

alteration, he declared himself prepared to accept the 60 cents which his dollar was said to be worth, in preference to running further risk in connection with it. He did not of course propose that any less sum than that estimated by the valuers should be accepted, but that he should be pleased to realize, knowing that he could employ it at seven per cent. without either risk or trouble.

Mr. Irving said that any resolution now passed would only take the form of a recommendation, which would have to be considered before the Legislature. He was in favour of carrying the Bank on, as he believed that would be the most effective method for shareholders to realize their investments. He did not wish to press the project of a change of name, but thought unanimity of purpose and feeling was the first object to be attained among shareholders. He spoke at length in explaining his method of re-establishing the Bank on a new basis, and submitted the draft of a Bill he proposed to have presented to the Legislature.

Moved by Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Winer,—"Whereas, by the report of the committee appointed at the annual meeting of the shareholders, held on the 3rd day of August last, to enquire into the affairs of the Bank, it appears that the balance at credit of the capital account on 31st August last was \$493,813 43, and it being expedient that the shares in the capital stock now paid up should be reduced to meet the losses made on capital, be it

Resolved: That it is expedient to amend the charter of this Bank in the following particulars:

1. To reduce the shares now issued from \$40 to \$24 each share.

2. To increase the qualification of a director to the number of shares which shall be equal to \$1,000 of capital stock wholly paid up.

And the president and directors are hereby authorized and instructed to procure the passage of a Bill by the Legislature of Canada, embodying the foregoing provisions, and are further empowered to insert such provisions therein as may seem best to obtain or preserve the right of issuing the stock to the previously authorized amount of one million of dollars, to determine the amount in which the share capital can most conveniently be divided, and to change the day for the annual meeting of shareholders."

Mr. Triller asked when the sixty cents could be realized. From past experience he would be rather disposed to take this amount if he could get it. Their charter would expire in 1870, and they might meanwhile liquidate gradually.

The Chairman said that it would be impossible to announce exactly how long it would take to collect and distribute a million of money, nor could losses be avoided where sales were forced. To let the charter expire was merely to let the bank bleed to death, as nobody could be expected to continue dealing with an institution that was doomed, when they might as easily do business with its competitors.

Mr. McMillan having pointed out the fact that the business of the bank was generally lucrative, notwithstanding some individual losses,

A Shareholder remarked that the value of their stock had risen five to ten per cent. in a few days, which he attributed mainly to the determination of the Board to recommend going on. Many of these gentlemen who desired to wind up, and who spoke so feelingly of their prospective losses, would not lose so much if they lost all they had invested (laughter), and he did not think it was fair for them, or others whose wealth could afford a sacrifice, to force the property of poorer men to whom it was comparatively of greater value.

Several other shareholders expressed satisfaction at the Report, and confidence in the position of the Institution. An opinion was expressed that if their temporary difficulties had not been published there would have been no necessity for very extraordinary efforts to meet them.

In reply to an assertion that assets forced upon the market would necessarily be sacrificed,

Dr. Clarke enquired what reliance was to be placed upon a statement of account representing as tangible property, assets which it seemed were only hypothetically serviceable. He would allow those who desired to carry on the Bank to do so.

A shareholder suggested that Dr. Clarke should sell his shares.

The Chairman pointed out that their resources were by no means insufficient for progress. They had not merely their capital of \$500,000, but the disposal of \$400,000 public money. And surely no one would say that a million was not enough to work with. He thought the suggestion regarding the over-estimate of their debentures a very just one. He showed also that the bank premises had been set down at only \$12,000, while the ordinary rate of office rent in Hamilton justified them in standing at a considerably higher figure. They had thus seen that their circumstances had been stated at the worst, but even Dr. Clarke himself was inclined to estimate their property at 75 cents on the dollar, and this could surely be considered as no adequate reason for winding up their business. It was not business like to give up on account of losses, and they have found themselves at the bottom of their loss. Winding up was an expensive and tedious proceeding, and would be conducted without any incoming to sustain its drain. It was admitted that the business in Galt and Simcoe had been profitable, and lately that in Hamilton had been altogether profitable. Their business had been generally of the best character, and, although much of it had been lost, the cream of it was still recoverable. They had here prosperity at their doors. Errors of the past need not be repeated. There were rocks ahead to be easily avoided, and the lesson against too many eggs in one nest was not one to be readily forgotten.

After some further desultory conversational discussion the question was put on Mr. Irving's amendment (seconded by Mr. Winer), 40 hands were held up for the amendment and 12 against it. Dr. Billings and Dr. Clarke consenting thereupon to withdraw their proposition in deference to the views of the majority (applause), Mr. Irving's amendment was put as a substantive motion and carried unanimously, the result being received with enthusiasm.

A conversation took place regarding the sale of some bank property to a son of the Hon. S. Mills (a director) which the latter desired to have approved by the meeting. The matter had been brought up by letter from Mr. Thompson to the Board, Mr. Thompson having Mr. Chas. Magill's authority for stating that he (C. M.) would have purchased it at a higher figure had he been permitted. Mr. Cassels being called upon by the chairman, an elaborate explanation was offered.

It was thereupon moved by James Bain, Esq., of Galt, seconded by John Triller, Esq. of Wellington Square,—"That whereas the Shareholders, at the present Meeting, have been informed that the Directors have lately entered into a contract with Jas. H. Mills Esq., of Hamilton, for the sale to him of the property in Hamilton formerly owned by the late Colin C. Ferris, and containing about nine acres, at the sum of nine thousand dollars, and having learnt from the President and Directors the particulars and circumstances of the sale,

Be it Resolved,—That it is the opinion of this Meeting that the Directors have exercised a proper discretion in making the said sale; and that in so far as the same can be effectual, the Shareholders now assembled confirm and ratify the same."—Carried.

Dr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Winer, a resolution authorizing an application to Parliament for change of title to that of Bank of Hamilton. He thought every facility should be afforded the Board for carrying on the business of the Institution profitably.

A general discussion ensued, Dr. Clarke suggesting the Wellington, Grey and Bruce as the new name. The proposal was then put, declared lost, and, by permission withdrawn.

It was then moved by Mr. Irving, seconded by Col. Martin, and resolved:—

"The shareholders present at this adjourned meeting, having received the report presented to them by the directors, and having heard the explanations of the President upon the situation of the Bank, the circumstances attendant upon securing certain debts due to the Bank, and the disposal of unproductive property, desire to express the great obligations which have been conferred upon the entire body of the shareholders by the labour and attention which the Board have bestowed in placing the affairs of the Bank upon a sound basis.

Be it therefore resolved: That a vote of thanks be offered to the Directors for the care given to the general interests of the Bank, and that this expression of full confidence in their management be recorded on the minutes of this meeting."

The President having been requested to leave the chair, and Mr. Street to take the same, the resolution was put and carried unanimously.

The President, for himself and the Directors, acknowledged the compliment. He said that Mr. Cassels desired to make a statement with regard to a matter which they had all heard talked of.

Mr. Cassels said that one of the Directors, Dr. McQuesten, had intimated something to the effect that the former, as Cashier, had misinformed or otherwise given an erroneous impression to the latter, as to the amount of certain large advances which had been made by the Bank, under his (Mr. C.'s) management. The books were, at every meeting, regularly placed before the Directors, and the standing of each account was there in detail, in a form the simplest and easiest for reference that had yet been devised. If Dr. McQuesten had not examined the books, it was his own fault. He, (Mr. Cassels,) distinctly denied that he had ever kept back information from the Board, or from any member of it.

Since his accession to office, full and regular entries had invariably been made of all applications for discount, and no discount had at any time been granted without the approval of the Directors. Large discounts had been permitted during his absence in England, for which he could not in any way be considered responsible.

Dr. McQuesten said he had never intimated to any one that erroneous information had been given him by Mr. Cassels, or that he had ever any reason to doubt the fact that the books, regularly submitted, showed the true estimate of each account. What he had said was that certain advances made were largely beyond what he had understood them to be.

A Shareholder present said it was not enough that no wrong information was actually given. The question was—Did Mr. Cassels, knowing that one or more of the Directors were under a wrong impression as to certain debts due to the Bank, believing them to be much less than they actually were, still omit to set these Directors right, as he should have done? This was an important point to be determined for the guidance of future Directors and managers.

Mr. Street protested against any attempt to shift responsibility fairly devolving on the Board to the shoulders of its officer. In the discussion which took place Mr. Cassels was fully exonerated from any negligence of accountability, and satisfaction was expressed regarding his fidelity to the established procedure of his office.

THE GRAND TRUNK.

The half-yearly meeting was held in London on the 22nd October; Sir E. W. Watkin in the chair.

The Chairman said that his term of office was expiring. He had always said that he did not intend to remain in the direction beyond a certain time, as his other engagements would not admit of it. He had ventured to state on a former occasion that the difficulties of the company were