

which Mr. Smithers moved the adoption of the last report, was his announcement of his willingness to advocate the policy of putting the banks upon the American system, and requiring them to secure their issues by the deposit of Government bonds. For himself, he said he had been long in favour of the plan, and if it was not pressed at the last legislation on the subject of banking, it was not because the Bank of Montreal was not ready for the change, but out of consideration for the opinions of other bankers. Mr. Smithers believed, however, that since then the most, if not all of his colleagues, had come to be in sympathy with his views, and he therefore availed himself of the opportunity of placing them on record. The challenge thus thrown down was taken up in the press, and leading bankers expressed themselves for and against the change. As the charters do not expire for some five years, there is still abundant time for full thought and discussion on the subject, which, it may be recalled, was a *questio vexata*, in the early years after confederation. There is much to be said on both sides, while on the one hand, the policy advocated by Mr. Smithers would have obvious advantages in placing the currency on a sound basis, and removing the necessity for detailed monthly statements, on the other, a system which has been so long identified with the business of the country could hardly be altered without disturbance to important commercial interests.

Larkin, Patrick Joseph, St. Catharines, Ontario, was born in Galway, Ireland, in the year 1829, and when a boy of eight years, accompanied his parents to Canada settling in Toronto in 1837. He remained here fourteen years when he removed to St. Catharines, and resumed his seafaring occupations in what was then known as the "marine centre" of Upper Canada. Passing through the various grades of his sea-faring life, he rose to the command of a vessel and retired an owner and possessor of a handsome competency. In 1874 he was elected to the council of his adopted city, in which he served several terms. His active mind again led him into large enterprises, and in 1875 he undertook an extensive contract on the new Welland Canal, which he completed to the entire satisfaction of the government. The firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co. then obtained the contract for the construction of the Quebec graving dock and Harbour works, and at the present time (1886) his firm is building the celebrated Esquimaux graving dock, British Columbia. The firm of which

he is the head, has in various parts of the Dominion, undertaken and carried to successful completion, several large contracts. In politics Captain Larkin has always been a Reformer, having at an early age identified himself with that party. He was unanimously chosen president of the Reform Association of Lincoln in 1876, which position he retained until 1882, resigning in that year, and bearing out of office with him the goodwill and grateful appreciation of the body over which he presided for six years. He has at all times taken an active interest in every enterprise that was calculated to advance the material prosperity of his city. St. Catharines has one of the finest systems of water works in the Dominion of Canada. The Captain was one of the original promoters of this enterprise, and has held a seat at the water works board up to the present time. In religion he is a Roman catholic, and while he enjoys the full confidence and fellowship of his co-religionists, he has by his courteous bearing, his sterling honesty, and devotion to principle, earned the esteem of men of all creeds and nationality. In 1882 Captain Larkin was chosen by acclamation mayor of St. Catharines and amid the hearty applause of his fellow citizens was, without opposition, elected to the same honourable office the succeeding year. He is one of the best known men in southern Ontario, and has by his indomitable energy and trained talents, done very much to advance the interests of his city, and develop the resources of the Niagara peninsula. In his domestic life he is singularly happy, having in Mrs. Larkin, whom he married in 1861, an accomplished and affectionate wife, whose fine traits of character are reflected in her refined and highly educated daughters. He is a man whose hand and purse are always open to the claims of charity, and among the members of his own church is held in esteem and respect. A shrewd and active business man, in the prime of his ripened manhood, gifted with keen discernment and talents of a high order, Captain Larkin will, we predict, continue to grow in prosperity, and in the good opinions of his host of friends.

Clarke, Rev. John Stokes, Pastor of the Canada Methodist Church, Picton, was born in the town of Clewes, north of Ireland, on Feb. 8th, 1833. He is a son of John and Rose (Stokes) Clarke, John Clarke being a merchant and Clerk of the Peace. The Clarke family left England in the reign of William III., and afterwards held various