

ANNUAL REVIEW

OF THE

TRADE AND COMMERCE OF MONTREAL

FOR THE YEAR 1872.

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Specially compiled for the "MONTREAL HERALD."

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The period which we have under review, has been in almost all branches of trade and manufacture fairly prosperous, but, perhaps, the most eventful for many years. Our

**FINANCIAL**

position, as compared with the close of 1871, exhibits very great and important changes; and it is a noteworthy fact, that while wide strides have been made in the most active of our commercial pursuits, in no year, for ten years past, have so high a range of rates for discount been maintained, and on the other hand, cheerfully borne by those who were of necessity compelled to meet the advanced price of money. The early importations of merchandise, and the steady withdrawal of government deposits, which had in two former years so materially assisted in keeping our financial status easy, gave ample warning to capitalists and prominent promoters of commerce, that the elasticity of 1871 could not possibly continue during 1872, and those who were wise enough to trim their sail in time, avoided the pecuniary trouble which visited us early in the fall. There

can no longer be any doubt that money should be treated like any other commodity, and that its value should be governed by circumstances. It has, at least, during the past year, brought its own price,—and we have grave doubts whether we shall enjoy, at any period during the year in which we have entered, the low rates of 1871, although indications, at the moment we write, are favourable to a slightly lower range than those which have ruled since last autumn. We had an increase of \$9,000,000 of imports to provide for, the immediate demands for duties alone, being large on this amount; and then came the steady augmentation in all domestic manufactures. These together created enormously increased requirements of borrowers. To meet these wants, loans had to be withdrawn from other sources, notably those which were advanced on Bank and other shares, causing almost untold anxiety, and shaking the whole speculative element from one end of the Dominion to the other. There was a time when matters could hardly have looked worse, and we may safely say, that many operators have not yet recov-