

POLICE CLOTHING.

Considerable comment has been created by the awarding of the contract for the policemen's outfit for the ensuing two years. As reported in one of the daily papers the committee awarded the bulk of the contract to Mr. Charlebois, although his tender was considerably higher than that of Messrs. Arcand Brothers, and very much higher than that of G. H. Pearson & Co. On the face of it there seems to be something suggestive of great favoritism, and numerous complaints were made to us. We have taken the trouble to interview members of the Police Committee and to see Superintendent Hughes. As a result we find that still opinions are divided. The Superintendent received us very kindly and took the trouble to show us the different samples of clothing; stating, also, that for two years prior to his appointment Mr. Charlebois had the contract. On his assuming office he informed Mr. Charlebois that the materials used were not satisfactory. The latter said that to give better goods he would have to charge higher prices. Since then the higher prices were charged, but the goods were in accordance and gave the Chief and the men satisfaction. He is also opposed to the plan of experimenting in such matters as long as the one who has the contract gives satisfaction. He considers that the coats furnished are worth far more, on account of finish and material, than they actually cost. However, it is the Committee that has the awarding of the contracts, and the Superintendent has only to express his views as to the satisfaction heretofore given. Such is, in substance, that side of the case; and to this the aldermen who were favorable to the granting of the contract to Mr. Charlebois subscribe.

But here comes the other side of the question. In the first place the tenders demand the furnishing of an outfit from each tenderer—which outfit is an entire loss to the one who makes the clothes, if he does not secure the contract. It would be much fairer were the tenders to be accompanied by samples. Moreover, while the lowest tender is not necessarily accepted, still the difference of prices should weigh greatly in the balance. In the present case there is a difference of about \$800 between the Pearson and Charlebois tenders. And yet the latter was accepted. It is said that the cloth furnished is of such a superior quality that it compensates for the difference. The samples were off the same cloth, which is manufactured in the same establishment, and which cannot be got elsewhere. If a contractor gives general satisfaction it is certainly just that he should have his contract renewed—provided all other things are equal. But if his prices so out-strip all others, and that the others have never had a chance of showing what they could do, it is evidently unfair to the members of an important trade to cut them off from all opportunity of giving the same satisfaction—and at much lower cost to the city. There is something that savors too much of monopoly in this to suit the spirit of the times.

One of the aldermen, on the committee, stated that he considered it a real piece of injustice to the community and to the other tenderers. We fail to see why Messrs. Pearson and company should not have had their tender more discussed and more favorably considered. Taking into account the three hundred dollar order that they received we feel that if they had a right to that, on the same principle and for the same reasons, it would be only fair to the city that they should have got the whole contract.

Eight hundred dollars is no small item; the material being the same, and the opportunity of giving satisfaction being only equity, it must have been for reasons that are not given that the tenders were dealt with in the manner reported. There is ample room for investigation into these grantings of contracts, and we are surprised that our enterprising daily press does not make it a duty to find out the ins and outs of the City Hall workings in such matters.

The middle of May has come. We once more remind all subscribers who are in arrears, for more than one year, that on the 1st June next their names will be struck off the list. The delay of one month has been given at the request of a number; but we cannot extend it.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

SATISFACTORY STATEMENT.

The Bank of Montreal statement for the year ending April 30, 1894, was issued at noon May 11th. It shows very satisfactory results, in view of the general condition of trade during the past year. The net earnings are \$1,313,289.80, or a little over eleven percent on the capital stock. Thus, after paying two half-yearly dividends of five percent each, \$113,289.80 is left to be carried to the balance of the profit and loss account, which now amounts to \$804,715.33. The total assets amount to \$53,856,760.92, as against \$51,520,478.50 for the previous year. The liabilities to the public have increased from \$32,224,377.28 for the year ending April 30, 1893, to \$34,448,534.90 for the year ending April 30, 1894.

The only important changes in the present statement from that of last year are a decrease of note circulation from \$5,125,377.00 to \$4,637,189.00 and a decrease in deposits not bearing interest from \$7,556,402.23 to \$6,579,678.10. The shrinkage in those two important sources of revenue, therefore, amounts to \$1,464,912.13. On the other hand, the deposits bearing interest have increased from \$19,542,424.87 to \$23,222,171.88 or \$3,679,747.01.

These latter figures are a barometer by which the trend of business during the last year may be gauged. The decline in circulation and non-interest-bearing deposits are no doubt due to the quiet state of trade throughout the country, while the increase in interest-bearing deposits would indicate a condition of affairs where capitalists had found difficulty in securing safe investments for their accumulations. A new item in the assets is \$2,207,000 in United States railway bonds, which would also indicate the difficulty which the bank itself has experienced in finding profitable investments for the funds in hand.

The result of the business of the bank for the year may be briefly summed up as follows:—

Balance of profit and loss, April 30, 1893.....	\$691,425.53
Profits for the year ending April 30, 1894, after deducting charges of management, and making full provision for bad and doubtful debts.....	\$1,313,289.80
	2,004,715.33
Dividend 5 per cent paid Dec. 1, 1893.....	\$600,000
Dividend 5 per cent paid June 1, 1894.....	600,000
	1,200,000.00
Balance profit and loss carried forward.....	\$804,715.33

There has evidently been some delay on the part of customers in meeting their obligations during the year, judging from the fact that the debts secured by mortgage or otherwise have jumped from \$45,206.51 to \$174,681.68, and that the overdue unsecured debts have risen from \$108,818.41 to \$150,952.37.

That the bank should be able to show earnings of only \$11,580.40 less than last year while maintaining a cash reserve of \$5,371,049.68, as against \$4,950,002.58, or an increase of \$421,047.05, indicates the able and economical way in which its affairs are being administered. Taking all the circumstances of the present stagnation in business, the exceedingly low rates of interest and the general want of confidence in the immediate outlook into consideration, the statement is an eminently satisfactory one.

Church Notes

To-day (Wednesday), Friday and Saturday being Ember days, are days of fast and abstinence of obligation.

A general meeting of the Promoters of the Sacred Heart society will meet in the sacristy, at St. Patrick's Church immediately after service to-night.

After Vespers next Sunday, Rosary Sunday, the Rev. James Callaghan director of the Rosary society, will perform the ceremony of the blessing of roses.

Rev. Father Lacombe, the North-West missionary, has issued an appeal on behalf of Mgr. Grandin, Bishop of St. Albert, for priests for the six new parishes lately formed in that diocese.

A drama, the "Fils de Ganelon," in four acts, will be presented to-night at 8 o'clock, in the Hall at St. Mary's College, Bleury street. The play is to celebrate the 11th annual feast of the association of old scholars of St. Mary's College.

Prof. A. P. McGuirk, late choir master and organist at St. Anthony's Church, has gone to Connecticut, to accept a lucrative position as director of one of the leading church choirs. We wish that talented young Irish-Canadian musician every success in his new position.

His Grace the Archbishop will administer Confirmation at the following places to-day and to-morrow: Wednesday, 16—At 7 o'clock at St. Anthony's Academy; at the Sacred Heart, at 8 o'clock. Thursday, 17—At 7.30 a.m., at St. Louis; at 10.30 a.m., at St. Bridget's; at 2 p.m., at Notre Dame.

St. Anthony's Young Men's Society will hold their annual picnic on May 24th, at St. Hilaire. It is expected that a large number will be present. The society is in a most flourishing condition, thanks to the energy and spirit of its members, as well as to the zeal of the Reverend Pastor.

In St. Ann's Church, on next Sunday, there will be a general communion at 8 o'clock Mass, for the young men of the parish, and in the evening a special sermon will be preached to them. The choir is practising a most beautiful programme for this service, and a very large number of young men will no doubt attend.

Rev. Abbe Colin, Superior of the Seminary, presided over the soiree litteraire at the Cercle Ville Marie last Friday evening. Mr. Alex. McCoy, of Le Monde, gave a lecture on "Joan of Arc," which proved most interesting to the large audience present. He strongly defended the Maid of Orleans, and was repeatedly applauded.

His Grace Archbishop Fabre celebrated Mass at the Gesu, Thursday morning, and gave the first Holy Communion to 9 of the students; there was a large attendance of the friends of the young communicants. There was special singing and the church was tastefully decorated for the occasion. After Mass those present were invited to a first Holy Communion breakfast in the college refectory.

The Rev. Father Strubbe, when interviewed in reference to a report which was published in a daily paper, to the effect that a seminary was to be founded in Montreal, stated that it was all a mistake on the part of the paper as nothing whatever has been decided as yet. He said, also, that nothing in this direction can take place, as Quebec is not yet an ecclesiastical province of the order; it is only a vice province, when it is raised to the dignity of a province there is a prospect of a seminary being established.

The Feast of Pentecost was celebrated at the Cathedral last Sunday by a splendid Mass by Riga with strong orchestra accompaniment. At the Gradual, Handel's "Largo;" at the Offertory G. Couture's "Veni Creator," for tenor solo, were brilliantly executed. After Mass Guilmant's "First Symphony" was given in fine style. At Benediction, in the evening, the music was also very fine, the soloists including the following well known artists: Messrs. A. Fortier, Ant. Destroismaisons, P. Gagnon, E. Guillemette, C. O. Lamontagne, F. Pelletier; organist, Mr. R. O. Pelletier; choir master, Mr. G. Couture. Mr. G. Couture gave a most beautiful

rendition of "Schilbert's "Ave Maria." The Tantem Ergo and the "Veni Creator Spiritus" were also well and powerfully rendered.

The first branch of the A. O. H. assembled at 7.30 last Sunday morning at their hall on Craig street, for the purpose of marching to St. Patrick's Church to receive Holy Communion. There was a splendid attendance of over a hundred members, each wearing the badge of the society. After Mass they marched back to their hall and then dispersed.

A grand musical Mass was sung at St. Anthony's, on Sunday last, the Feast of Pentecost. Mr. E. Casey was director and Miss Donovan presided at the organ. The soloists were Messrs. Hainault, Charlebois and others. The Rev. Father Donnelly sang Mass. The sermon, by Father Gilboa, was an eloquent and impressive one; the Rev. Father took for his text, Romans, chap. 8, verse 13. "If you live according to the flesh you shall die, but if by spirit you mortify deeds of the flesh you shall live." The substance of the preacher's remarks was the mission of the Holy Ghost in the world, which was to destroy the power of Satan, to deliver the world from the bondage of sin and to strengthen it in the love of Christ.

The Church of the Gesu celebrated the Feast of Pentecost by a special High Mass with full orchestral accompaniment. The Mass was a new one, by E. Silas, and was given for the first time on this continent. This Mass contains many new melodies, and in some parts is very devotional. The rendition of it by Prof. Alex. Clerk and his choir was grand in the extreme. The beautiful strains, in perfect time, which echoed and throbbed through the Church must have made an impression on the congregation which it will take them some time to forget. The following well known musicians were at their very best and certainly added to their reputations: Messrs. Gruenwald, first violinist and leader; F. Bucher, flutist; M. Ross, double bass; Duquette, second violin; T. Leroux, trombone; Mr. J. Dubois, cellist, who played his important score with marked excellence. The devotional and impressive "Agnus Dei," of Wagner, and the "Ave Maria" were surpassingly beautiful. The "Benedictus" quartette, sung by E. Lebel, H. C. St. Pierre, Courtois and Pinsoneault, with chorus by the choir, was very fine. An eloquent sermon was delivered by the Rev. Father Desjardins, the subject being the Feast of the Holy Ghost.

ST. PATRICK'S BAZAAR.

THE ROSARY TABLE.

In addition to the list of valuable donations made to this department of the Bazaar, and published last week, Miss Cassidy has received the following articles:—

Rae & Donnelly, wicker-chair, from Hong-Kong, China.

Dr. Edward J. C. Kennedy, stone china tea set (extra fine).

Miss Ann McDonald, portraits of Rev. P. Dowd and Rev. J. Quinlivan, with morocco frame.

Mrs. Gerald Doyle, silver knife and butter plate.

Miss Emma Doyle, hand-painted bowl, pair of head-rests, in pink satin, and hanging basket, in fancy colors.

Mrs. James Murphy, case of silver teaspoons (½ dozen).

Miss Annie Roach, pair of fancy vases.

Mrs. Patrick Mahony, enameled-cased clock.

Mr. Thomas Doherty, chest of tea.

Mr. Theodore White, jewel box.

Miss Rose Carey, pair of colored fancy vases.

Miss Margaret Rafferty, fruit dish (glass).

Miss M. Quigley, hand-painted handkerchief case, blue and white satin, with a pretty view of the rising sun.

Miss McDonald, picture of St. Ignatius.

Mrs. J. McDermott, five o'clock tea set.

Mrs. S. Young, fancy tea-pot, alarm clock and pair of brackets.

Mrs. Charles McKenna, hand-painted tea set.

Mrs. H. McGlynn, piano lamp.

Miss Onagh Kane, willow-pattern tea set.

Rubenstein Bros., silver pickle jar.

Mr. J. G. Kennedy, musical zither, with 8 airs.

Mrs. P. A. Duffy, framed pictures of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.