

is, no easy task to imbue a number of gentlemen managing our affairs with precisely the same views, I am happy to bear testimony to the loyalty, as a whole, of our staff, and to the ability with which they conduct the business of the Bank. To carry this out more practically, and to be more in touch with the working of the business, it has been our custom to have one of our leading officers over occasionally on this side for a time, and recently we have had the pleasure and the great advantage of conferring with our inspector, Mr. Townsend, one of our senior officers of long standing in the Bank—since 1861—with whom we have availed of the opportunity of going through the returns from all the branches, and of investigating every account carefully with him. It has been of great advantage to us as Directors to have gained fuller knowledge of each account, and it has been a source of extreme satisfaction to us to know we have one as an inspector who is so remarkably conversant with the details of each and every account and customer. Gentlemen, it is only due to Mr. Townsend that I should avail of this opportunity to testify to you his great worth, and how much your Directors appreciate his useful and intelligent services. And, gentlemen, while I name Mr. Townsend more particularly, I trust it will not be supposed that there is any want of appreciation of the services of others, one and all. From the general manager downwards, I believe they are inspired with the desire to do their duty and assist in promoting the success of the Bank; and it is my most pleasing privilege to bear my humble testimony to this.

In conclusion, allow me to assure you of the satisfactory position of the Bank, whether at home or abroad, and the increasing hold we retain in the confidence of the communities with whom we conduct our business, and I need hardly say with what pride we, year after year, present our reports to you. I have now only to move the following resolution:—"That a dividend be paid on the paid-up capital of the Bank at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 1 per cent., free of income-tax, for the half-year ended 30th June last, payable on or after the 15th inst." Mr. James Anderson seconded the resolution, which was put and carried unanimously.

Dr. Drysdale proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors for their admirable conduct of the affairs of the Bank during the past half-year.

Mr. Bently seconded the proposition, which was passed, the proceedings then terminating.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

A general meeting of the shareholders of this bank was held on Tuesday, September 1st, at the offices of the bank, 3 Clement's lane, London, Eng., Mr. E. A. Hoar in the chair. The attendance was very small.

The Secretary, Mr. A. C. Wallis, having read the notice convening the meeting—

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—In moving the adoption of the report, I have in the first instance to draw your attention to the change we have introduced in our usual procedure by the publication of a balance sheet,