for the last year, and, in doing so, they have to admit that it is not a very satisfactory one. The rates for money on collateral loans both in this country and the United States have ruled very low, and we have had a large proportion of our funds so employed. Rates on commercial

business generally have also been reduced, while expenses and losses have taken a good deal more than their fair share.

The losses for the year have been quite heavy; and, notwithstanding the liberal writing off which was done last year, about three-fourths of the present year's losses may be said to be old ones which were not ascertained at the date of last statement. Under these circumstances we considered it prudent to reduce the rate of dividend to 2 per cent. Indeed, no other course was properly open to us. There is nothing to be gained by straining to pay large dividends.

Quite a number of new branches have been opened during the year, but these have not yet brought any net profit to the bank. Time will be required to develop them.

The outlook is much better than it was. The business of the country generally has much improved, and crop prospects are good. With such a state of things we may reasonably expect a great reduction in losses, which is the main condition of success. It is unfortunate that the competition among the banks has got beyond the stage of mere rates of interest and commission. It is now mainly a question of how much loss they will submit to, and how much risk they will take to get business.

A resolution will be presented to the meeting authorizing the creation of, and provision for a pension fund, for the benefit of the officers of the bank or their widows and children. We regard such a fund as an actual necessity, and expect a great deal from its establishment in increased loyalty and zeal on the part of the staff.

We have thought it desirable to reconstruct our Montreal office building, with a view of not only improving our own accommodation but of deriving some rent from a site which is too valuable to be used exclusively for our own use. Contracts have been signed for the work, and we expect to have it finished and ready for occupation by the first of May next.

The net profits of the year after payment of charges, rebate on discounts, interest on deposits and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, have amounted to \$417,819 75
The balance brought from last year, ending 31st May, 1898 was 48,841 88

Making a total of..... \$466,461 63

This has been disposed of as follows:
Dividend No. 60, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.. \$240,000 00
Dividend, No. 61, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.. 210,000 00

\$450,000 00

Leaving a balance to be carried forward to next year of..... 16,661 63

\$466,661 63

The report was adopted, and the old board of directors re-elected.

—A question in the British House of Commons recently brought out the fact that a British merchant steamer, the "Afghan Prince," in a voyage in December last, had a crew of 36. Of the four navigating officers one was Danish, one Norwegian, one German and one British. In addition to the three foreign officers, 26 of the crew were foreigners, viz.: 5 Belgians, 5 Germans, 3 Danes, 3 Austrians, 3 Norwegians, 3 Swedes, 1 Turk, 1 Greek, 1 Finn, and 1 Swiss. "Noah's Ark" is the alternative name suggested for the ship by a British journal.