

to \$7,000,000 on securities, and every note is sued beyond that amount should be on gold, or, according to the amended act, on deposits in other banks on call. I will not here discuss the amendment, but observe that it is a mere incident—that it was experimental—that it has been profitable to the Government, and has led to no difficulty, except that, as a rule, banks do not like being called on for their deposits either by governments or individuals, but they have no more objection to being chequed on for deposits against Dominion notes than for those against exchange, or for those of the Ontario and Quebec Governments. The point I wish to press is that the effect of requiring a specific percentage as high as 35, is, that even a moderate demand for gold, say \$500,000, which ought not to cause the least disturbance, renders it necessary to reduce the circulation, or to increase the gold, either course causing disturbance without the slightest necessity. As an illustration, let me take the returns already referred to. The circulation was \$11,892,196, the gold, \$3,100,138, and the certificates of deposit, \$1,592,057. Now, let me assume that a bank should require \$500,000 of gold for some special object. It is clear that it could be paid without the least inconvenience, and I am assuming a case very similar to what has occurred. I would have no objection to take the demand at \$1,000,000. But, although no inconvenience would arise from the demand, the reduction of the percentage renders it necessary to disturb the money market by calling on the banks for large sums which are really not wanted. My conviction is that while the small note issue is in the hands of the Government it would be impossible to reduce the circulation to \$7,200,000, as it would be impossible to reduce that of the Bank of England to £15,000,000 stg. You may say that I am subjecting a measure of my own to severe criticism. I grant this, but after upwards of thirty years experience, I can affirm that I have never had the good fortune to carry a measure exactly as I would like. Concessions must be made to procure concurrence, and it will be recollected how I was badgered on this point, and how reluctantly I gave way. The provision I refer to is a blot on a good measure, but a very slight one. I shall pass over your remarks about prosperity and possible deficits, as they have no bearing whatever on the issue and redemption of Dominion notes. Temporary deficits may occur, and can always be met by temporary loans, either in Canada or England. A permanent deficit must be met by increased taxation. You state that "there is very little profit made when the expense of keeping gold is considered." Now, the "little profit" is upwards of \$409,000 per annum, less the charges attendant on redemption. It would take an elaborate calculation to ascertain these with precision. The engraver's bill will be much less, I should imagine, for 72-3 than for 71-2, and not likely, as all the plates have been got, to be very heavy in future, especially as the large notes are not much used. The management is combined with other functions, especially in the Maritime and North-western Provinces. I am persuaded that \$50,000 is an ample allowance. A few words more as to the small note issue. The banks surrendered deliberately and advisedly this right for a valuable consideration, viz.: the abolition of the bank note tax, and the requirement to keep one-tenth of their capital in Dominion securities. I believe they would not be willing to incur those liabilities again, even for the boon of being permitted to issue small notes. I have to offer many apologies for the length of this communication.

I am, &c.,  
F. HINCKS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 1873.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times.

DEAR SIR,—When speaking of devil-fish in last week's issue, perhaps you were not aware that there is a rare (I am happy to say) specimen of that animal at your own door in Toronto. I allude to a firm in the dry goods trade, whose traveller brings a sample in his hand and quotes the price at 20 per cent. less than its value, for the purpose of opening an order, when he knows perfectly well that there is none of the goods in stock, and that they cannot and do not intend to fill the order. It is a great annoyance to merchants to be treated in that way, and it is to be hoped that they will try to remedy the evil by avoiding any house that will resort to such dishonourable means for doing business.

I remain, &c.,  
RETAILER.

Napanee, Dec. 29th, 1873.

### LA BANQUE JACQUES CARTIER.

The annual meeting was held in Montreal on Dec. 18, the President, Mr. Romuald Trudeau, in the chair. W. H. Cotte, cashier, read the annual report, which congratulated the shareholders on the continued success of the bank. The net profits for the year are stated at \$165,403 08, from which deducting two dividends of 4 per cent., amounting to \$128,204.89, left a balance of \$37,198.19. Of this balance, \$25,000 was added to the reserve, and the remainder, \$12,198.19, carried to next account. The reserve is now \$225,000 or 13½ per cent. on the paid-up capital. On the subject of manufactures the report says:—"Your directors are happy to see that generous and intelligent efforts are being made on every side for the establishment of all kinds of manufactures, which, according to their idea would be the most efficacious means not of retaining our population in the country, but of drawing back the thousands who during the past few years have left it."

The balance sheet, as at 29th November, is as follows:

Assets.		
Specie .....	\$35,484 22	
Dominion Notes ....	209,450 00	
Notes and cheques on other banks .....	54,807 60	
Balances due from other banks .....	178,621 02	
		\$478,362 84
Notes discounted over due and not specially secured .....	56,444 59	
Do. secured by mortgage, bank stock, etc. ....	39,864 48	
Do. current .....	3,656,045 41	
Property on Place d'Armes .....	\$96,426 48	
Less due on gr'nd .....	10,500 00	
	85 926 48	
Moveables .....	3,800 00	
		3,842,080 96
Liabilities.		\$4,320,443 80
Capital paid up ....	\$1,652,560 00	
Rest .....	225,000 00	
Profit & loss account .....	31,602 51	
		1,909,162 51
Circulation .....	656,496 00	
Balances due to other banks .....	23,847 55	
Deposits bearing interest .....	1,293,073 21	
Deposits not bearing interest .....	369,845 94	
Dividend 1st Dec ..	65,274 73	
Dividends unclaimed .....	2,743 86	
		2,411,281 29
		\$4,320,443 80

The directors were re-elected, as follows:—Romuald Trudeau, Chas. S. Rodier, Victor Hudon, J. Bte. Beaudry, P. M. Galarneau, L. J. Beliveau, Andre Lapierre, Naz Villeneuve, John L. Cassidy.

## Commercial.

### MONTREAL MARKET.

From our own Reporter.

MONTREAL, December 30, 1873.

During the holiday season transactions in the wholesale business have dwindled down to the smallest dimensions, and it is hardly possible at present to base quotations on actual transactions. In groceries although little business is transpiring there is a great firmness in coffee, also Japan tea. Sugar is quiet; hardware quiet; breadstuffs dull; provisions dull; ashes quiet and easier.

The weather has been very mild for the season, and although the river is now covered with ice up as far as the Victoria bridge it is not sufficiently firm to admit of crossing. A good deal of snow has fallen since Sunday night. To-day is cold with the temperature some degrees below zero.

ASHES.—Pots.—There has been some little movement in first sort, receipts of which have been moderate, the prices realized ranged from \$5.82½ to 5.85, closing to-day at \$5.80 to 5.82½ with a very quiet market. A few barrels of second sorts changed hands at \$5.10, and thirds \$4.60. Pearls.—Receipts are small, sales of firsts have been made at \$7.30 for firsts, market to-day quiet but steady at 7.25, seconds bring about \$6. The stocks at present in the Inspection stores are Pots 1,822 brls.; Pearls 731 brls. The total deliveries from 1st January to date were pots 12,916 brls, pearls 1,833 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Manufacturers are now engaged in preparing spring goods, nothing doing just now in the way of orders and not much movement looked for till the middle of January. We quote:—Men's thick boots, \$2.25 to 2.75; ditto kip do., \$2.50 to 3.00; boys' thick boots, \$1.75 to 2.00; ditto kip do., \$2 to 2.25; women's buff boots, \$1.15 to 1.25; do. split do., 90c to \$1.10; do. pebbled buff bals., \$1.25 to 1.50; Misses do. \$1 to 1.25; do. buff boots, 90c to \$1; do. split do., 50 to 60c; buff boots \$11 to 12 per doz.; men's mocassins \$10 to 15 per doz.

CATTLE.—Our markets continue to be pretty well supplied with cattle, and prices of last week are fully maintained, extra stock are in demand beyond what the present supply can meet. No live hogs offering. Dressed hogs.—The market is rather bare at present and holders are very firm in their demands asking \$6.75 to 7 per 100 lbs.

DRY GOODS.—We have no new feature to notice in this branch of business nothing of any consequence taking place, some change is looked for as soon as the holiday season is over.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—As remarked last week bi carb continues very firm and is held at late quotations. Sal soda is low in stock and is still quoted at \$2.50. Cream tartar crystals 27 to 28c; refined borax 23 to 25c; Saltpetre is rather easier and is selling at \$9.50 to 10; Epsom salts steady at \$1½ to 2; Alum 2½ to 2¾c; Copperas 1¼c; blue vitriol 8 to 9c; Madder 11 to 12½c. There is no demand at present and our quotations are somewhat nominal.

FURS.—Very few coming in at present and our quotations are without change. In England and the Continent of Europe otter, beaver, and seal, have had free sale, and these articles are expected to maintain last sales prices. Other staples will possibly show a decline in price. We continue to quote:—Beaver \$1.75 to 2 per lb; black bear large \$8 10. ditto cub \$3 to 5; fisher \$6 to 7.50; silver fox \$25 to 50; cross fox \$5.00; red fox \$1.50.