

records the business done during that period, making a total shortage of £1,716 for the three years, since re-construction. The surplus left after re-construction and credited to Reserve has thus been reduced to £1,560. The final call of 5s. a share has not been needed this June; and if the improvement referred to in the chairman's address continues, it will not be required to pay the interest due on debentures in the autumn. Debentures to the amount of £10,950 are outstanding. In answer to a question as to whether the company could be liquidated without ultimate loss, the chairman, Dr. John Rae, is reported to have said that he believed such a result might reasonably be anticipated, in fact, not only without loss but with profit. The annual expenses in Manitoba and London amounted to £321, showing that affairs are being managed at a minimum of expense. Sales in Manitoba are increasing, and always at advancing prices, the prospects of real estate showing a steady improvement.

LA BANQUE NATIONALE.—The annual statement of La Banque Nationale, presented on another page, calls for consideration. As will be seen, the Reserve of \$100,000 has disappeared, having been transferred to Profit and Loss to meet the loss incurred through the sale of 330 miles of timber limits, long held by the bank as security for overdue loans. A larger sum was appropriated in 1888 to cover eventual loss on this item, but an additional amount has been required. This asset has been long unproductive, and entailed an annual outlay of \$1,000, amount of Government dues and incidental expenses. By the liquidation of the account, \$160,000 of locked-up funds have been made available, which at 7 per cent. should add \$11,200 to the future profits of the bank, in addition to a saving of the annual expenses in connection with the ownership of the limits. As a result of this sale, the amount of secured overdue paper has decreased to \$81,754, having formerly stood at \$303,284. Apart from this unfortunate feature the statement shows a fairly satisfactory year's business. Net profits amounted to \$75,254, or 6 $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on capital. The comparatively small percentage of net profit must be attributed to the writing off of a larger amount of bad debts than usual, and it is probable that the Rest account was not of itself sufficient to cover the actual loss on the sale of the limits already mentioned. In its present position, the bank is undoubtedly in much better shape than for some years past, and we confidently look to a steady