

business account with another bank, and even this arrangement might not always be without its difficulties.

But if everything cannot be done, in this particular, something can be done. The aim should be for each bank to minimize advances to its own directors and officers. Another safeguard, which stockholders only could apply, would be to reject as directors persons who are notoriously given to speculations; and brokers, whose business is largely speculative, should be considered ineligible for election as bank directors. Finally, a distinction should be made between a loan on margin for legitimate purposes and such a loan for purposes of speculation. Unfortunately, it too often happens that bank managers labor under the delusion that it is their business to encourage speculation in the stock of their own bank; and there is sometimes the added temptation of a prospective profit to themselves as shareholders from a rise in the price of the stock. But it is always the duty of a bank to refuse to lend on bank stock, as it is the duty of everyone to obey laws made for the protection of society.

Until some such reforms as these are made, disasters to banks arising from the free use by bank officers of the funds under their control, cannot be expected much to abate. So long as the moral nature of men remains what it is, fraud cannot be wholly prevented; but it may be minimized by abolishing or minimizing practices in which the current bank frauds frequently originate. — *Monetary Times.*

### Antiquity of Mercury in China.

A writer in the Chinese *North China Herald* discusses the part played by mercury in the alchemy and *materia medica* of the Chinese. Cinnabar was known to them in the seventh century before the Christian era, and its occurrence on the surface of the earth was said to indicate gold beneath. Their views on the transformation of metals into ores and ores into metals by heat and other means took the form of a chemical doctrine about a century before Christ, and there is now no reasonable doubt that the Arabian Geber and others derived their ideas on the transmutation of metals into gold and the belief in immunity from death by the use of the philosopher's stone from China. Among all the metals with which the alchemist worked, mercury was pre-eminent, and this is stated to be really the philosopher's stone of which Geber, Kalid and others spoke in the times of the early caliphs. In China it was employed exclusively as a medicine. On nights when dew was falling, a sufficient amount was collected to mix with the powder of cinnabar, and this was taken habitually till it led to serious disturbance of the bodily functions. In the ninth century an emperor and in the tenth a prime minister died from overdoses of mercury. Chinese medicine books say it takes 200 years to produce cinnabar; in 300 years it becomes lead; in 200 years more it becomes silver, and then, by obtaining a transforming substance called "vapor of harmony," it becomes gold. This doctrine of the transformation of mercury into other metals is 2,000 years old in China. The

Chinese hold that it not only prolongs life, but expels bad vapors, poison and the gloom of an uneasy mind.

### Help Yourself.

People who have been bolstered up and levered all their lives are seldom good for anything in a crisis. When misfortune comes they look around for something to cling to or lean upon. If the prop is up there down they go.

Once down they are as helpless as capsize turtles or unhorsed men in armor, and cannot find their feet again without assistance.

Such silken fellows no more resemble self-made men, who have fought their way to position, making difficulties their stepping-stones, and deriving determination from defeat, than vices resemble oaks, or sputtering rush-lights the stars of heaven. Efforts persisted into achievements train a man to self-reliance, and when he has proven to the world that he can trust himself, the world will trust him.

It is unwise to deprive young men the advantages which result from their own energetic action by "boosting" them over obstacles which they ought to surmount alone — *St. John Reporter.*

### General Notes.

RECENT returns of the foreign trade of Italy during the first six months of the present year place the value of the imports at 745,245,112 francs, an increase as compared with the corresponding period of last year of 51,000,000 francs. The value of the exports are placed at 616,438,042 francs, an increase as compared with the same period of last year of 19,000,000 francs. The greatest activity was in the silk trade, of which there was an increase of 34,000,000 francs in imports and of 14,000,000 francs in exports.

THE deepest mine in England is the Rose bridge, viz., 2418 feet; this has been at work for some years, yielding a fair quantity of coal. The deepest coal mine in the world is one near Charleroi, Belgium, viz., St. Andre shaft, at the Poirier colliery, which 2724 feet; the coal is raised by an iron-wire flat rope seven inches broad and composed of eight strands, its weight being between nine and ten tons. The winding is slow, and the quantity of coal raised about 260 tons daily. There is another deep shaft near Charleroi, viz., the Sacre Madame colliery at Dampreny, which is 2498 feet, the coal being raised from bottom to top in fifty-seven seconds. These are the deepest coal shafts in the world.

THE *Montreal Gazette* has, with commendable enterprise, introduced a feature into its commercial reports, which must render them of exceptionally great value to all persons engaged or interested in the cattle trade. The *Gazette* has for some time had a correspondent at Liverpool who sends weekly letters on the cattle trade, and the letters have shown that the correspondent is remarkably well informed upon the subject, and must have exceptional facilities for obtaining precise and accurate information. To this has now been added a weekly cable letter on the position of the cattle market, which is published in the *Gazette* every Tuesday morning, giving the fullest particulars up to a late hour on Monday night.

### EMERSON.

Joe Hewson has opened a branch livery at Greta.

Hugh Bros have leased the fine stable next to Carney House, and opened a livery there.

Pennsylvania hard coal is selling here now at \$10 per ton. Very little wood will be burned next winter.

Mr. Brown, proprietor of the Sherman House Winnipeg, is building a fine hotel at Greta, and will run it himself.

A large force of men is at work at the Thompson elevator (35 000 bushels capacity) which is expected to be completed within two weeks.

Jas. Simoneau, of the Home Hotel, West Emerson, has closed his place and opened the Canada Hotel at Gauthier (Two Little Points.)

There was a sitting of the County Court here on last Monday, Judge Ardagh presiding; only thirteen not important cases were on the docket and were quickly disposed of.

Last week's storms, although somewhat delaying harvesting work, have done no harm in this vicinity. The weather now is beautiful and if it continues so for a few days more, all the grain will be secured.

G. H. McFarlane, an old Emerson man, is back again. He is agent for G. J. Moulson & Co., and will buy at and for the Thompson elevator, all wheat, flax and oats obtainable. Two thousand bushels of flax have already been contracted for. The starting price for flax will be 80c, and for wheat 65c and 75c for No. 1 hard.

THE Grand Trunk receipts for the week ending on the 14th inst. were \$4,400 less than for the corresponding week last year.

### Dissolution of Partnership.

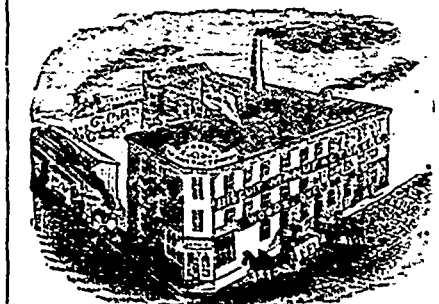
On and after the 1st of September, 1884, the partnership existing between J. P. DILL and H. CROSS, General Merchants, in the Town of Wolseley, N. W. T., is dissolved. The said J. P. Dill will assume all liabilities contracted by the said Dill & Cross and collect all debts due the firm.

Witness my hand and seal, this 1st day of August, 1884.  
J. P. DILL.  
H. CROSS.

WOLSELEY, SEPT. 1ST, 1884.

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