23. To ascertain this your Directors looked to the estimated value of floating Assets, and these were found to be £28,355 6s. 7d., of which they consider that there may be available within the year to meet the old demand, £20,000. This would leave a deficiency of £28,584 15s. 1d., and to cover this deficiency your Directors had no alternative but a call of 5 per cent. on the subscribed capital of the Company, which has accordingly been made, and will produce the sum of £24,826, which will be payable at such dates as may enable the Directors to sustain the credit of the Company without bearing too heavily on the Stockholders.

24. By the adoption of this course the old demands upon the Company will be speedily discharged, and its standing raised. The future too, gives a fair promise of successful results.

Instead of entering on the new year with pending claims to the extent of £120,810 16s. 1d., as was the case last year, there now remains not more than £25,912 15s. 9d., valued claims, which, with the bills payable, will, as already stated, be discharged by the call and the available assets, whilst your new business may well be trusted to provide for its own demands, and leave a fair profit to the Stockholders. If such prospects for the future did not exist, your Directors would have deemed it their duty on the present occasion to have recommended the discontinuance of the business, even though doing so must have certainly necessitated a call to a much larger amount than is now made. Fortunately your Directors are enabled to choose the lesser evil, and thus secure to the Stockholders a reasonable hope of retrieving their losses of the past.

25. In the Mutual Branch your Directors have nothing particular to remark. Its business is being gradually closed. The usual statements of its transactions are submitted, together also with the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements in the Proprietary Department, the Balance Sheet, and Statement of Assets and Liabilities, to which your Directors would refer.

J. S. HOWARD, *President.*

ED. TAYLOR DARTNELL, *Manager.*