lessons, the companies have for their programme in 1871 a general reduction of rates (about 20 per cent,) and a more reckless disregard of all sound conservative practices in fire underwriting than has ever been known. Certainly, the President of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, at its recent annual session in New York, was quite excusable for a jeremiad over the condition of affairs. "And now, gentlemen, what do we find to be the condition of the business at this time? The year 1870 witnessed the failure of a very prominent agency company, and of several others of not so much importance, the withdrawal from the centres of trade and commerce of others crippled, a fierce and unwholesome competition for business, hostile legislation springing up in many of the States against the companies, and great and increasing laxity shown in the contracts made by the companies; and added to this a large increase in the number of fires in all parts of the country." And all of which, the President might have added, will continue to be "the condition of the business," until adversity shall compel the companies to stop "fierce and unwholesome competition," as aforesaid.

FOUNDATION OF THE NEW ROYAL CANADIAN BANK BUILDING.—The foundation stone of the new building in course of erection for the Royal Canadian Bank, was laid on the 14th inst., in presence of the President, Vice-President and the Directors. In the stone were deposited the following:—Copies of the daily papers of this city and of the MONETARY TIMES; one $1 bill of the Bank, bearing date July, 1870; silver coins of the Dominion, viz., 50, 25, 20, 10 and 5 cents; copper do., 1 cent; latest brokers' circulars; copy of the Charter of the Bank and the Banking Act of last session; Canada year book, 1871; also, a scroll, stating capital of the Bank, names of the Directors, Cashier and Inspector, also the names of the architects and contractors for the building.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.—First mortgage bonds of this Company to the amount of £235,000 stg. in bonds of £100 each bearing 6 per cent interest, principal repayable in 30 years, by a sinking fund of 2 per cent. and yearly drawings have been offered in the London (Eng.,) market. The issue price is £85, payable in installments, extending over three months. These bonds are a first charge on the line with the exception of some municipal payments, not exceeding $10,000 per annum. £150,000, of the amount to be raised by the sale of these bonds, is to be applied in extending the line to St. John's Lake and Georgian Bay, 55 miles, the annual revenue from which extension is expected to be $200,000. The total issue authorized by the Act of the Ontario Legislature is £335,000, so that £100,000 remain yet to be issued.

THERE is a general depression in the stock market with a great preponderance of sellers; the tendency of prices is still downward. This is a healthy change. Let us hope that it will tend to divert attention from stock speculations and direct the flow of capital into more legitimate channels.

Meetings.

ONTARIO BANK.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the stockholders of the Ontario Bank, was held at the banking house, Bowmanville, on Monday, the 5th day of June, 1871.

The chair was taken by the Hon. John Simpson, President, who read the

Fourteenth Annual Report,

as follows:

In presenting the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Ontario Bank, with the usual balance sheets, your Directors have much pleasure in stating that the business of the institution for the past year has been the largest since its existence, and the net profits are considerably in excess of any former year.

The deposits and circulation have been largely in excess of other years, and this has enabled your Directors to extend the line of discounts, and at the same time maintain ample reserves.

The losses incurred on the transactions of the past year, so far as ascertained, have been small, and are in our opinion fully covered by the amount carried to the credit of profit and loss.

From the profits of the past year we recommend that the sum of $75,000 be carried to the credit of reserve, making that fund $250,000.

Reference was made in our last Annual Report to the defective character of the Act which provided the mode of procedure for the removal of the Head Office, and in accordance with the pledge then given, legislation has been obtained, under which the change can be effected, within a reasonable time, by the stockholders, should they deem such a change necessary.

A General Banking Bill, under which all Chartered Banks are to act hereafter, was introduced by the Government during the last Session of Parliament, and, after the most careful consideration, became law. While this measure is not in all respects what was desired, it is nevertheless, in our opinion, a decided improvement on the legislation of former years.

The 5th clause of the General Banking Act, before referred to, provides that the stockholders of any of the Banks mentioned in the Schedule, may, from time to time, increase their capital by a vote of the stockholders; such vote to be taken at any Annual Meeting of such stockholders, or at a Special General Meeting to be called for that purpose.

Your Directors, availing themselves of the power conferred by the clause of the Act above cited, determined sometime since to recommend an increase of the capital of the Bank to the extent of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($500,000)—the stock to represent this amount to be issued to the shareholders at par, and to be fully paid up within about twelve months of the time when notice of the allotment is made to the shareholders.

These resolutions will be submitted to you for your consideration and approval.

The object that your Directors have mainly in view, in advising an increase of the Capital of your Bank, is to enable them to increase the capital to be employed at the branches of your Bank located at the two principal commercial centres, namely,—Montreal and Toronto; and also to enable them to meet the requirements of the rapidly increasing and expanding trade of the country, as well as the legitimate claims of your own customers.

The profits of the past year, after the payment of all current expenses, and after making provision for interest on Special Deposits, and discount on American currency, is	$265,289 19
Add balance left on credit of profit and loss from last year	5,998 41
	$271,287 60

Appropriated as follows:—

Payment of December dividend	$80,000 00	
Payment of June dividend	80,000 00	
Government tax on circulation	7,515 47	
To credit of reserve	75,000 00	
To " profit and loss.	28,772 13	
		$271,287 60

Two very careful inspections of the Branches during the year have been made by your efficient inspector, Mr. Milroy, and we are happy to report that he found everything in a very satisfactory state.

The Cashier, Inspector, and the different Managers and Officers have performed their respective duties to the entire satisfaction of your Board, and we consider them fully entitled to your thanks.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. SIMPSON, President.

General Statement of the Affairs of the Ontario Bank, as on Tuesday, the 30th day of May, 1871:

ASSETS.

Gold, Silver, and Provincial Notes	$801,235 23	
Government securities	207,359 98	
Balances due by other Banks	231,923 76	
Notes and cheques of other Banks	201,676 90	
Bank property	159,830 57	
Notes and bills discounted	5,367,908 08	
		$6,969,934 52

LIABILITIES.

Capital Stock	2,000,000 00	
Circulation	1,747,809 00	
Deposits not on interest ..$1,471,497 09		
Deposits on int 1,166,269 78	2,637,766 87	
Balances due other Banks	185,068 22	
Dividends unclaimed.	1,931 91	
Dividend No. 28, payable 1st June	80,000 00	
Reserve fund	250,000 00	
Interest and exchange reserved	38,585 39	
Profit and loss	28,772 13	
		$6,969,934 52

D. FISHER, Cashier.

Ontario Bank, Bowmanville, 29th May, 1871

Moved by W. McGill, Esq., M. D., seconded by W. Allison, Esq., M. D.,—*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 W. Renwick, Esq., seconded by A. Ross, Esq.,—*Resolved:* That the thanks of the shareholders are hereby given to the President and Directors, for the efficient management of the affairs of the Bank during the past year.

Moved by C. J. Campbell, Esq., seconded by W. K. Burk, Esq.,—*Resolved:* That, whereas, by act of the Dominion Parliament, passed during the last session thereof, entitled "An Act relating to Banks and Banking," power is given to the shareholders of the respective Chartered Banks mentioned and set forth in the Schedule accompanying said Act, and forming part thereof, by a vote of the Stockholders taken at any annual general meeting, or any special general meeting called for that purpose, to increase the capital stock of any such Bank desirous of increasing the same; and whereas, it is deemed expedient to increase the capital stock of the Ontario Bank, under the provisions of the said recited Act, to the extent of five hundred thousand dollars; be it therefore resolved, that the capital stock of the said Ontario Bank be, and the same is hereby declared to be increased to the extent of the said sum of five hundred thousand dollars.