

of estates and properties. We did, however, maintain a dividend of six per cent, not without great difficulty.

The other Banks of the country shared in the untoward experience of these disastrous years. The stock of the Bank of Montreal fell in 1879 to 125, and of the Bank of Toronto to 106¼.

The tide, however, turned at length, and between 1880 and 1881 a decided change for the better took place. In June, 1881, the Bank added \$50,000 to its Rest; the first addition made after re-adjustment.

Soon after this, the extraordinary development in Manitoba took place consequent upon the rapid pushing forward of the Canadian Pacific Railway. A great augmentation of the business of the Bank took place, and large profits were rapidly accumulated.

This state of things continued for two or three years, during which time more than \$600,000 was added to the Rest.

Then succeeded a period of severe reaction in Manitoba, and heavy losses in consequence. The business of the Bank in other parts of the country, however, was fairly prosperous, owing largely to the development of our manufacturing industries.

But during these years we found, to our annoyance, that sundry customers in Ontario and this province, whose business was sound in itself, had been seduced, unknown to us, into land speculations in Manitoba, had suffered severely during the reaction, and were compelled to suspend payment, with heavy losses to their creditors.

Instances of this kind were coming to our knowledge for many years after the shock of revulsion was felt in Manitoba itself.

The general business of the Bank, however, was being carefully developed on what were considered to be sound lines, and moderate additions to the Rest went on year by year, along with a dividend which was raised to seven per cent. in November, 1881.

During the last few years there has been an extraordinary development of Banking competition, and all the care of the Directors and the Executive of the Bank have been necessary to hold our business firmly together, while carefully taking advantage of opportunities for its development.

To give the Shareholders an idea (I think it is appropriate at such a time as this) of the gradual progress of the Bank, I append a statement of the Deposits, Circulation, Available Reserves, Discounts