"With the misdoings of the staff I do not care to deal, but would say they are common in all mismanaged institutions, especially when several members of one family are at the head of it or employed in it, in responsible positions. Mr. Weir is not the only manager who took credit in profits for supposed loss on circulation—a practice which cannot be too severely condemned. In the first place there is not nearly so much circulation of banks lost or destroyed as is supposed. Actual test has demonstrated this, and in the next place the lost circulation or unclaimed deposits of a bank in case of liquidation must be turned over to the Government within three years of the failure. This is a very wise provision, as the Governmen. thereafter becomes responsible to the holders and the reflection of any loss occurring on the bills of Canadian banks is removed. They are now always good.

"There is one point which seems to have been lost sight of. The Ville Marie bank has paid dividends for years when the capital was heavily impaired. This is illegal, and the drectors are personally responsible to the shareholders for all such.

"CANADIAN."

When stupidity is added to cupidity on the part of customers, the financial fakir gets in his easiest work. The success of the "Franklin Syndicate" in New York is a case in point. Here an irresponsible young man named Miller offered ten per cent. a week interest on deposits, and thousands of people—mostly poor people, unhappily, but not all—rushed to plank down their money. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were placed with this scallawag. The respectable press warned people against the scheme, but in vain. As the New York Herald puts it they were warned of the certainty that the proverbial "fools and their money" were being parted at the Miller residence and office. "The banks heard of it and threw the young man out, metaphorically, neck and heels, and the fact was published in the newspapers. Even the church which he attended took a hand in to utter warnings. What was the result? A mob at the door of the syndicate to demand their money back? Not at all. A greater crush than ever of depositors, after that golden-hued will-o'-the-wisp, 520 per cent.! As long as that sign was hung out as the bait there were gudgeons to be caught." Eventually, Miller was indicted for conspiring to procure money under false pretenses, and a warrant issued for his arrest. The end of the game was bound to come, and the doings of the Franklin Syndicate are over. But the wonder is that the game lasted so long and that so many dupes were found to plank down good money against the loaded dice of vain promises.

The following communication, signed by the mayor and chairman of the Finance Committee of the city of Brandon, Man., has been mailed to the city's creditors: In accordance with a resolution passed by the council on the 22nd of November we beg to submit the following: About eight weeks ago we mailed you a circular letter setting forth the financial position of the city of Brandon, and offering a reconversion of its indebtedness by the issue of new debentures payable in fifty years, and asking that accredited representatives be appointed to confer with us and ascertain for themselves as to the correctness of the statements in aforesaid circular, with a view to a settlement. Since no action has been taken except to continue suits against the city, we wish to point out that such a course on the part of our creditors can only have one effect, viz., impair the security now held by the bondholders. The step we have taken was not arrived at hastily, but after several years of earnest consideration, very much regretting the necessity for such a course, but feeling that matters were constantly becoming worse. Possibly our creditors may feel a certain encouragement in continuing suits against the city, since we have paid judgments re December, 1898 coupons; but the reason for so doing was the fact that the 1898 levy provided for those amounts. This year matters are different. We have not levied for a single dollar of interest, and it is not our intention to pay any more interest until we have a meeting with our creditors, when we have the hope that our financial difficulties can be arranged. We would further point out that if the present course of issuing writs is pursued, it will undoubtedly force an early resignation of the council, and we take it this action will not be desired by any one concerned.

Miss Maude McMahen, of Toronto University, daughter of A. T. McMahen, of London, Ont., succeeded in winning the Bankers' scholarship, value $70, at the recent examination.

We learn from The Glasgow Herald of November 20th that the Cotton Machinery Trust has a capital of £100,000 in ordinary and deferred shares of £1 each. The present issue consists of 75,000 ordinary shares (for which subscriptions are invited), and 2,500 deferred shares (which are taken by the directors). The company is formed for the purpose of conducting operations in connection with the purchase and sale of machinery for spinning and manufacturing textile fabrics, and to finance such transactions, and generally to carry on the business of a trust company. The prospectus states that a wide field exists for business of this character, and the directors are confident of a considerable and an important trade.

TRUST AND LOAN COMPANY OF CANADA.

The last report of this long-established mortgage loan company makes very agreeable reading. It was submitted at the semi-annual meeting, held recently in London. The net profits are shown to have been $67,496.48 in the half-year ended with September last. This is $17,196.61 more than those of the previous half-year, which were $50,299.87. Out of these profits the usual dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., and a bonus at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum, have been paid, besides carrying to the reserve fund a sum of $10,023.24, and leaving a balance of $2,114.92 to the credit of next half-year, which with $56,747.38 carried forward from previous half-years, leaves the comfortable total of $58,862.30 at the credit of the current half-year's account. During this period $12,250 has been written off for loss on securities realized in Canada, and a much larger sum for depreciation of investments held in England.

It is a pleasure to note, that the first loaning company which ever did business in Canada is still able in these fierce days of loaning competition to present such a satisfactory statement to its shareholders, and this in spite of its very conservative financial methods of doing business. For nearly fifty years this company has played no inconsiderable part in the higher development of Ontario and its people, and the Trust and Loan Co. enjoys in Canada to-day, as it has hitherto done, a reputation second to none amongst institutions of a similar character, for honorable dealing and careful management.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. E. C., Kentville.—The suggestion has our attention, and may be acted on later. We have always deemed the general subject one of immediate and growing commercial interest, which is our reason for giving it so much consideration.

PROCTOR, Montreal.—The company does the sort of business you state, but we understand declines the particular kind of risk mentioned by your friend. You might write the company's head office on the subject.

A. G. B., Ottawa.—We have no further particulars in the matter than you may find in the Blue Books. As to your second question, an answer to it may most easily be found by addressing the Provincial Secretary at Toronto. On page 6 of the report of the Secretary and Registrar, the cost of letters patent is set forth, ranging from $10 to $400 per company. The appendix contains a list of companies incorporated in one year, as well as of those which have increased their stock or extended their powers.

INDUSTRIAL ITEMS.

The United Electric Co. are installing a complete arc and incandescent lighting plant for the Harriston Pork Packing Co., Harriston, Ont., and the firm of Shaw, Cassils & Co., Bracebridge, tanners, have placed an order with the United Electric Co., Ltd., for a 40 h.p. multipolar motor. The same company recently supplied John Bertram and Sons, Dundas, with two slow-speed multipolar motors for direct gearing to large iron working tools, and the McClary Mnfg. Co., Montreal, have installed one of their motors. The corporation of the town of Mitchell has recently purchased a direct-current incandescent dynamo from this company.

The Royal Electric Company, of Montreal, and the Waterous Engine Company, have secured the contracts for the new electric light service to be installed at Greenwood, B.C.