

to December 31, 1890, were submitted, and showed a net profit of £1,211, which goes forward to the current year. The operations of the company on closing of accounts had only extended over a period of a few months, and the result must be considered fairly satisfactory. The president of the company, Mr. R. A. McLean, accompanied by another of the directorate, has recently visited Manitoba, and he expressed himself as having been very favorably impressed with the business prospects, considering that with care and prudence the operations of the company would yield a handsome return to the shareholders. The report having been adopted, and other formal business transacted, the meeting was made special, with a view of making certain alterations in the articles of association, limiting the borrowing powers of the company to the amount of the uncalled capital. This alteration was agreed to. Debentures are now being issued.

BANK OF MONTREAL.—To many the annual statement of the Bank of Montreal was a genuine surprise. On first publication of the result of operations for the half year ending 30th April, a feeling of anxiety was aroused in the public mind, and this feeling was fostered in no small degree by hasty and unwise comments in the press and on the "street," the general tone of which was unfavorable. Those, however, who were wont to follow closely the trend of financial matters, saw in the report a state of affairs foreshadowed six months previous, when, despite an unusually large amount at credit of Profit and Loss, the expected bonus was not forthcoming. To such the action of the Board, in amply providing for possible losses in the future on accounts in course of liquidation, was no disappointing surprise. It was a necessary course, and has deservedly called forth the commendation of those most interested in the present welfare and future success of the bank. The writing down of securities held by the bank, depreciated through the Baring trouble, while by no means an admission of ultimate loss on such assets, was also a prudent action on the part of the administration, and meets with the approval of all whose trust was thus administered. To provide in advance of pending trouble, by the formation of a generous fund, for the losses that might be reasonably expected to follow is to exercise a wise discretion in the management of the corporate affairs; and when the contingency occurs, what more reasonable than to make use of the fund for the purpose of creation? The directors might well say that "there was nothing to apologize for