

and flourishing condition; and your Directors are happy to be able to state, that the present year promises a more profitable than the past.

The renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, on a fair and equitable basis, we trust may be effected during the present year; when, doubtless, this and other important branches of Canadian industry will be greatly stimulated.

Your Directors may, without exceeding their legitimate sphere, refer to a few facts in connection with our manufactures and importations. Canada requires, and must seek, new outlets for many articles now manufactured in the Dominion, if your industries are to be continued or extended. Prominent amongst these may be placed the productions of your woollen mills, the limited demand for which has not absorbed the supply. The importations of the past two or three years have been largely in excess of the consuming capacity of the country: these over-importations, and the eagerness evinced to find purchasers therefore, have induced a large number of persons to engage in mercantile pursuits, many of whom were not possessed of sufficient capital, and lacked that business training and experience so necessary in these days of keen competition to lead them on to success. The general dulness in trade has left many with stocks of goods on hand, for which they have been unable from their own resources to pay; and being pressed for remittances, has led a great number to go into bankruptcy, as the readiest way to get rid of their financial embarrassments. Your Directors would call the attention of importers and wholesale dealers to the necessity of looking more closely into the affairs of debtors, when their estates are being thus disposed of, as a means of preventing fraud and over-trading. The ease with which discharges have been obtained has induced traders and others to avail themselves of our bankrupt law, who, with more energy and economy, might have honourably met all their engagements. It is hoped that the Bill now before Parliament will actually check the facilities at present so readily availed of, and deter many from entering into pursuits for which they have no natural or acquired ability, and in which too many are already engaged. The result of this general over-trading has led to the withdrawal of a large amount of labour from agricultural pursuits, where in it might have been more profitably directed for their own advantage and the general good.

All the Bank Charters expire next year, and the question of their renewal is now engaging the earnest attention of Parliament and the country. If the Government scheme becomes law, the system now in existence, which has been productive of so much benefit to the country generally, and particularly to the Province of Ontario, will be so changed as to limit to a large extent the facilities now afforded to the public.

A large number of the Stockholders of the Bank, having expressed the conviction that their interest, as well as those of the public, would be better subserved by removing the Head Office to one of the large Commercial centres in Ontario or Quebec, petitions have been presented to Parliament, and a Bill will be immediately introduced, asking for a renewal of the present Charter and also for authority to be given to a majority of the Stockholders, present in person or by proxy, to determine whether such removal shall be made, and if so, to what point: such meeting to be called specially for that purpose.

Your Directors determined last fall to close the Hamilton Branch. This is now being done, and this Office will be finally closed within a few weeks.

The Cashier, Managers, and other Officers of the Bank, have discharged their respective duties with zeal and ability, and are, in our opinion entitled to your thanks.

The profits of last year, after the payment of all current expenses and making provision for in-

terest on Deposits, and discount on U. S. funds, is.....\$221,873 90
To which add balance at credit of profit and loss from last year.....23,240 82

\$247,114 72

Which has been appropriated as follows:

To payment of dividend, 1st of December last.....\$80,000 00
To dividend payable 1st June instant... 80,000 00
To Government tax on circulation.... 2,697 91
To reduction on Bank property..... 4,000 00
To added to reserve... 20,000 00 \$186,697 91
Leaving a balance at credit of profit and loss account.....\$60,416 78

J. SIMPSON, *President*,
JOHN J. ROBSON, *Secretary*.

Ontario Bank, Bowmanville, June 7th, 1868.

GENERAL STATEMENT of the affairs of the Ontario Bank, as on Monday, the 31st day of May, 1868.

ASSETS.
Gold, Silver and Provincial Notes on hand.....\$ 762,897 14
Government Securities..... 206,892 69
Balances due by other Banks.. 136,462 84
Notes and Cheques of other Banks..... 96,963 07
Bank Property..... 154,843 14
Notes and Bills discounted.. 4,202,088 47
\$5,559,247 35

LIABILITIES.
Capital Stock.... \$2,000,000 00
Circulation..... 881,751 00
Deposits not on interest..... 974,416 18
Do. on interest 1,097,962 94 2,072,379 12
Balances due to other Banks.... 198,235 49
Dividends unclaimed..... 2,797 71
Div'd No. 24 payable 1st June.. 80,000 00
Reserve Fund.... 250,000 00
Interest and Exchange reserved 13,669 20
Profit and loss.... 60,416 78
\$5,559,247 35

D. FISHER,
Cashier.

Ontario Bank, Bowmanville, 31st May, 1869
Moved by T. N. Gibbs, Esq., seconded by James Dryden, Esq.,—*Resolved*. That the report of the President and Directors, together with the General Statement of the affairs of the Bank, now submitted, be received, adopted, and printed for the information of the shareholders.

Moved by C. J. Campbell, Esq., seconded by H. A. Massey, Esq.,—*Resolved*. That the thanks of the Shareholders are hereby given to the President and Directors, for their efficient management of the affairs of the Bank during the past year.

Moved by Dr. McGill, seconded by A. F. Wallbridge, Esq.,—*Resolved*. That Messrs. Massey, Draper and Turner be scrutineers of this election, and that they report the result to the Cashier.

Moved by Wm. McMurtry, Esq., seconded by J. W. Little, Esq.,—*Resolved*.—That the balloting now commence, and that it be closed at 3 o'clock, but if at any time ten minutes shall have expired without a vote being tendered, the ballot may be closed by the Scrutineers.

Moved by T. N. Gibbs, Esq., seconded by J. P. Lovekin, Esq.,—*Resolved*. That the Chairman now leave the chair, and that C. J. Campbell, Esq., be requested to take the same.

Moved by Dr. Gunn, seconded by Wm. Simpson, Esq.,—*Resolved*. That the thanks of the

meeting are hereby given to the President, for his efficient services in the chair.

Moved by Henry Hopkins, Esq., seconded by Daniel Betts, Esq.,—*Resolved*: That the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Robson for his services as secretary.

The following is the report of the Scrutineers.

D. FISHER, Esq.,
Cashier Ontario Bank.

Sir,—We the undersigned Scrutineers, appointed at the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Ontario Bank held this day, do declare the following gentlemen duly elected as Directors for the current year.—Hon. J. Simpson, T. N. Gibbs, J. Dryden, J. P. Lovekin, D. A. McDonald, Hon. W. P. Howland, Wm. McMurtry.

C. DRAPER,
H. A. MASSEY,
R. H. TURNER, } Scrutineers.

ONTARIO BANK, Bowmanville, June 7th, 1869
The Board of newly elected Directors met immediately after the report of the Scrutineers, and re-elected the Hon. J. Simpson, President, and T. N. Gibbs, Esq., M. P., Vice-President.

D. FISHER, Cashier.

COASTING TRADE AND NAVIGATION AND RECIPROCAL FREE TRADE.

Among the parliamentary papers received yesterday we find the following report from the Colonial delegates of their correspondence while in England with the Colonial Secretary on the subject of coasting trade and the Reciprocity Treaty:—

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir John Young, Baronet, G. C. B.; G. C. M. G., Governor General of Canada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—During our sojourn in England we had the honour to bring under the notice of the Right Honourable Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, two important questions; one relating to the Coasting Trade and Navigation, and the other to Reciprocal Free Trade between the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America.

In the first place with respect to the question of the Coasting Trade and Navigation, we had, previous to our departure for England, been instructed by Order in Council of 1st October, 1868, to take such steps as might be necessary to urge the British Government to recognize in the United Kingdom certificates of competency granted to masters and mates of Canadian vessels by the Canadian Government, and to define the Dominion of Canada as one British possession.

On these two points we had interviews with Earl Granville, and through him with the Right Honourable Mr. Bright, President of the Board of Trade, and were assured that the principle involved therein and contended to, in the Order of Council referred to, and in our verbal representations met with the cordial concurrence of Her Majesty's Government, and were informed that a measure would be submitted to Parliament to meet our views respecting them.

Since our return to Canada we find that a Bill has been introduced into the Imperial Parliament, the object of which is to remedy the evils of which we complained.

This measure provides that in the construction of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, and of the Acts amending the same, Canada shall be deemed to be one British possession and that a British possession as therein defined may by any Act or ordinance from time to time regulate the Coasting Trade of that possession under certain conditions therein specified.

With respect to the recognition in the United Kingdom of certificates of competency granted to masters and mates of Canadian Vessels by the Canadian Government, the same measure provides that where any British Possession provides for the granting of certificates of competency to masters, mates