

and of the Port Hope outlet,—both on the platform and in the press. The Board thanked Mr. Culverwell for his address, and recommended Government enquiry respecting the canal outlet. The following are the terms of a resolution passed at the meeting of 12th October:

Resolved, that in the opinion of this Board the commercial, agricultural and manufacturing interests of this country, and particularly the interests of the Province of Ontario, will be greatly helped and advantaged by the early completion of the Trent Valley Canal;

That this Board is gratified that the Minister of Railways and Canals has already appointed an engineer to examine upon the two routes proposed as southern outlets of the canal;

That this Board respectfully urges upon the Minister of Railways and Canals the importance of a full and comprehensive report on both routes being prepared, based upon modern methods of canal construction;

That this report should include an estimate of the cost of improving and deepening the harbors of Port Hope and Trenton, the cost of operating railway and road bridges, the expenditure incurred in buoying and lighting both of the proposed routes from the mouth of the Otonabee river;

That in the opinion of this Board the estimates should be based upon minimum depths of 8-1-3 feet on the lock sills, 9½ feet in the canal prism, and 10½ feet in river and lake channels; also, that the river and lake channels should be 200 feet wide on bottom, with adequate additional width on Rice Lake to provide against the contingency of rough navigation;

That the costs of damages for abstraction of water in respect to both routes, the danger of land-flooding and damages as to land and property on both routes should be carefully gone into and reported upon in detail;

That the question of comparative time in making through trips by either route should be reported on, and the advantages or disadvantages of either route reported on so far as they relate to the question of returning freight both from the United States and from Western Ontario.



HINTS ON BANKING.

Hints on Banking—Compliments of the Bank of Hamilton, Brantford.—These ten words form the title of a brochure of sixty pages, which "does not aspire to be a treatise on banking, but only to give simple definitions of some of its forms and brief directions how to conduct ordinary transactions with a chartered bank." It abounds in detail and suggestion, and will be welcomed by many to whom the putting of money into a bank or drawing it out are operations involving as great a mystery and as much dread and false shame as they were to W. D. Howells, the novelist. That distinguished man has recently narrated how, when he received his first cheque from Ticknor & Fields (he had then just arrived in Boston from Ohio, and was both green and shy), he kept it for months because he did not know what to do with it. At last, having determined to use the piece of paper, he asked a friend the question: "How do I get the money for this?"—and the future poet, critic, author, got his first lesson in current financial procedure.

The book tells what a bank is—what an account current is—how to open a savings account—what deposit slips are for and what a cheque is (with diagrams of both). Also, it explains interest, notes and drafts, tells how to remit money, gives warning of the varying nature of endorsements, and some good advice about "overdrawing contrary to rules—a Bad Habit." These things, and many others more or less desirable to be taught that increasing class which has to do with banks, are explained with minuteness, and, we presume, with accuracy, for we do not pretend to criticize what the compiler has done with so much patience. What we cannot help criticizing, however, because it seems to us altogether foreign to what we are accustomed to expect in any book issued by a chartered bank, is the arrangement and appearance of the book. Forty-one pages out of sixty are devoted to advertisements. Many of these, it

is true, are of prominent and respectable firms, life companies, loan companies.

But we submit, respectfully, to the publisher that it would have been more in consonance with the dignity of a bank to have exercised some more careful supervision over the kind of advertisements accepted. Turning to pages 34 and 35, for instance, we find definitions of protest, forgery, sterling bills, etc., on the right hand, and on the left, cards an inch in depth telling how So-and-So cures rupture; how a certain remedy kills cockroaches, bed bugs, rats and mice, and how certain people keep a "Recherche Funeral Emporium." This is not pleasant reading—not what one expects to find in a book entitled Hints on Banking. It could not have been necessary to accept such advertisements from motives of economy, and the purpose of the book ought not to be money-making by such means.



LIFE ASSURANCE MATTERS.

The Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania is sending out some photographic reproductions representing its handsome office building in Philadelphia, in commemoration of November 5th of this year being its one hundred and tenth business anniversary. With one exception, the above corporation is the oldest joint stock insurance company in the United States, and its continuous existence in three centuries is an interesting milestone to the insurance fraternity.

In the monthly report for August of the Department of Trade and Commerce, at Ottawa, we find the following from Mr. Alex. MacLean, our commercial agent at Yokohama: "The Japan Daily Mail of this city quotes Mr. J. T. Hamilton, general manager for the East of the Equitable Life of New York, to the effect that: 'The excitement and suspense anterior to and ever since the beginning of the war with Russia have paralyzed many branches of business, life assurance amongst the number, so that, practically, the operations of the great companies have been suspended, but their expenses still go on without material diminution. When the war comes to a close, a consummation devoutly to be wished, prospects seem eminently favorable.' It is further stated that this company have manifested their confidence by making a liberal investment in the war bonds recently issued in London and New York by the Government of Japan. It is remarkable how the well-to-do and middle classes in Japan and China take to life insurance. The Canadian companies here are the Manufacturers Life and the Sun Life."



FOR DRY GOODS DEALERS.

The fur establishment of Chas. Desjardins & Co., Montreal, was entered by burglars one night last week and fur coats, boas, mantles and other goods stolen to the amount of \$20,000.

The Hamelin & Ayers Company, Limited, Lachute Mills, Que., have received from the Dominion Government a charter authorizing them to manufacture woolen goods. T. H. and J. T. Ayers, of Lachute, are prominently connected with the enterprise.

The sale of the mills, plants and other properties of the Canada Woolen Mills Co. to Mr. W. D. Long, of Hamilton, which, it will be remembered, was contested by Mr. G. F. Benson, of Montreal, has been declared by the courts to be illegal, and the company's assets will be offered for sale over again.

Once in a while, a smart-Alec gets hit. Here is an instance: "The other day," said a shipper who worked in a local woolen house, "we got a large order in from D— on London. So I packed it up, and then I thought it would be a good joke on him to nail the lid tight. So I began on it, and put a nail in every inch along the sides, then I sat down to chuckle as I thought of the job the customer would have in getting the case open. But I laughed too soon, for just then one of the fellows came in and said, 'Got that order