## BANK OF MONTREAL.

## PROCEEDINGS OF A

## General Meeting of the Stockholders of the Bank of Montreal,

Held at the Bunking House, This Day (Monday) June 2, 1856.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Bank of Montreal, held this day at the Office of the Institution, the Hon. P. McGull, President of the Bank, in the Chair, a Statement of the Affairs of the Bank was laid before the Meeting, and the following Report read by the Cashier:—

The Directors announced in the Report submitted to the Stockholders at their last Anonal Meeting, that Subscriptions had been received for 5.500 shares of the New Stock, and they have now to state that the remainder, with the exception of 1,343 shares, was shortly after taken up.

These were subsequently disposed of by public tender, at a premium of 14; per cent., which was paid to those Stockholders who had not found it convenient to subscribe for the Shares to which they were entitled.

THE two first instalments, amounting to £100,000 have been paid, and those not yet due, anticipated to the extent of £157,625—thus making the paid-up capital, at this date, £1,257,625.

£139,360 8 0

The Directors declared a half-yearly dividend of four per cent., in November, and another is now payable at the same rate.

AFTER providing for the payment of these dividends, amounting to £96,582 17s. 11d., there remained a surplus profit, for the year, of £42,777 10s. 1d.

While the Directors regard as satisfactory the result of the business as thus exhibited, they greatly regret to state that the Bank has sustained considerable and unlooked for losses arising out of the transactions of a previous period.

In order to write off the whole of the debts, ascertained to be irrecoverable, as well as to make provision against any additional loss which may arise from assets of the Bank which are considered doubtful, the Directors have found it necessary to avail themselves of the balance of the Unappropriated Profits, and also of a part of the Rest, the effect of which has been to reduce that Fund to £175,000.

Hap a further diminution of the Kest been requisite, or had the profits for the past year not materially exceeded the sum required to continue their distribution at the rate of eight per cent, per annum, the Directors would not have hesitated to reduce the Dividends.

In consideration, however, of the amount which remained at the credit of the Rest, nearly 15 per cent, upon the paid-up capital, as also of the extent of profits realized during a year which had been marked by great depression in a very important branch of the trade of the country, and by other circumstances unfavorable to Banking interests, the Directors felt warranted in continuing the previous rate of Dividend. They also anticipate that it will soon again be in the power of the Bank to augment the Rest, and that the limit of £250,000 adverted to in former Reports will, in all probability, be reached before the whole of the capital is paid up.

Considerable inconvenience having been experienced from the number of Legislative enactments amending the Charter of Incorporation, the Directors thought it advisable that the whole should be consolidated and a bill with that object is now before the Legislature: it contains also some amendments, but only one of sufficient importance to call for any notice in this report.

The amendment alluded to has reference to the number of Shareholders constituting the Board of Direction, and upon this subject the Directors have to state that they believe the Bank has derived no advantage from having so large a Board as hitherto, and they are assured that a reduction in the number of its members will be regarded as an improvement by the Stockholders, and also by those who keep accounts with the Bank.

Under that impression, it is proposed that the Board shall in future consist of nine instead of thirteen members. This change, however, cannot take place for another year, as the amended charter has not yet received the sanction of the Legislature

In connection with the same subject the Stockholders are respectfully reminded that the greatly extended business of the Institution involves much additional responsibility, as well as the discharge of more onerous duties, on the part of the Board, and with a view of giving the Bank a more direct claim to the efficient performance of such service, it is suggested that those to whom may be entrusted the management of its affairs, should receive remuneration, and a Bylaw with that object will be found in the revised code of By-laws, rules and regulations which is to be submitted for the consideration and adoption of the Stockholders.

The Directors of the Montreal Savings' Bank having intimated their wish to be relieved of the management of that Institution, an arrangement was effected by which the Bank became responsible to the Depositors, and a Savings' Bank Department has been established, which the Directors believe will prove of advantage to the Bank and also be attended with benefit to the community.

THE Directors have had reason to be satisfied with the care and attention which the Cashier and other Officers of the Bank have manifested in the discharge of their respective duties.

(Signed,)

P. McGILL, President.

It was then Moved by J. Greenshields, Esq., seconded by Dr. Campbell:

That the Report now read be adopted, printed and circulated among the Shareholders. Passed unanimously.

Moved by J. Frothingham, Esq., seconded by Jno. Smith, Esq.:

That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the President, Vice President and Directors, for their services during the past year. Passed unanimously,

Moved by Robt. Anderson, seconded by J. W. A. R. Masson, Esq.:

That the sum of twelve hundred and fifty pounds be presented to the President, in consideration of his services during the past year. Passed unanimously.

Moved by L. H. Holton, Esq., M.P.P., seconded by W. B. Cumming, Esq.:

That the thanks of the Meeting be given to David Davidson, Esq., Chief Cashier, and to the other Officers of the Bank, for the efficient discharge of their duties during the past year. Passed unanimously.

A revised Code of By-Laws for the management of the affairs of the Bank, was then submitted to the Meeting, and adopted.

(Signed,)

P. McGILL, Chairman. S. READ, Secretary.

The Scrutineers, JNO. SMITH, P. REDPATH, and JNO. GREENSHIEDDS, Esqrs., reported the following gentlemen as elected Directors for the ensuing year:—

HON. P. McGILL.
T. B. ANDERSON, Esq.
HUGH ALLAN, Eso.
JNO. BROOK, Esq.
JNO. BOSTON, Esq.
BENJ. HOLMES, Esq.
DAVID TORRANCE, Esq.

JAMES LOGAN, Esq.
JNO. REDPATH, Esq.
THOMAS RYAN, Esq.
HARRISON STEPHENS, Esq.
HENRY THOMAS, Esq.
JNO. TORRANCE, Esq.

## GENERAL STATEMENT

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Capital Stock,				£	1,257,625	0	0	Gold and Silver Com on hand, £209,329	12	8
Circulation,		•••			900,270	5	0	Government Securities, 140,700	0	0
Dividends Due,		•••			52,900	14	1	Notes and Cheques of other Banks, 41,568	3	0
The Rest,		•••	•••	•••	175,000	0	0	Balances Due by other Banks, 26.600	15	7
Deposits,		•••			571,167	16	5	Balances Due by Foreign Agents, 24,282	13	2
(£179,452 bearing	g Inte	rest.)						Real Estate, 54,762	1	7
,		,					ì	Notes Discounted and other Debts Due the		
							ŀ	Bank, not included under above heads, 2,459,720	19	G
				£	2,956,964	5	6	£2,956,964	5	6

At a Meeting of the New Board, this Morning, the Election of President and Vice President took place by ballot, when the Hon. P. McGILL and T. B. ANDERSON, Esq., were unanimously re-elected.

(Signed)

D. DAVIDSON, CASHIER.

Bank of Montreal, Montreal, June 3, 1856.