

guaranteed by the Toronto Railway Company by endorsement on each bond.

Two and a half years ago, the Bank of Ottawa opened its doors in Peterborough and since then a large and constantly increasing business has characterized a most satisfactory progress. The extensions and improvements to the bank's premises in that thriving Ontario town are admirable. Mr. A. Hollingshead is the capable manager.

The enterprising Japanese keeps pace with the progress of conditions in his adopted country. Now that money is being required by the immigrants from Nippon, a Japanese trust company has been formed, and duly incorporated. It is the Nippon Kinyu Sha, Limited, capitalized at \$50,000, officered and incorporated by Japanese. The Nippon Construction Company, another Japanese concern, is also in the field, it having been incorporated last week.

The report of the Le Roi Mining Company for the year ended June 30th last shows, after writing off £22,700 in respect of exploration and development work and £7,800 against depreciation, a net profit of only £3,600 has been earned during the period under review, and this, on a capital of £1,000,000, is equivalent to no more than 358 per cent., whereas for 1905-6 the net profits, after setting aside a far larger sum against depreciation and development work, were equivalent to 57 per cent. on the capital employed, and 3½ per cent. was actually distributed.

#### BANK CHANGES IN BRITAIN.

Since 1897, no less than 685 banks in Britain have gone out of existence through amalgamation, was the statement made by Mr. Drummond Fraser in a recent lecture on "A Decade of Bank Amalgamations." In the preceding decade 1887-1896—117 banks were absorbed by other banks. In the decade previous to this—1877-1886—only 42 banks lost their identity through amalgamation. This made a total of the amalgamation of 244 banks during the period of thirty years.

The first feature to arrest the attention in connection with the decade of amalgamations was the continued disappearance of the once powerful private banker.

Of the 244 banks that had passed out of a separate existence, by amalgamation during the last thirty years—an average of eight per annum—the private bankers and the purely local joint stock banks were responsible for about half each of the total. Perhaps the most telling illustration of the disappearance of the private bankers was in the fact that until 1854 they monopolized the London Clearing House; whereas to-day it was the joint stock banks that practically had the monopoly.

Another specific feature of the amalgamation was the enormous increase of branch-banks. It was quite a startling fact that more than one-third of the whole of the branch banks in England had been established during the decade. The two previous decades were responsible for another third. Thus, more than two-thirds of the whole of the branch banks had been opened in the last thirty years.

#### CANADA CONSOLIDATED COBALT COMPANY.

The extraordinary workings of the Canada Consolidated Cobalt Company have been referred to frequently in these columns and in the London Statist. This latter journal now labels the doings of the company as "The Cobalt Conspiracy." The Statist chides the Stock Exchange committee for not, up to the present, having taken drastic measures regarding the concern, and laments the fact that the small investor, through lack of means cannot take action, while the public prosecutor does not seem likely to do so.

"There is," says The Statist, "still another party that may reasonably be invoked to initiate steps for and proceed with a prosecution. Such party is the Canadian Government. The Government of the Province of Ontario might, but preferentially the Canadian Government, we consider should, act, for the reason that this is not the first fraud in which a Canadian interest has been played with; and it is not Cobalt alone that is in question, although a great number of concerns alleged to be Cobalt enterprises have been formed by Canadian, American, and English groups which will not bear the light of day. The Canadian public from Victoria to Newfoundland has been defrauded by bogus company promoters just as the English public has been. Canada's credit is affected. The forming of bogus companies is interminable, and the promoters remain unpunished. Lastly, the Canadian Government has in London a long-established office which can act on both sides of the Atlantic."

The London correspondent of the Monetary Times writes: "Except that the Stock Exchange Committee has taken the grave and unusual step of postponing special settlement in Canadian Consolidated Cobalt, no progress in that scandal can be reported. The arrests for which some have called have not been effected. And the city firm of solicitors acting in the matter have not thus far obtained

return of moneys invested in this concern. The experience is bound to tell with more or less effect against any propositions having Cobalt origins."

#### THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

Scottish people are supposed to be democrats in matters of finance, and not to care very much at this time of day for the nobility and gentry as managers of affairs in either commerce or finance unless members of these classes have "won their spurs," so to speak—shown competency in business affairs. The National Bank of Scotland, now an octogenarian institution, has not only the Duke of Montrose for governor and the Marquess of Zetland for deputy-governor, but knights and squires to an unusual number among its extraordinary directors. For several of them, of whom we have knowledge, it may be said with all truth that they are able business men, worthy to be something more than figure-heads.

Amongst the ordinary directors, who, we assume, give closer attention to the work of the bank, and four of whom have signed its latest balance-sheet, are a civil engineer, an actuary, a chartered accountant, and several lawyers, besides the president of the Royal Scottish Academy. It is, therefore, clear that at this board no man is taboo because of his occupation, provided he has a good business head. As to the general manager and the secretary, they stand very high in banking circles of Scotland.

The report shows that the bank has had a good year and earned over 22 per cent. upon its capital, albeit the board has deemed it prudent to take £130,000 from the general reserve and place it at investment account, because of depreciation in market value of investments. Net earnings were £221,999 and the amount brought from 1906 was £29,842. Thus they can pay 20 per cent. dividend to shareholders, put to officers' pension fund and to real estate account £5,000 each, and yet have £41,000 to carry forward. The paid capital is £1,000,000 out of £5,000,000 subscribed and the reserve fund—depleted as we have noted above—£900,000.

The great extent of the bank's transactions is to be inferred from the number of its branches, 120 besides head office and London office, and the amounts of its assets, which total £18,002,644, equal to say \$94,500,000. Of these, discounted bills, cash credits, and current account advances constitute £7,654,070; call and short notice loans and cheques on other banks, £2,685,482; coin, bank notes, cash in London, £1,414,452. Various securities make up the other seven millions. The National Bank's note circulation, we observe, is £920,185. On the debit side of the account its deposit receipts, current account and other creditor balances amount to £15,041,882. Among the seven Scotch banks, therefore, which have so deserved a reputation all over the world, this one is by no means the least considerable in extent and resources.

#### TWENTY-EIGHT MILLIONS OF STOCK.

Canadian Pacific Railway Authorized to Issue Remaining Twenty-eight Million Dollars of Authorized Capital.

The authority of the Canadian Pacific shareholders to issue 283,200 additional shares was obtained at a meeting at Montreal on Monday. This means that the pioneer transportation company of the Dominion intends to continue in its progressive policy in many obvious ways, and possibly in directions which are known as yet only to the "brains" of the company. The issue of \$28,000,000 will bring the capital stock up to \$150,000,000.

The stock is to be issued at such times and prices, at not less than par, as the directors may deem advisable. At a subsequent meeting of the directors, it was decided to issue \$24,336,000 stock and to offer the same, at par, to holders of ordinary stock, of record of 13th December.

The issue being made at par, a further rise in the price of stock may be reasonably anticipated. Indeed, the prospect of rights on the new stock, and the excellent November statement showing a large gain in net earnings, have made the issue an attractive feature of the stock exchange board. The largest gain, upon the announcement of the new issue on Monday, was in New York, where there was a rise of 3½ points to 154½. The apparent effect on the markets of the new issue, if taken as an indication of money conditions, was most encouraging.

#### Recent Stock Issues.

New stock issues in recent years have been as follow:

1902	\$10,500,000
1904	16,900,000
1906	20,280,000
1907	28,320,000
	\$85,000,000