

skins and the more extended traffic in goods and natural products—from this period when money did not enter into the transactions at all as far as Canada was concerned, we gradually reach the period when money became a feature and factor in the business affairs of the country. The establishment of repositories for money—banks and exchange offices became a necessity and were duly added to the commercial system. Merchandise brokers as well as money brokers followed. While business is now transacted upon the most modern lines there are still traces of the early days in many parts of the country. Until within very recent years, for instance, many farmers in this province cultivated Flax for the sole and express purpose of securing the salt required upon the farm—for the year. One bag of flax seed was exchanged at the general store for one bag of coarse salt. This is disappearing, for the most innocent of country people discovered that a bag of flax seed is worth from \$2.50 to \$3.00—and that a bag of salt is worth 50 to 60c.

A few years ago, comparatively many of the foremost merchants of Montreal kept their credit good by exchanging notes without consideration. Another feature in our trade in this city, only now disappearing, was the system of settling accounts between large firms—each giving to the other a note for the full amount of the others account. This