

We confess to the apprehension of some difficulty as to the details of the proposed distribution. What projects shall be favored, and what left out—the cold? How much shall this one receive, and how little that? If the companies can only come to regard themselves as mendicants, they will probably have too much modesty and gratitude to find fault with the donors. But if they should regard their claims as a *right*, and insist upon them, there would be something truly awkward. The Government will no doubt exercise the right of giving to what projects and in what amounts they think most deserving and expedient, and let the recipients take what they get and be thankful. Any other mode would involve an endless amount of wrangling, lobbying, and disappointment.

It will no doubt be considered necessary to aid chiefly such projects as run back into the unsettled districts, and into those sections which suffer most from a difficulty of access to the centres of trade. Of this class are the Wellington, Grey and Bruce, the Toronto, Grey and Bruce, the Muskoka, the Nipissing, the Peterboro' and Haliburton, the Midland, the Kingston and Madoc, and probably others. All these are projects more or less deserving, and such of them, at least, as can show a good financial basis will no doubt expect to receive aid from the Treasury.

ROYAL CANADIAN BANK.

The shareholders of this Institution will read with pleasure the announcement of a dividend, after suffering, hoping, and waiting for eighteen months; and especially as the profits of the past six months not only justify the payment of this dividend, but furnish the best reason for expecting them regularly in future. The declared profit on the period from the re-opening to the 30th June last was \$103,000. We confess to having had our doubts at that time as to the possibility of fulfilling the hopes to which so favorable a showing was certain to give rise; but the fact that \$51,000—at the rate of \$102,000 a year—has been fairly earned in the past six months shows that the Bank is doing a steady paying business, and leads to the belief that this rate of profit, at least, can be maintained. A gradual return of public confidence is indicated by the increase in circulation of \$210,000 from the 30th June to 30th November. The deposits are also larger.

The following statement of the results of the half year's business has been handed us by the officers of the Bank:

Paid-up Capital Stock.....	\$1,121,950
Reduction authorized on renewal of charter 20 p.c.....	224,390
Amount of reduced paid-up Capital....	\$87,560

Amount placed to credit of Profit and Loss by above reduction of 20 p.c..	224,390
The original paid-up Capital (\$1,121,950) as per statement of June last, after deducting all bad debts, preliminary expenses, &c., was shown to be impaired to the extent of.....	184,390
Balance at credit.....	40,000
To which add the net profits for six months ending 30th December.....	51,000
	91,000
From which we have reserved for rebate on bills discounted and Int. on deposits.....	12,000
Three p.c. dividend on \$897,560. payable 16th January next.....	26,927
	38,927
Balance at credit of rest.....	52,073

In addition to this there is an amount of \$39,000 at the credit of suspense account.

This statement is so explicit as to scarcely require comment. The reduction of the paid-up capital takes effect on the 1st prox.; it will then stand at \$897,560, and on this reduced capital the dividend will be paid. But the fact that the impairment of capital was but \$184,390, and that the reduction amounts to \$224,390, gives the Bank, with its reconstructed capital account, the advantage of the difference—\$40,000. To this sum the \$51,000 earned in the past six months is added, making the disposable total of \$91,000. Out of this the dividend is taken, and an appropriation for rebate, absorbing \$38,927, and leaving \$52,073 unappropriated, and available for the purpose of creating a rest. Besides this there is a sum of \$39,000, being part of an amount of \$44,381 set aside in June last for contingencies, and to meet bad and doubtful debts. As the matters for which this money was placed in abeyance are pretty nearly disposed of, a portion of it will be available for the purpose of augmenting the reserve.

Now that dividends have been resumed, and the past difficulties forgotten, their effects will soon be lost sight of in the new career of prosperity on which, we trust, the Bank has fairly entered.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Although Toronto has been rather unfortunate in the matter of fires, recently, the general experience of the past two months, throughout the Province has been favorable. This will tend to reduce the disagreeable looking balances that were being created against the business of 1870, by the heavy losses in the first six months of the year. The local companies report a fair year's business, the figures for which we may be able to place before the public after a time. Some of the foreign companies cannot make so

favorable a report; one of them is said to have lost much more than the amount of the premiums up to a recent date.

The ocean marine business of the season just closed has been unusually bad; with some companies, at least, the same is true of the inland, though they each contend that they have escaped better than their neighbors.

We continue to hear rumours of one or more large British Companies having the subject of withdrawal from Canada in contemplation. It is satisfactory to learn from Montreal, that there is a general disposition among the British offices to not only maintain rates, but to advance them whenever that is practicable.

An advance in the shares of the Western Assurance Co., to par, and the declaration of a 12 per cent. dividend, is an event of some local interest. This Company seems to have met with a wave of prosperity, which the management are wisely taking advantage of, to place its affairs on a sound and stable basis.

We learn that the first issue of bonds of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway Company, to the amount of \$215,000, has been placed with a Toronto firm at a rate considered satisfactory by the Company. The bonds bear eight per cent. interest and have five years to run.

NORTH GREY RAILWAY COMPANY.—A bill has been introduced into the Legislature for the incorporation of the North Grey Railway Company, to construct a road from Collingwood to Meaford, in the county of Grey, a distance of twenty-two miles. The capital is \$150,000, in shares of \$100 each. Directors may be elected as soon as one-fourth of the stock has been subscribed, and 20 per cent. paid thereon. The gauge is to be five feet six inches—same as the Northern—and power is asked to lease the road to the Northern Company. The railway must be commenced in one year, and finished within two years of granting of charter.

NOTICE is given in the *Canada Gazette* of application to Parliament, for an act to incorporate "The Bank of Rupert's Land;" also for act to incorporate the "Mutual Life Insurance Association of Canada." The Dominion Bank is to apply for power to increase its capital to two millions of dollars. The Quebec Bank will also apply for power to increase its capital.

NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE.—Elsewhere we reprint an article from *The Insurance Review*, of London, England—a journal which has taken a leading position as an insurance authority. It will be seen that the progress of the National has attracted attention across the Atlantic.