

in the past few years. In the district northwest and northeast of Stratford we see a breed of horses, like large, strong coach-horses, with all the characteristics of use and profit, so that one is not surprised to find that a thousand of them have this year been shipped from Stratford at an aggregate price of one hundred thousand dollars. In the matter of machinery the farmers have now wonderful advantages, but are not using them wisely. For instance, a farmer with one hundred acres of land, say forty in grain, twenty in green crops and roots, twenty in woodland, five in fences and fifteen in fallow, will have a reaper and mower, a tedder and other expensive machinery, such as a much larger farm on a system of co-operation alone can justify, preventing profit by expenses, interest, wear and tear. Would that we could say the more expensive luxury of mortgages were less generally prevalent.

Improved appliances, increased intelligence, dairying and exporting of live stock have done much to ameliorate the lot of the farmer. The schools, the *Weekly Globe*, the Grangers meetings and the annual exhibitions have made up for the immigrations and the sometimes pernicious influences of the school system. But between the country and the towns and cities there have risen within the past few years residences which are palatial in their proportions, pretensions in their architecture, expensive in their maintenance, and, it is to be feared, ruinous to their owners. Requiring from three to six domestics to keep in order, requiring fortunes to furnish and keep in repair, they are altogether unsuited to a people whose habits should be republican in their simplicity and independence of those tyrants commonly yeapt "helps."

It is pleasant to see the fruits and flowers now so universal. Oakville with its strawberries, Cooksville with its grapes, Niagara with its peaches, Brantford with its roses, London with its cherries, Seaford with its plums, Prince Edward County with its pears, all delight the eye or the palate or both.

One sees some curious things occasionally, a pair of birds built their nest in the ventilator of the passenger car "Pembroke" on the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railroad, and travelled with the car to and fro until their young were weaned.

On the premises of a Presbyterian Church at Brantford was a board warning the public not to trespass on those premises, an instance of close communion not often met with in these days of missionary enterprise.

At Chatham is a people who have not sufficient enterprise to make their town the highway of nations by deepening the Thames and by cutting their way to Rondeau Bay "the harbour of Lake Erie," but sufficient unto this letter is the extent hereof." OCCASIONAL.

EXCHANGE BANK OF CANADA.

The annual meeting of the Exchange Bank of Canada was held on the afternoon of Saturday, the 10th inst., in the Bank buildings, Mr. M. H. Gault, M.P., in the chair. There were also present Messrs. H. Bulmer, G. B. Bar and, J. Boyd, G. Cheney, G. Cruickshank, N. B. Corse, James Crathern, Thomas Caverhill, George Cross, James W. Craig, Thomas Craig, A. L. Demartigny, A. Desjardins, Alex. Dubord, C. E. Gault, E. K. Greene, F. E. Gilman, J. B. Leamont, Murdoch Laing, J. E. O. Labadie, James Moore, James McDonald, Wm. McDonald, M.D., W. J. McMaster, F. B. Matthews, J. Norris, John Ogilvie, A. W. Ogilvie, Thomas Pringle, Candide Roy, F. X. St. Charles, W. How Smith, John Stirling, Thomas Tiffin, George Tait, H. S. Strathey, T. S. Vipond, N. S. Whitney, Thos. Wilson, W. H. Weir, W. Weir, &c. On the request of the President, Mr. Craig, the Manager, read the advertisement calling the meeting. The Chairman then said, in accordance with the expressed wishes of the shareholders, the report has been printed and circulated throughout the shareholders, but if it was considered necessary he would read it. Mr. Greene asked that the report should be read, and the President read the report as follows:

Shortly after the last Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of this Bank, a wave of great financial stringency and a general want of confidence in some of our monied institutions passed over the country, and amongst those which seriously felt its effects was this Bank. After a run of considerable duration and severity, which your Directors met to the extent of the available resources of the Bank, application was made for assistance, but it could only be obtained on conditions which your Directors thought detrimental to the interests of the Bank; they therefore decided to take advantage of the privilege of the Banking Act, and temporarily suspend. That the Bank was in a good condition, so far as its current business was concerned, was shown by the fact that sufficient money was collected during the suspension from the Loans and Discounts to meet every demand that could have been made by the public. The unfortunate suspension of the Bank materially interfered with the volume of business, and your Directors at once addressed themselves to the curtailment of the expenses to as great an extent as possible; they also closed Exeter and Brussels, two of the most recently opened Branches. In connection herewith, your Board consider it proper to state that neither your President nor the Board have drawn any remuneration for services during the past two years. Owing to the condition of affairs just indicated, the profits in the early part of the Bank's financial year were largely reduced. The result of the business is as follows, showing each half-year separately:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Profit for half-year ending 31st December, 1879, after paying all charges and expenses..... | 7,331 58 |
| Profit for half year ending 30th June, 1880, after paying all charges and expenses..... | 29,775 14 |

Net profit for the year... \$31,106 72

The Assets have been carefully examined in detail by the Board, every account has been looked into, and all bad and doubtful debts have been written off in the statement submitted herewith. The Bank Premises and Furniture account, at Montreal and Branches, which stood in the accounts of last year at \$207,887.43, has been reduced to \$106,000. This course of action has unfortunately shown an impairment of the capital stock, and it will be for the Shareholders, under the circumstances, to decide what policy is best to pursue. Your Board, however, have no hesitation in recommending that the business of the Bank be continued; they think that in view of the increased activity which has developed in trade since the beginning of the present year, they are warranted in expecting again a return of the prosperity that the Bank enjoyed in its earlier history. It is manifest, of course, that to continue with success, a reduction of the capital is necessary, and they recommend that authority be given to the Board now about to be elected, to make application to Parliament for liberty to reduce the capital stock to a point that will enable dividends to be paid at an early day. Two inspections have been made of the Branches and one of the Head Office during the year. The Balance Sheet submitted herewith is made on the form provided by the new Banking Act. The whole respectfully submitted.

M. H. GAULT, *President.*

BALANCE SHEET.

| LIABILITIES. | |
|---|--------------|
| Notes in Circulation..... | \$308,174 50 |
| Dominion Government Deposits payable on demand..... | 10,183 17 |
| Other deposits payable on demand | 382,193 19 |
| Other deposits payable after notice or on a fixed day..... | 33,451 90 |
| Loans from or deposits made by other Banks in Canada..... | 65,000 00 |
| Due to other Banks in Canada..... | 9,106 39 |
| Due to Agencies of the Bank, or to other Banks or Agencies in the United Kingdom..... | 5,125 79 |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Heirs Rodier, for Mortgage on Land..... | 50,000 00 |
| Capital Stock, paid-up..... | 1,000,000 00 |
| Dividends Unpaid..... | 159 00 |
| Interest Reserved for Depositors... | 6,057 65 |
| Interest Reserved on Current Discounts..... | 20,258 37 |

Total Liabilities.....\$1,890,004 96

ASSETS.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Specie..... | \$10,438 10 |
| Dominion Notes..... | 11,353 38 |
| Notes of and checks on other Banks..... | 113,081 44 |
| Balances due from other Banks in Canada..... | 22,180 85 |
| Balances due from Agencies of the Bank, or from other Banks or Agencies in foreign countries | 16,785 10 |
| | \$173,838 87 |
| Loans, discounts or advances for which stock, bonds or debentures of municipal or other Corporations, or Dominion, Provincial, British or Foreign or Colonial public securities are held as collateral securities..... | 75,641 89 |
| Loans, discounts or advances on current account, to other Corporations | 13,511 88 |
| Other current loans, discounts and advances to the public..... | 1,047,790 07 |
| Notes and bills discounted overdue and other overdue debts secured by mortgage or other deed on real estate, or by deposit of or lien on stock, or by other securities..... | 42,932 89 |
| Real estate the property of the Bank (other than the Bank premises)..... | 8,000 00 |
| Bank Premises and Furniture..... | 100,000 00 |
| Other assets not included under the foregoing heads..... | 86,950 00 |
| Total assets..... | 1,548,605 60 |
| Deficiency..... | \$341,399 36 |

Accounted for as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Ascertained losses on overdue debts, not previously provided for..... | \$174,514 94 |
| Estimated depreciation on collaterals held by the Bank... | 59,354 48 |
| Estimated depreciation in Bank premises and furniture at Montreal and Branches..... | 107,629 94 |
| | \$341,399 36 |

THOMAS CRAIG,

Cashier.

Mr. Gault, after the report had been read, said he was sorry to have to submit such a report, but when Mr. Craig had gone over the affairs he considered it was only just to himself to make that statement, but the whole of the assets had been written down at the very lowest point. A shareholder asked at what price the Telegraph stock had been sold? The Chairman replied it had not been sold. Mr. Gilman then wished to know how much stock of that kind