

# BANK OF MONTREAL.

## PROCEEDINGS OF A General Meeting of the Stockholders of the Bank of Montreal, *Held at the Banking House, This Day, (Monday,) 5th June, 1854.*

At the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Bank of Montreal, held this day, at the office of the Institution, JOHN YULE, Esq., having been called to the Chair, and D. KINNEAR, Esq., requested to act as Secretary, the Hon. PETER MCGILL, the President, on the part of the Board, laid before the Meeting a statement of the affairs of the Bank, and afterwards read the following report:

**Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:**

On behalf of your late Board of Directors, I have again the pleasure of inviting your attention to the Annual Statement of the affairs of the Bank, which you will find on the table, and which after examination, it is hoped you will consider satisfactory.

The business of the past year, has been, upon the whole, prosperous. Very few losses have been sustained; the only one of only magnitude is the forgery by Vanarman, at the Brantford Agency, which may amount, with expenses, to £2,000, and for which a special appropriation has been made.

You will observe by the statement, that nearly all the new capital has been paid up. The calls have in every instance been regularly and promptly met, a great proportion of the Stock having been paid in advance, and the benefit accruing therefrom to the Stockholders and to the customers of the Bank has been mutual.

The income from all sources, expenses of management deducted, has been, ..... £154,469 9 4  
and it has been appropriated as follows:—

To the payment of two half-yearly dividends of 3½ per cent. amounting to .....	£68,502 12 5
To the payment of Government tax on circulation ... ..	8,155 14 0
To the reserve fund to cover interest on special deposits, possible losses, and other current contingencies ... ..	12,708 9 8
	89,366 16 1
Leaving to be added to "The Rest" .....	£65,102 13 3
In which, however, is included £6,000 of premium on shares sold, but not brought to account in the last annual balance sheet, thus raising it to ... ..	£171,320 1 2
The average amount of our discounted paper has been .....	£2,151,828 0 0
(Exceeding that of last year, £460,220.)	
The average amount of circulation has been, .....	1,033,531 0 0
(Exceeding that of last year £357,560.)	
The average amount of deposit has been, .....	581,443 0 0
(Exceeding that of last year £36,974.)	
The average amount of specie on hand has been, ... ..	230,328 0 0
(Exceeding that of last year 53,677.)	

It will be observed that, besides paying seven per cent. dividend during the past year, and providing for other heavy charges on the business, there has been added a considerable sum to "The Rest."

The question of the amount to which the Rest ought to be raised, has frequently engaged the consideration of your late Directors, and I deem it right to communicate here to the Stockholders their and my own views on the subject.

Assuming that the operations of the Bank will meet with fair success during the ensuing six months (and with good management I cannot doubt it), "The Rest," it is hoped will be increased to £200,000 by December next, paying besides a half-yearly dividend of 3½ per cent. After that period, I think it not unreasonable to expect that the Directors of the day will be able to declare 8 per cent per annum, and continue adding to "The Rest," until it amounts to £250,000, when the whole profits might be safely divided, either in shape of increased dividends, or by an occasional bonus.

It is of great importance, no doubt, to have a respectable "Rest," as adding stability to, and increasing confidence in, the institution both at home and abroad; and I hope you will sustain the opinion of your late directors; as a guide for those you may elect to-day.

Though your late directors have been as liberal in the discounts as circumstances would warrant, they have not been able to satisfy all the applications that have been made for perfectly legitimate business purposes. The trade of the country is annually augmenting in extent and value, requiring more banking capital; it has, therefore, been determined to apply to the Provincial Legislature, at the approaching Session, for permission to increase the Capital Stock of this Bank, in the farther sum

