holders which may be compatible with the welfare and prosperity of the Company.

From the Bill we have culled the following important clauses :—

3. A policy-holder being a man of the full age of 21 years, whose policies in force amount to $10,000, or upwards, exclusive of bonus additions or profits, and upon which the full premiums for five years or more have been paid, shall be eligible for election by the policy-holders as a director of the company.

5. The present board of directors shall hold office only until the annual general meeting to be held on the last Wednesday of February, 1900, or until their successors are appointed, and at such meeting nine directors shall be elected by the stockholders and six directors by the policy-holders.

6. The six directors elected by the policy-holders shall divide themselves into three classes of two each. The term of office of the first class shall expire at the last Wednesday of February, 1901, that of the second class at the last Wednesday of February, 1902, and that of the third class at the last Wednesday of February, 1903, and at the annual meeting to be held on the last Wednesday of February, 1901, and annually thereafter two directors shall be chosen by the policy-holders, who shall hold their office for three years, or until their successors are elected.

In like manner the nine directors elected by the stock-holders at such meeting shall divide themselves into three classes of three each. The term of office of the first class shall expire at the last Wednesday of Feb., 1901, that of the second class at the last Wednesday of Feb., 1902, and that of the third class at the last Wednesday of February, 1903, and at the annual meeting to be held on the last Wednesday of February 1901, and annually thereafter three directors shall be chosen by the stockholders, who shall hold their office for three years, or until their successors are elected.

15. The shareholders and the directors elected by them shall have the exclusive control of the question of the proportion of profits (not exceeding ten per cent. thereof) to be allotted to the shareholders, and of the mode of dealing with such proportion and of all other matters relating to the capital stock of the Company.

16. At least ten of the directors shall reside in the City of Toronto or within one hundred miles thereof, and a retiring director if duly qualified may be re-elected either by the policy-holders or by the shareholders as the case may be.

THE UNITED STATES CURRENCY QUESTION.

That some change in the banking system of the United States is generally regarded as necessary is clearly shown by the now much-discussed question as to the form said change ought to take. A contributor to "The Sun" after illustrating the banking system of Great Britain says :—

"These figures show a centralization of control in British banking which strangely contrasts with what exists in this country. The comparison is also surprising when applied to the capitalization of the banks. The paid-up capital of the 179 joint stock banks of the United Kingdom and Canada amounts to $607,000,000, or an average of $3,400,000 per bank; while the united capital of our national and State banks is reported at $885,000,000, or an average of $117,000 per bank."

He further adds:—

"British concentration of bank management,—coupled with the facts that it is attended with large economies in administration, and that it has proved to be compatible with a high degree of safety to the depositors and with much larger profits for the banks than are realized in this country,—affords reason enough for asking whether American banks have not lessons of great importance to learn from English methods and experience."

On the question of circulation he remarks:—

"The operations of a system of large banks with branch offices would be injuriously restricted, however, unless the banks were granted a large power to issue their own circulating notes. In a comparatively thinly populated country like ours, the branch institutions would need to make their loans through instruments that would freely pass from hand to hand without limit. The transfer of the loan into a deposit to be checked against would be unavailable over a large portion of the smaller communities of the interior. The borrower, in such cases, must be able to procure some form of cash."

Strange to say, the strongest doubts of the practicability of adopting the Canadian banking system in regard to circulation of notes have been expressed by Mr. James B. Forgan, Vice-President of the First National Bank, Chicago.

His address before the Commercial Club of that city at its annual dinner has attracted attention, because, though a former resident of Scotland and Canada, Mr. Forgan does not advocate the "asset currency" system of banking for adoption in the United States. Mr. Forgan is in a sense the banking successor of Lyman J. Gage, now Secretary of the Treasury, and the fact that the two men differ on the question of banking reform adds to the interest in Mr. Forgan's address.

We regret that our space forbids publication of the full text of a capital speech. But the following extracts cannot fail to interest the Scottish-Canadian-American banker's many friends and acquaintances among bank managers and business men throughout the Dominion. He said:—

"Some fifteen years ago my brother and I were both connected with the Bank of Nova Scotia, with its head office in Halifax. Winnipeg was then developing into the Chicago of the Canadian Northwest. The directors of the bank decided to open an agency there. An agent was sent out to look over the field, secure an office, and prepare for business. After he had attended to these preliminaries, my brother, then a man of twenty, was sent out to assist him. He carried with him from Halifax to Winnipeg $40,000 of the unsigned currency of the bank, passing through