

and one opened at St. Hyacinthe, as we have already noted. A building for a branch office has been bought in St. Roch's suburbs; another in Chicoutimi. The report also refers to the resignation, on account of failing health, by Mr. Crebassa, of the general management, to which he was appointed on May 25th, 1895, and to the resignations of four of the directors, Messrs Turner, Price, Bilodeau, and Villeneuve. The first named three of these gentlemen resigned, it appears, the day after they were elected in May, 1895; the last named, the Montreal director, resigned on the 8th of this current month.

It may be only a coincidence, but from the rarity of English people at this meeting, it seems to one at this distance that either the French Canadian shareholders of La Banque Nationale have determined to get rid of all the English people connected with the management, or the English shareholders have made up their minds to withdraw from any share in its administration. There were fifty odd persons at the annual meeting last week, and according to the *Chronicle's* report, but five of them had English names. But, as we have stated, the lack of English people at the meeting and the resignation of the two English directors a year ago, may have been merely a coincidence. Let us hope that the management, having declared a small dividend this year, may, as they very confidently foreshadow in their report, have smaller losses and a better dividend than four per cent. in 1896. They have at any rate carried a good sum forward.

DOMINION BANK.

The annual meeting of this institution was held on Wednesday last. Its statement of the year's business showed the net earnings to have been \$189,862, almost identical with those of the previous twelve months; about three hundred dollars more, in fact, but still not much more than covers the dividend of twelve per cent., which it takes \$180,000 to pay. The balance is carried forward and added to the amount brought from the previous year and makes the amount so carried over \$25,752.

In its twenty-fifth year, the bank shows a very favorable condition. Circulation is somewhat larger than a year ago; deposits have grown slightly, too, while the proportion of readily available assets, over 30 per cent., is even larger. A tribute is paid in the report to the memory of the late James Scott, who was in his lifetime one of the most valued and assiduous of the directors. The vacancy on the board has been filled by the election of Mr. W. R. Brock.

A SPELLING LESSON.

English is an accommodating language. A man, if he do not live in Oxford and have not the fear of critics before his eyes, may spell and pronounce it much as he pleases and yet be intelligible. Talk about French irregular verbs! They are easy to a foreigner compared with the irregularities and "exceptions" which he finds in the study of grammatical English. Take the variety of pronunciations of the terminal OUGH as an example; nothing more puzzling was ever devised by even a Russian linguist.

Some months ago, in the last Christmas issue of THE MONETARY TIMES, we believe it was, a contributor gave an amusing list, numbering 74, of spellings of the word "mortgage" which he had compiled from letters received in the course of some years' connection with a money-lending corporation. We are to-day enabled to give our readers, through the courtesy of the Steele, Briggs Seed Company, Limited, an idea of the variety of ways in which the word "Alsike" (a description of clover) is spelled in correspondence received by them. There are sixty-six different spellings:

Alsike	Alsyke	Alsakie	Allsick	Alsika	Alsik
Alsicke	Alsick	Alsake	Alskie	Alask	Allesick
Alysack	Alsaikie	Asack	Alsecke	Ailsac	Allsack
Alsacck	Alsice	Alick	Alsakia	Alsic	Allsike
Alsacke	Alsiak	Alslack	Alesac	Alsaic	Alsac
Alsicke	Atsac	Alack	Alksuck	Alsilk	Alsark
Ailsike	Alsace	Alsaick	Alseke	Alsack	Alsalk
Alsycke	Alsaik	Alsaig	Alysick	Alyske	Alsect
Alsicks	Alcike	Olsequi	Allsiak	Alslike	Ailsik
Alsach	Alsaki	Alsact	Alseck	Alsacs	Alskike
Alysich	Alaski	Algsik	Alsixe	Aliske	

If we were to make guesses at the nationality of these different correspondents of the Steele, Briggs Company, based upon their spellings, we should say that the man who wrote for AILSAC was a Scotchman; for ALYSICH, a German; for ALSIKA, a Spaniard; for ALSAKIA, an Italian. Then the renderings "Alsace" and "Alsice" are manifestly French; "Olsequi," is Indian; "Alaski," Scandinavian, and "Alksuck" probably of that "universal language," Volapuk. There are some refinements of spelling, too, in the list. For instance, that of the orthographic dude, who insists on saying "Alcike," or the still more dainty user of the Queen's alphabet, who calls the word "Al-

saic." The man who wrote about "Allslack" was, perhaps, in his early days a sailor, and his pen slipped imperceptibly into the formation of a sound with which he had been familiar. But the spellings Alight, Allsack, Alslike are clearly, to our mind, those of good, sturdy Canadian Patrons.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Canned lobsters are being shipped from South Africa to London.

In Bosnia and Servia, from present appearances, there will be good prune crops this season.

Sales of Ceylon teas in London since June, 1895, have reached the remarkable figure of 2,339,700 packages.

Stocks of dried fruit appear to be everywhere bare, not only of California raisins, but also of Denia fruit.

The provision trade in Toronto is very quiet at present. Some little activity is, however, reported in smoked meats.

Canadian strawberries reached Toronto this week from the Niagara district, earlier by a week this year than previous records.

Montreal houses received this week first shipments of new Japan teas, mostly better quality. Next C.P.R. steamer will bring cheaper lines.

Last advices from Astoria and Portland state that as a result of the Columbia River fishermen's strike, the salmon packing to date is 100,000 cases short.

Samples of new Japan teas for 1896 have arrived via C.P.R. ex steamer "Empress of India." The leaf is, if anything, better than last year, while the market has opened about 2c. per pound lower than last year.

Nine cars of hogs were shipped, says the *Stratford Herald*, to the Collingwood Packing Company on Friday. The shipment was made from Stratford, Sebringville, Mitchell, Milverton, Brussels, Drayton, and Clifford.

Raisins this year are to be stored in California until they are sold at prices fixed by a committee. It is a plan which has long been advocated by some of the most intelligent growers and packers, but never before could it be put into practice.

The San Francisco *Country Merchant*, of 22nd inst., regrets to learn from a private source that the second buds on the vines in Napa valley, California, have also been frozen, so that no crop of wine grapes can be expected there this year. This fortunately is not so in Sonoma county.

A California letter of the 19th inst. says that peaches were dropping from the trees rapidly. Cherries were very scarce. The writer of the letter states that the continued frosts, coming as late as May 17th, were unprecedented, and have done great damage to the fruit crops.

Cheese wafers, cheese biscuits, and cheese strips, are the latest additions on the counters of the leading retail grocers. The cracker bakers are evidently determined to keep up with the procession. The cheese is grated and sprinkled on the top of the hot wafer or biscuit, and adheres firmly.—*Grocery World*.

The New Westminster *Columbian* of 18th says: The new canneries on the river are nearing completion. Yesterday the "Dunsmuir" brought from Vancouver the machinery for use in the new cannery at the mouth of the river, and to-morrow the "Edgar" will take down the engines, etc., to the new cannery of the Fraser River Industrial Society.

Over 200,000 salmon trout fry have been distributed from the Ottawa fish hatchery during last week; of these 80,000 have been placed in Lake Pemichangan, up the Gatineau; 60,000 in Lake Mississippi, and 60,000 in the lakes around Buckingham. Ninety cans of white fish and pickerel spawn, hatched in the Canadian fisheries at Montreal, have been distributed along the Canadian shore of Lake St. Clair.

Reports indicate that the acreage under hops in both New York State and the Pacific coast will be reduced. Growers in New York State estimate the decreased acreage at 25 to 30 per cent., while, it is said, careless cultivation and lack of fertilizing will make the growing plant peculiarly susceptible to disease. This tale has been told before, and we must wait until the season is over before judging of its truth. The weather has been warm and the vines are well advanced, tying being quite general.

The entire stock of loose raisins in California, says the San Francisco *Grocer*, is now believed not to exceed five cars, which are held at slight advances, as well as the layers that were purchased on speculation, though the demand does not show any disproportionate activity. It is now estimated that the yield of the first crop now on the vines will not be more than ten per cent. of a normal one. The second growth is progressing, but it is impossible to say what it will amount to