

long since numbered with the past. We have no doubt other agencies try very hard to be accurate in their information, and to anybody not acquainted with the respective methods of establishing branch agencies it would appear that it were difficult for one to be better than another. The plan adopted by this firm of making each branch an associate office, and, in a measure, independent, induces greater caution and more industry in procuring information than where a mere pittance is doled out periodically to one who has little hope of bettering himself, and who, if he have any ability, is likely to look elsewhere for opportunities of bettering himself. It is this consequent indifference which lays commercial agencies so much open to attack, and lessens their influence and usefulness. In all credit ratings the following are taken into consideration by Messrs. McKillop & Co: The character and habits of each member, if a firm, the nature of the business—hazardous or otherwise; business capacity and promptness in payment, capital or worth in proportion to business done, and negotiability of acceptances. If deficient in any of these items, but yet have the needed pecuniary responsibility, the credit ratings are reduced in proportion to the deficiency. There can be no hesitation in saying that the patrons of the firm will find the present work all that it claims to be—a faithful and honest index to the business character of all dealers who buy on credit.

#### EXCHANGE BANK OF CANADA.

##### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Shareholders of the Exchange Bank of Canada was held at the Banking Office in this city on the 10th inst. Among the Shareholders present were noticed the following gentlemen:—Mr. M. H. Gault, President; Messrs. Thomas Caverhill, Alex. W. Ogilvie, M. P. P., E. K. Greene, F. E. Gilman, Geo. A. Greene, George Cruikshank, John Ogilvie, Thomas McMaster, James McDonald, Walter Burke, Thomas Tiffin, James Crathern, &c., &c.

The President, Mr. M. H. Gault, took the chair and called upon Mr. Campbell to read the notice calling the meeting. Mr. R. A. Campbell, the cashier, having read, the advertisement. The President read the following.

##### REPORT.

*Of the Directors of the Exchange Bank of Canada for the year ending 30th June, 1876.*

The Directors have pleasure in submitting to the Shareholders the Fourth Annual Report of the affairs of the Bank, accompanied by a statement of the result of business for the year ending 30th June last:—

Balance at credit of profit and loss account, 30th June, 1875.....	\$ 27,513 17
Nett profits for year ending 30th June, 1876, after deducting expenses of management, and making reservations for interest, &c.....	124,351 41
Total.....	\$151,864 58
Written off, bad and doubtful debts.....	49,786 68
Leaving a balance of ..... Appropriated as follows:—	\$102,077 90
Dividend No. 7, three per cent., paid 2nd January, 1876.....	\$39,000 00
Dividend No. 8, four per cent., payable 3rd July, 1876.....	40,000 00

Carried to rest account.....	20,000 00
Balance brought forward at credit of profit and loss account.....	12,077 90

\$102,076 90

In view of the fact that the depression alluded to in the last report as then existing in all branches of trade and commerce, afterwards extended and deepened to a degree not then contemplated, the Directors trust that the result of the year's transactions will be considered satisfactory, more particularly in consideration of the low rates of interest which have prevailed during the period in question, and the greatly lessened sphere for desirable business. From the assuring prospects of the coming harvest, and the gradual revival of trade which appears to be setting in, better results are hoped for in the future, although the return of commercial activity must of necessity be extended over a considerable period. Ample provision having been made for all debts appearing in any way doubtful, the Directors have deemed it advisable, after paying two semi-annual dividends of three and four per cent., to increase the Rest, by adding thereto the sum of \$20,000.00, making it \$75,000.00, and leaving a balance of \$12,077.90, at the credit of Profit and Loss Account. The usual inspections of the various offices of the Bank, have been made by an officer appointed for that purpose, and found satisfactory. The Directors desire to express their appreciation of the zeal and efficiency with which the officers of the Bank have discharged their respective duties. All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. H. GAULT,  
President.

##### GENERAL STATEMENT.

ASSETS.	
Specie and Dominion Notes on hand.....	\$ 140,199 46
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks.....	105,716 82
Balances due by other Banks in Canada.....	253,533 37
Do by Foreign Agents.....	18,717 75
Total Assets immediately available.....	\$ 518,172 40
Bills Discounted, &c., Current.....	\$2,116,576 92
Bills Discounted, Overdue, considered perfectly good.....	25,223 00
Bank Premises.....	2,141,799 92
Bank Furniture.....	116,043 39
	9,302 44
	\$2,785,318 15
LIABILITIES.	
Circulation.....	\$ 401,563 00
Deposits bearing interest.....	\$ 650,919 11
Deposits not bearing interest.....	459,210 62
Balances due to other Banks and Foreign Agents.....	132,093 80
Liabilities to the Public.....	\$1,610,816 53
To the Shareholders: Capital.....	\$1,000,000 00
Rest.....	75,000 00
Profit and Loss.....	12,077 90
Dividend No. 8.....	1,087,077 90
Interest, &c., Reserved.....	40,000 00
	11,423 72
	\$2,785,318 15

The President,—Gentleman, in moving the adoption of the Report, seconded by Mr. Caverhill, I have very little to add to the figures which it contains. The year has certainly been

one of great anxiety to every banker. We have passed through it, not without serious loss it is true, still I think the statement we may lay before you to-day will be very satisfactory considering the extraordinary depression of trade. Some of the best houses in the city have been wiped out of business; many others have been forced to succumb; there have been heavy losses all round, and we have suffered in common with other Banks. But in spite of these circumstances we do not come out badly. There are two features in the statement, which, I think, are satisfactory. The first is the item of circulation. Our circulation is pretty large, considering the amount of our capital. Then again our deposits are very satisfactory. Our deposits amount to \$1,110,159, of which about \$460,000 is not bearing interest. The Savings Bank Department we have had to move from the office here down to the basement. The business was growing so large that we thought it more advantageous to have it below. The new premises have answered our purposes admirably, and I believe the Savings Branch will be a strong feature of the Bank in future. If any gentleman present has any question to ask with reference to the business of the Bank, I will be happy to answer him.

Mr. Thomas Caverhill, Vice-President, seconded the motion for the adoption of the Report.

Mr. James Crathern—The Report states that the usual inspections of the various offices of the Bank have been made by an officer appointed for that purpose. This, I presume, refers to the agencies only.

The President—It refers to the agencies only. The Directors inspect the Head Office themselves. Our agents, I may say, are very faithful, industrious men and attentive to their business. They have succeeded remarkably well in escaping bad debts, and have managed their agencies better almost than we have managed the Head Office.

A Shareholder—Have we any bogus stock on our books?

In reply to the question of a Shareholder present, as to whether there was any bogus stock on the books of the Bank, the President replied, that so far from such being the case "I know that when this Bank was organized, I opened a stock list in my own office; there were people who applied for ten thousand dollars, and I was only able to give them five thousand."

Mr. Thos. Caverhill—I can say more than that; when the books were opened I wanted four hundred shares for a friend of mine, and I could not get them, and I had to give him some of my own stock.

Mr. Crathern—Asked if under these circumstances, the Board had taken into consideration the advisability of increasing the capital?

Mr. Caverhill—Not at all.

The President—Some of the Directors are in favor of it, and others do not consider it expedient.

Mr. Alex. Ogilvie—I think it is very much better that the capital of the Bank should be left at its present amount.

Mr. E. K. Greene—I would like to make a remark with reference to the losses that are