

The Merchants Bank of Canada

Report Presented at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Shareholders, Held on Wednesday, 18th December, 1907.

The annual meeting of the Directors and Shareholders of the Merchants Bank of Canada was held at noon yesterday at the Head Office, 205 St. James-street. Amongst the Shareholders present at the meeting were: Messrs. Jonathan Hodgson, Thomas A. Long, C. R. Hosmer, C. F. Smith, Hugh A. Allan, Alex. Barnett, George Hague, T. E. Merrett, D. C. Macarow, P. S. Lyman, A. D. Fraser, C. R. Black, A. Piddington, M. S. Foley, R. Campbell, Nelson, John Patterson, E. Fiske (Coastal), and others. In the absence of the President, Sir Hugh Montagu Allan, the Vice-President, Mr. Jonathan Hodgson, took the chair. Mr. Kilbourn was appointed Secretary of the meeting.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were taken as read.

The Chairman then submitted the following report of the Directors:

THE REPORT.

The Directors beg to present the Statement of Affairs of the Bank as at close of the half year's business on 30th November last.

In accordance with permission granted by the Shareholders at the last annual meeting, the books are closed upon the 30th of November, instead of on the 31st May, as heretofore.

The net profits for the half year amounted to \$473,144.50. Out of this two quarterly dividends, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum—amounting to \$240,000—have been paid, the balance being carried forward to next year.

The full proportion of inspection work has been done during the past six months.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JONATHAN HODGSON,

Vice-President.

Statement of the result of the business of the Bank for the half year ending 30th November, 1907:

The Net Profits of the half year, after payment of charges, rebate on discounts, interest on deposits, and making full provision for bad and doubtful debts, have amounted to \$473,144.50. Balance brought forward from last year, ending 31st May, 1907: \$507,400.75.

This has been disposed of as follows:

Quarterly dividend No. 80, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum: \$120,000.00.

Quarterly dividend No. 81, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum: \$120,000.00.

Leaving a balance to be carried forward to next year of: \$267,400.75.

\$507,400.75.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets at 30th November, 1907:—

LIABILITIES.

1.—To the Public.

Notes in Circulation: \$5,490,940.00.

Deposits at call: \$10,431,031.81.

Deposits subject to notice (accrued interest to date included): \$24,440,826.11.

Deposits due to other Banks in Canada: \$1,332,476.05.

Dividend No. 81: \$120,000.00.

Dividends unclaimed: \$2,912.50.

\$41,868,197.47.

2.—To the Stockholders.

Capital paid up: \$6,000,000.00.

Reserve Fund: \$4,000,000.00.

Surplus profit: \$267,400.75.

\$10,267,400.75.

\$52,135,598.22.

ASSETS.

Gold and Silver Coin on hand: \$1,533,786.44.

Notes and Cheques on hand: \$2,324,221.56.

Notes and Cheques on other Banks in Canada: \$2,223,028.18.

Notes and Cheques on other Banks in Great Britain: \$7,769.44.

Notes and Cheques on other Banks in the United States: \$89,214.52.

Call and Short Loans on Bonds and Stocks in Canada: \$2,495,994.71.

Call and Short Loans on Bonds and Stocks elsewhere: \$2,988,268.84.

than in Canada: \$2,988,268.84.

Domestic and Provincial Government Securities: \$5,494,253.55.

Railway, Municipal and other Debentures: \$65,427.97.

\$19,267,160.82.

Current Loans and Discounts in Canada (less Rebate of Interest): \$1,246,107.26.

Loans and Discounts overdue (less fully provided for): \$5,722.55.

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of circulation: \$40,000.00.

Mortgages and other Securities, the property of the Bank: \$2,397,481.

Real Estate: \$1,155,837.30.

Bank Premises and Furniture: \$21,824.66.

Other Assets: \$52,135,598.22.

E. F. HEBDEN, General Manager.

THE DISCUSSION.

The Chairman: "I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of this report."

Mr. Thomas Long: "Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the reports that have been placed before you are, I consider, of an excellent nature, and I have much pleasure in seconding the motion. I am sure that we are all pleased and satisfied with the report laid before us. Considering the condition of trade all over Canada, I think that this report is one with which all the shareholders should be satisfied. (Hear, hear.)"

"I may say that I am very pleased, and I am sure we all are, to see our ex-General Manager, Mr. Hague, present with us to-day. (Applause.) We hope that we shall have the pleasure of seeing him at many such meetings as this in the years to come. I have great pleasure in seconding the adoption of this report."

The Chairman: "Are there any questions to be asked by the Shareholders? If not, I will ask your approval of the report."

There being no questions, the report was then put to the vote and unanimously adopted.

The General Manager (Mr. E. F. Hebdon): "The statement before you gives the result of our best efforts in the management of your property for the past six months. The figures may, perhaps, speak for themselves. I hope you will think the statement a not unfavorable one. In this connection I should like to bear testimony to the loyalty and excellent work and spirit of the staff at large, all the members of which are actuated by an ardent desire to promote the Bank's best interests."

"The general banking and commercial situation has been recently epitomized by the chief officer of the premier bank of Canada, supplemented by the weighty deliverance of the Finance Minister and between these two authorities all of present practical interest has been said. It is for me to make any remarks to you on the present occasion, I should like to say that there has perhaps, never been a time in the history of Canada, a time when a policy of moderation in public and private affairs was so plainly called for as the present, and in saying this I believe I am only expressing a thought uppermost in the minds of most thinking responsible men in Canada. The change in the commercial and economic situation in the neighboring republic for the worse, within the past few months, has been kaleidoscopic. It is now, happily, showing signs of improvement. In Canada we are altogether better situated, and it is for me to say that we are working under a better banking and currency system. But this is a slowing down time with us, a time to take stock of our positions, and to retrench and be mutually helpful withal, by being moderate in our commitments and undertakings, and thereby in producing a factor into affairs making for the retarding of all our advantage, which can only be interfered with by untimely optimism."

The Chairman: "The next order of business is the election of Directors, and I would suggest that Messrs. Black and Patterson act as scrutineers."

Moved by Mr. M. S. Foley, seconded by Mr. A. Piddington, that Messrs. John Patterson and S. R. Black be requested to act as scrutineers, and that only one ballot be taken for the election of the Directors.

Mr. George Hague: "I am inclined to think that this course is hardly formal enough for such an election of Directors. I think the motion should read: 'That the scrutineers cast one ballot for the following persons as Directors:—and unless this course is followed, someone may call this election in question.' We are all agreed upon the names, and I suggest that this course be followed."

Moved by Mr. J. Patterson, seconded by Mr. George Hague, that the scrutineers cast one ballot for the following persons as Directors of the Merchants Bank of Canada for the ensuing year:

MR. JONATHAN HODGSON.

MR. THOMAS LONG.

MR. C. R. HOSMER.

MR. C. F. SMITH.

MR. HUGH A. ALLAN.

MR. C. M. HAYES.

MR. ALEX. BARNETT.

MR. F. ORR LEWIS.

The scrutineers cast one ballot in accordance with this motion, and the Chairman declared the gentlemen mentioned therein elected as Directors of the Bank.

There being no further business, the meeting then adjourned.

At a subsequent meeting of the Directors the following officers were elected: President, Sir Hugh Montagu Allan; Vice-President, Mr. Jonathan Hodgson.

WELCOME LEAGUE DINNER.

Five hundred adults will be given a Christmas dinner of roast beef and plum pudding at the Temple building on Wednesday by the British Welcome League.

St. Patrick Chapter, at their meeting on Saturday night, made a donation to the fund, and St. John's Lodge came out nobly, as have most of the other Masonic lodges in the city.

To make the children's party a success, further help is required. Gifts of toys, candies, fruit or donations will be thankfully received at the league premises, 87 West Front-street.

Caught in the Act.

Albert Huttly, aged 33, 15 Sheridan-avenue, was arrested by Plainclothes Detective Croyn Saturday night charged with stealing six pigs of copper and two iron moulds from the Toronto General Brass Works, 42 Sterling-road. The officer caught Huttly taking the metal away in his rig.

VANCOUVER.—The B. C. Fruit-Growers' Association have received an order for 22,000 boxes of fruit from the Duffy Company of Australia.

Specimens of bituminous coal have been brought from the workings in the Nicola Valley. Development is progressing.

SERVICE FOR NEWSBOYS HAS UNIQUE FEATURES

How the Youngsters Responded to the Spirit of the Christ-mas-tide Addresses.

Boyhood effervescence and bubbles up eternally in our regenerate humanity, and J. M. Wilkinson's newsboys' service in Massey Hall last night brought together an aerated sample of the coming race and kept a crowded audience lively with a two hours' display of vital energy. The old race tale of Christmas was celebrated in some novel and interesting ways. Mr. Wilkinson spoke of God's Christmas gift to the world.

"God always loved you and me," he said. "I'm glad there's only one church in the world, whose roof name it may be called, and I'm glad there's only one heaven to go to." He addressed himself especially to the Jewish boys, who, on a show of hands, were in something like the majority that will carry the power bylaw.

It was after the meeting was over and the distribution of tickets and badges began that the real trouble was encountered. But a little forbearance reduced order out of the eager impatience. On Christmas Day it is the custom to parade in Toronto-street, at the postoffice, and march with a band to the city hall, and there sing "The Maple Leaf Rag." The excitement to-morrow night will be a whirlwind of delight. Mr. Wilkinson had to be diplomatic.

Duly Warned.

"The boys who sit in the gallery won't get a badge, and the boys who haven't a badge won't get the dinner. (Cheers.) There are some boys whistling. Boys who whistle won't get an orange or an apple at the dinner. (Consternation.) Now, listen, and understand me—no applauding on Sunday night, and no remarks, either. This is Sunday night. On Tuesday night you can't use the hall. I did not expect more than 100 boys, and look at this crowd! And without any notice in the papers! You will all get a ticket for the best dinner you ever ate in your lives—meat, turkey and cranberry sauce, no meat—beefsteak, you know—but turkey and plum pudding—there you go again—and mince—more of them. Heaps of soft drinks, ginger ale—do be quiet, now!"

"I'd rather be pastor of the newsboys than mayor of Toronto. Somebody said to me the other day I'd be sick of the business. I said, no, and if I live till next year there will be a dinner for every poor boy in the city."

Jews and Palestine.

In announcing the Scripture reading, Mr. Wilkinson said it was not expected that everyone would sing with what we heard. There were many of God's ancient people present, and since he read the Bible more he thought more of them. He could not get Massey Hall for Christmas because the Zionists had taken it that day. He believed before very long the Jews would once more own Palestine.

Mr. Wilkinson then read the familiar passage from Luke's Gospel, and the green audience listened attentively and in words: "Because there was no room in the inn, the angels sang and the angels sang about them."

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

"I'm glad to see the angel said, 'Fear not.'"

IS GAS POWER CHEAPER THAN NIAGARA POWER?

The Treasurer of Canadian Gas Power and Launches, Limited, says it is.

By Two-thirds of Present Rate, or One-third of Best Possible Rate Under Ontario Power Commission Offer—Some Comparisons Between Gas and Electricity in Actual Practice.

(Copy.)

Canadian Gas Power and Launches, Limited,
145 Dufferin Street,
Toronto, Dec. 12.

His Worship the Mayor of Toronto:

Dear Mr. Mayor: As the time approaches when the citizens of Toronto must decide whether to accept the proposition of the Ontario Power Commission or to seek some other means of securing cheap power, it may not be out of place for me to ask your consideration of the possibilities of gas power as set forth in the accompanying schedule. This schedule is compiled from forms sent out by the Canadian Gas Power & Launches, Limited, to such of their Toronto customers as have found it to their advantage to replace electric power by gas power, and I shall be happy to submit the original statements for the inspection of any of the city officials if you desire it.

From the schedule referred to it appears:—

(1) That the experience of 22 manufacturing firms who have substituted gas engines for the electric motors formerly used is that they have thereby effected an average saving of \$41.08 per horsepower per year.

(2) That the experience of the users of these engines is that their gas bills, at the ordinary rate of 75c per 1000 cubic feet, have shown their power cost to be \$18.27 per h.p. actually used.

(3) As for cost of repairs, we have no data for comparison, but we believe that the average repairs on a stationary gas engine are less than on an electric motor of equal power. When a motor is overloaded it "burns out" and has to be rewound. When a gas engine is overloaded it simply stops, as a horse would, and when part of the load is removed, it is ready to work in a moment, none the worse.

(4) That of the 22 firms reporting, I reports "perfect" satisfaction, 9 "excellent," 9 "good," 2 "fair" and 1 "rotten." It must be borne in mind that amongst these are some built several years ago and lacking our latest improvements.

It may be said that some of the gentlemen signing these statements may have slightly over or underestimated the actual power used by them. There may be something—very little—in this suggestion, but one thing they can scarcely be wrong in—they know what electric power formerly cost them and what gas power now costs, giving the same or greater service. This saving of \$41.08 per horsepower per annum means a net saving of over \$600 a year to the average manufacturer using, say, 15 h.p.