

" they are determined to conduct every part of the business
" with the punctuality necessary to promote the credit and suc-
" cess of the undertaking, and with due regard to the conveni-
" ence and safety of the public.

(Signed) " PHYN, ELLICE & INGLIS
" TODD, MCGILL & Co.
" FORSYTH, RICHARDSON & Co.

" Dated in London, 17th March, 1792 "

Mr. Stevenson gives the date of its appearance in the *Quebec Gazette* as 18th October, 1792, but it first appeared on August the 9th. The idea of the bank is commonly supposed to have been originated and worked up in Montreal, by Montreal merchants. But, as will appear from the document itself, wherever the idea originated it was formulated in London in March, 1792, and a London firm, Messrs. Phyn, Ellice & Inglis, took the lead in the matter. The other two firms are Montreal merchants, customers of the London firm, and enjoying a large share of the trade with the settlements in Upper Canada. We learn from a list of arrivals from London appearing in the *Quebec Gazette* some time after this, that Mr. John Forsyth had been in England; and there came over with him Mr. Geo. Phyn, jun., of London, and Mr. and Mrs. Ellice, of London. No doubt these gentlemen came over to assist in launching the bank in Canada. Possibly a member of the firm of Todd, McGill & Co. was also in London when the articles of agreement were drawn up, and the above announcement prepared. The bank was a purely private one, and no effort seems to have been made to secure a charter for it, as some have supposed. It was evidently intended to gradually cover the whole Canadian field by a system of branches, as in the case of the Bank of the United States.

Canada at that time was hardly ripe for such an institution. In the lower province there was no need for the issue of a paper currency sufficiently urgent to overcome the prejudices of the French-Canadians towards that kind of money. In the English settlements of the west, while there was a real need for a medium of exchange, yet it was almost entirely of a local nature, and those settlements were not sufficiently stable