

FAILURE OF PRIVATE BANKS AT OAKVILLE.

The banking business of the town of Oakville and its vicinity was almost wholly done by two private banks, Messrs. Andrew & Howarth and G. W. Anderson & Son. The former failed recently, and the event caused a run upon the latter firm which rendered it necessary to make an assignment. Messrs. Anderson & Son announce that "the loss to their creditors will not be large." This is an ominous statement, as it evidences knowledge by the members of the firm that they were continuing in business as bankers when in a dubious condition. This is deplorable in every way. A member of the Andrew & Howarth firm committed suicide when a condition arose that rendered certain the exposure of his wrongful use of the funds in his charge as treasurer of the town. The amount of his defalcation was under \$10,000. For one who had for many years been conducting a banking business in a thriving locality to commit suicide because of his inability to raise a few thousand dollars to save himself from prosecution, shows on what very weak foundations a private bank may be built, and how completely in the dark the depositors may be as to the financial condition of the banking firm to whom they have entrusted their money.

The town of Oakville is midway between Toronto and Hamilton, a position which has prevented its growth, as trade flows to the larger cities. It is a port on the shore of Lake Ontario. The district is a rich farming country, noted all over Canada for its fruit products, and is a favourite summer resort. The population is under 2,000; the debt of the town is trifling.

The deposits held by the Anderson Bank are reported to be about \$200,000, chiefly owned by farmers who brought grain, fruit and dairy products to Oakville for shipment.

To the not over-prosperous traders of this town the failure of two private banks will be a serious calamity. It will, however, be a lesson for all other places in Canada as to the necessity of having banking accommodations provided by some strong chartered bank, in the resources and in the strength and in the expert management of which the smallest branch shares for the convenience and protection of local customers.

MACHINERY FIRE RISKS.

In a recent issue a correspondent drew attention to the fire risks from machinery. In the course of his letter he made use of the following quotation:

"Friction of machinery is one of the most common causes of fire, especially at night. The shaft heats from the centre, and the heat may increase and spread after the machinery has stopped."

Our correspondent, while fully agreeing with the first part of the above statement, expresses scepticism as to the latter and asked for proof or disproof of the statement respecting the alleged heating of shafts from the centre and spread of heat after the machinery has ceased to work. Our valued contemporary, "The Electrical News and Engineering Journal", publishes a technical and interesting explanation of what appears to be a somewhat mysterious, but important matter.

"As it does not seem meet that apparently erroneous statements, which concern apparatus handled by a large portion of our subscribers, should go uncorrected, we would state what we consider the correct view of the case. The heating of a shaft does not take place from the centre, but from the outside, the point where the friction against the bearing, which is the source of the heat, exists, though the centre may get hotter, ultimately, than the outside. If, when matters were in this condition, both as regards the bearing as well as the shaft, the machinery were stopped, the radiation will be much less because the surrounding air is now still, consequently the heat stored up in the interior may by convection increase the heat of the exterior to a point above that at which it was when in motion, but neither the total heat, nor the temperature of the hottest part, can possibly increase after the apparatus has been brought to rest, and, therefore, the source of the heat, namely, the friction of the journal against its bearings, is entirely eliminated. The case is similar to that of a motor or dynamo, in which the heat of certain parts, such as the ends of the windings outside the poles, the outside surface of the armature and commutator connections, may rise materially as soon as shut down, due to the fact of the radiation being greatly reduced because it is not now moving rapidly through the air; the heat from the inside of the windings and commutator bars tends to spread and equalize through all parts, though both the total heat and the temperature of the hottest part begin to fall the instant the apparatus is shut down, and thus the flow of current and magnetism, the sources of the heat, are stopped."

LONDON ASSURANCE CORPORATION APPOINTMENT.

Messrs. W. P. Kennedy, Inspector of the above corporation, and W. B. Colley, Chief Clerk, have been notified by cable from the head office of their appointment as joint managers for Canada.

Since Mr. Lilly's resignation both gentlemen have jointly managed the business, and during the short time have evidently given satisfaction. Mr. Kennedy has been connected with the Company about four years as Inspector and Mr. Colley nearly twelve years. Both are hard-working and painstaking young men, and, no doubt, will take good care of the corporation's business in Canada.