

adding that the condition of our prosperous affairs is largely due to the prudent management of our Cashier. Although the Directors render all the service in their power, and I wish to acknowledge that much valuable information has been constantly furnished by members of the Board, yet upon the Cashier the working out of all business details devolves, and I am sure the Directors will join me in the statement that Mr. Thomas has devoted himself in a most praiseworthy manner to the duties entrusted to his care. I now move the adoption of the report. Any further information desired will be furnished by the Cashier.

The report was adopted unanimously.

Mr. F. W. THOMAS—I have drawn up a memorandum of information which I thought it would be desirable to submit to the shareholders at this meeting, and which, with your permission, I will read. It will throw some light upon the negotiations which have been in progress between the Mechanics' Bank and this Bank. The statement is as follows:

Since the unfortunate suspension of the Mechanics' Bank, the purchase of its premises by this Bank has been variously commented upon, and many inaccuracies in relation thereto have from time to time appeared in the daily papers. These we should have corrected had not the time for our annual meeting been so near at hand, which we deemed the fitting occasion for placing the transaction in its proper light before you and the general public.

As briefly as possible I purpose relating the circumstances ending in the purchase, and afterwards it will be my object to dispose of the charge of undue preference which has been alleged against us. At intervals in the past twelve months the amalgamation of the Mechanics' Bank with this Bank was discussed, and I believe I am warranted in saying that the proposition received almost unanimous approval, but no steps were taken to bring it about until after it was submitted to the shareholders of the Mechanics' Bank at their annual meeting in July last.

Negotiations then progressed, and several points were agreed upon, the most prominent being the assumption of the Mechanics' Bank premises as an asset of \$100,000. This part of the proposed arrangement was carried into effect. Considerable delay here occurred, awaiting the production of the balance sheet and other statements essential to a valuation of their other assets, and it was in endeavouring to obtain these that the existence of a serious defalcation was discovered. This convinced our Board that amalgamation with the Mechanics' Bank could not be entertained. In substitution for it, the assumption of their assets and liabilities was considered, and is still undisposed of. Our incoming Board will no doubt be governed in their deliberations thereon by a due and full regard for the interests of this Bank.

Now, with regard to the alleged undue preference:—At the time negotiations for amalgamation were opened, we were under advances to the Mechanics' Bank about \$50,000, which was, however, amply secured by good bills receivable to the extent of about \$75,000. The indebtedness varied from day to day, down to

the closing of the doors of the Bank, but at no time have we ever been unsecured for a single dollar. I think it proper to take this opportunity of replying to another baseless insinuation, viz., "That the Molsons Bank received usurious rates upon their advances to the Mechanics' Bank. This is utterly without justification. For years the rate charged was only 6 per cent; it never exceeded 7 per cent. until a few months past, and then it was limited to 8 per cent.

I am convinced that the average rate for six years has been within 6½ per cent. This liberality may savour of bad banking, money being worth what it will fetch, but it exonerates us from the charge of usury, or taking advantage of our neighbours' necessities. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. Justice DAY—Gentlemen, a resolution has been placed in my hands which I have the honour to move. It is certainly with a feeling of pleasure that I do so, at the testimony which it bears to the worth of a man for whom I had great respect, mingled with a feeling of melancholy, considering the occasion which renders it necessary. The resolution is to this effect:—"That the shareholders desire to place on record their high sense of the services rendered to this institution by its late President, William Molson, Esq., one of the founders of the Bank, and who through so many years discharged the duties of his position with untiring energy. "They consider the death of Mr. Molson not only a great loss to this Bank, but to the entire community in which he lived, and they unite with the Directors in the resolutions transmitted to his family by them on the occasion of his lamented death."

Mr. W. D. MACLAREN—I beg to move the following resolution:—"That the thanks of the Shareholders are due and are hereby tendered to the President, Vice-President and Directors for their management of the Bank during the past year, and that the President be requested to accept the sum of three thousand dollars." I don't think, gentlemen, it is necessary for me to say anything. I think the statement which has been read here to-day is amply sufficient to justify the resolution which I have the honour to propose.

Mr. C. ROY seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

At 4 o'clock the Scrutineers reported that the old Board was re-elected as follows:

JOHN MOLSON, THOS. WORKMAN, EPHRAIM HUDON, THOS. CHAMP, T. J. CLAXTON, R. W. SHEPHERD, HON. D. L. MACPHERSON.

After a vote of thanks had been proposed to the Chair, the meeting adjourned.

Immediately after a meeting of the new Board of Directors was held, at which Mr. John Molson was re-elected President, and Mr. Thomas Workman, Vice-President.

#### WHY MEN FAIL.

The Rev. Dr. Hall delivered a lecture on this subject recently which our readers will not be sorry that we reproduce. He deals with the word "Fail"—not in the sense in which great banking institutions or other commercial enterprises fail; for nearly every one who gets a newspaper has a theory on that subject, more or less exact. We do not enter upon it. Yet

there are two things that we think ought to be kept in mind, in mitigation of censure on failing houses. One is, that while great business men prosper, or seem to do so, unless indeed they are notoriously unscrupulous and offensively dishonest, the general community does not frown on them. Their methods that appear to succeed are "enterprise;" their methods that do not succeed are "speculations."

When we hear any fluent Pharisee of the Exchange denounce the wild doings of some fallen operator, we cannot help asking mentally, and perhaps we ought to ask audibly, "My dear sir, would you have refused an invitation to dinner from that gentleman? Would you have cut him at a club? Would you have refused a seat with him on a Board? Would you not have thought it rather a feather in your cap to be able to drop the information incidentally that you were associated with the House of —? Did you not feel rather pleased to be at the consultation, or the committee, when the head of it was in the chair, or sat beside you? Did you utter or indicate on these occasions, by word, or look, or sign, your disapproval of those "wild-cat" operations which you now denounce? Then, if you did not, my dear sir, be more measured in your language when the house is down. You may be next, you know."

The second thing is, that if there is guilt in these cases, it is not all on one side, as a rule. A smart man offers me a share in an enterprise that is to pay nineteen per cent. per annum, certain, and a bonus to be determined every half year. The prospectus is lovely, and the only thing required is money to be invested. I find it hard enough to keep the balance in my favor at the bank, where the managers are "old fogys," and will not promise me more than six or eight per cent. Here is a nice thing—nineteen per cent. sure; and it is so simple! Photographic albums to be manufactured for the Digger Indians—the thing can be done cheaply East, owing to reduced wages, and in the West there is absolutely no competition—an agency in the Yosemite valley to dispose of them—can anything be nicer? Albums, I know are cheap in the East, almost a drug in the stores, and certainly it is a good thing to introduce art, culture, and refinement among the Digger Indians.

So I invest. Now when the scamp reports, (if he ever does report,) that, contrary to all expectation, the Diggers did not pay a high price for Albums, and that the cost of living in the Yosemite had swallowed up the capital, the assets consisting of two hundred and forty-nine Albums, emblazoned with the Digger coat of arms, I get into a fury and wished that the Diggers had killed and eaten him. Now am I not very unreasonable? I believed the man, lusted to be rich, became a partner in the scheme, and have no right to consign my colleagues to exclusive infamy, because the photographic art is still unappreciated among the Digger Indians.

But we speak of the cases in which individuals choose a calling in life and do not succeed. An exact idea on the subject would help us to a just, and often a more charitable estimate than we form, of such unsuccessful followmen.

Poor health often bars success. It weakens the