

BANK OF MONTREAL.

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the Bank of Montreal was held in the Board Room at 1 o'clock on the 6th inst.

There were present Hon. George A. Drummond, Vice-President; Messrs. Hector Mackenzie, Hugh McLennan, W. W. Ogilvie, W. C. McDonald, A. T. Paterson, G. F. C. Smith, M. Burke, Henry Mason, John Crawford, W. J. Buchanan, F. S. Lyman, Q. C., G. A. Green, John Morrison, James Shearer, J. P. Scott, Richard White, James Wilson, James Tasker, A. T. Taylor, M. S. Foley, B. A. Boas, H. Morton, and F. T. Judah, Q. C.

On motion of Mr. John Crawford, Hon. George A. Drummond, Vice-President, was unanimously voted to the chair, in the absence of the President, The Right Hon. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal.

On the motion of Mr. Hector Mackenzie, seconded by Mr. F. T. Judah, Q. C., it was agreed:—"That the following gentlemen be appointed to act as scrutineers:—Messrs. F. S. Lyman, Q. C., and W. J. Buchanan, and that Mr. James Aird be the secretary of this meeting."

THE REPORT.

The report of the Directors to the Shareholders at their 80th annual general meeting, was read by Mr. Clouston, General Manager, as follows:—

The Directors have pleasure in presenting the 80th Annual Report showing the result of the Bank's business of the year ended 30th April, 1898:—

Balance of Profit and Loss Account, 30th April, 1897.....\$ 886,909.98

Profits for the year ended 30th April, 1898, after deducting charges of management, and making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts. 1,265,300.09

\$2,152,210.07

Dividend 5 per cent., paid 1st December, 1897.....\$600,000

Dividend 5 per cent., payable 1st June, 1898.....600,000

1,200,000.00

Balance of Profit and Loss Account carried forward.....\$ 952,210.07

Since the last annual meeting of the Shareholders a branch of the Bank has been opened at Lethbridge, N.W.T., and a sub-agency to the Toronto branch has been opened in premises on Yonge street in the city of Toronto.

All the offices of the Bank, including the head office, have been inspected during the past year.

STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL.

President

Bank of Montreal, Head Office, 6th June, 1898.

GENERAL STATEMENT, 30th APRIL, 1898.

Liabilities.

Capital Stock.....\$12,000,000.00

Reserve.....\$ 6,000,000.00

Balance of Profits carried forward 952,210.07

\$ 6,952,210.07

Unclaimed Dividends.....2,042.01

Half-yearly Dividend, payable 1st June, 1898.....600,000.00

7,554,252.08

Notes of the Bank in circulation.....\$ 5,563,900.00

Deposits not bearing interest.....11,878,262.07

Deposits bearing interest.....28,730,391.21

Balances due to other Banks in Canada.....8,401.82

46,190,045.10

\$65,744,297.18

Assets

Gold and Silver Coin Current.....\$ 2,550,601.12

Government Demand Notes.....2,838,032.00

Deposits with Dominion

Government required

by Act of Parliament for security of general bank note circulation 265,000.00

Due by Agencies of this bank and other Banks in Foreign Countries.....\$9,405,666.02

Due by Agencies of this bank and other Banks in Gt. Britain 5,294,174.43

14,699,840.45

Dominion and Provincial Government Securities.....563,965.48

United States Railway Bonds.....3,484,046.09

Notes and Cheques of other Banks 1,301,784.14

\$25,703,869.88

Bank Premises at Montreal and Branches.....600,000.00

Current Loans and Discounts (rebate interest reserved), and other Securities and Assets.....\$39,318,507.53

Debts Secured by mortgages or otherwise.....59,612.85

Overdue debts not specially secured (loss provided for).....62,306.92

39,440,427.30

\$35,744,297.18

E. S. CLOUSTON,

General Manager.

Bank of Montreal, Montreal, 30th April, 1898.

THE GENERAL MANAGER.

Mr. Clouston said:—There are only a few items in our statement this year which call for special explanation. In our liabilities there is an increase in the circulation of \$1,000,000, caused partly by increased expenditure in railroad building, the influx into the Yukon district, and partly by the general expansion in business. Our deposits have increased \$600,000. Without explanation this would not show their true condition. I referred last year to a large increase over the previous year, and stated that, in my opinion, it lacked permanency. We have probably had withdrawn from us \$3,000,000 of special deposits of large amounts, and they have been replaced by deposits of smaller sums from the public of a more permanent, and therefore, more satisfactory character. In our assets, the funds readily available have been reduced \$800,000, from \$26,545,256 to \$25,703,869, chiefly in our Dominion and Provincial securities. The discounts have increased \$2,600,000, partly from the general expansion in business and partly from special operations which will probably be closed out in the next few months. The overdue debts show a reduction of \$90,000. Our profits for the year, as shown in the statement, are \$35,000 greater, derived chiefly from the enhanced value of money in the European markets; and it is a curious condition of affairs that at one period of the year we were receiving more for short loans in Germany than could have been obtained here in Montreal. In London the bank rate advanced to 2 1/2 per cent. on the 23rd September, 3 per cent. on the 14th October, 4 per cent. on the 7th April, where it remained till 26th May.

Up to the time that war seemed inevitable, the rate for all money in the United States ruled low, and even then it only advanced to firmness for a short time, as the credit balances established in Europe by the immense balance of trade in its favor, prevented any great stringency. It is worth while noting the figures of this balance of trade. On the 30th April the balance of trade for ten months in favor of the United States amounted to the enormous sum of \$514,000,000, whereas in no previous full fiscal year in its history had they attained \$300,000,000. At present the rate for call money in the United States is merely nominal, though it remains to be seen what effect the replenishing of the coffers of the treasury, drained by the expense of the war, will have on the market.

With reference to trade conditions in Canada, it is difficult to estimate the great boon the enhanced value of