

THE ACCOUNTS OF THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF CANADA.

MONTREAL.

The affairs of the City of Montreal, which were not in the best possible shape some years ago, have recently been brought into admirable order by the combined exertions of the City Treasurer, Mr. J. F. D. Black, and the City Auditor, Mr. Wm. Robb. From the report for the financial year, ended 31st January, 1869, we condense the following particulars:—

ASSETS.

Water Works Property.....	\$3,250,851	
Market Properties.....	661,470	
Road Department Property.....	490,093	
Main Sewers.....	398,233	
Drill Shed.....	99,744	
Fire Department Property.....	69,925	
Miscellaneous (including \$1,989 Sinking Fund).....	46,391	
Total, representing Funded Debt.....		\$5,016,707
Cash Accounts.....	196,357	
Arrears of Street and Draining Improvements.....	224,396	
Claim against Grand Trunk Railway, Miscellaneous Debts, &c....	410,723	
		831,476
Arrears—Assessments.....	462,367	
Do. Water Works.....	174,963	
		637,330
		\$6,485,513
LIABILITIES.		
Funded Debt—Bonds (6 p.c.).....	\$4,314,833	
Stock (7 p.c.).....	604,800	
		\$4,919,633
Floating Debt.....	237,754	
Balance.....	1,328,126	
		\$6,485,513

RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the year were \$2,420,009, but as \$1,257,972 of this was from the sale of Bonds to replace maturing ones, and \$203,775 from the realized Sinking Fund, we set down the Revenue at \$958,262, viz:—

Assessments.....	\$248,492	
Personal Taxes, Business Duty, &c.....	99,794	
Licenses.....	5,431	
		\$353,717
Arrears of the above.....	86,054	
Water Works Revenue.....	223,237	
Market do.....	58,928	
Miscellaneous.....	56,343	
		\$778,289
To this should be added the following:—		
Arrears from Street Improvements, Drains, &c.....	\$26,638	
Special Assessments—Streets, &c.....	714,431	
Open Accounts and Miscellaneous.....	38,904	
		179,973
Shewing a total Revenue of.....		\$958,262

EXPENDITURE.

The total payments of the year were \$2,410,505, but \$1,180,546 thereof was for redemption of debt, and \$85,000 for a special deposit in the Bank of Montreal, leaving \$1,285,204 as the expenditure proper. This, it will be noted, is some \$327,000 in excess of the revenue; but a great deal of this is represented by new and necessary property acquired, such as a new Water Works engine, and reservoir, \$45,233; a new city map, \$10,050; \$38,574 on account of a new Drill Shed; protection of aqueduct, extension of water pipes, &c., \$77,093. Some \$257,428 also appear as disbursements for the widening, &c., of streets.

Mr. Auditor Robb states, that while the ordinary revenue was \$778,289, the ordinary expenditure was \$745,947, shewing a surplus of \$32,342; but, in the opinion of the writer, it is better at once to admit that there was a deficiency as above mentioned. In a great and growing city like Montreal, there must always be an expenditure on capital account. Wider streets, better drainage, larger parks, and public buildings have to be provided from year to year, continuously, and it by no means follows that to spend in excess of the ordinary revenue is improvident or unjust to a future generation.

PROPERTY AND POPULATION.

The assessed value of real estate in Montreal, 31st May, 1869, was \$45,259,520, divided among 5,250 proprietors. There were 19,050 tenants paying rates. The population of the city proper—