

QUEBEC BANK.—Despite financial storms and periods of depression the Quebec Bank has continued to pay regular dividends for upwards of fifty consecutive years. From the date of its incorporation, indeed, seventy-three years ago, only thrice has it failed to make return to its stockholders, during the years 1834-36, the business of the country being then unsettled through internal dissensions, which culminated in the Rebellion of 1837. Such a record can be claimed by but few banking institutions of equal age; and no surprise is occasioned, therefore, when now, at the end of a crucial year, marked by severe depression and heavy failures in the timber trade, as well as by unexpected crises in the money markets of London and New York, this sterling old bank presents an account setting forth net profits, sufficient to pay a dividend of 7 per cent., to add to its Profit and Loss account, and still leave its half million of a Rest unimpaired. No one but a practical banker, intimately acquainted with the events of the past year, and the consequent call for the exercise of judgment, prudence and fortitude, can fully appreciate the true meaning of this result. It is only when such an ordeal has to be passed that the wisdom of having capable and prudent administrators is brought home to the attention of shareholders. That the management of this bank have adopted a true policy, and have conscientiously carried that policy out, is shown by the successful results of past years and of the year just closed. In the words of an old and experienced director, Mr. Henry Fry, cited with commendation by Mr. Stevenson in his annual address, the true test of a bank's position is not profits nor circulation nor yet deposits, but the *character of its loans*. The policy of the general manager in watching and announcing to shareholders the amount of the bank's advances to the several great departments of trade is one which might be followed advantageously by other banking institutions. Such information is likely to be appreciated by those whose capital is being administered, affording them ample opportunity to judge of the general welfare of the bank. The character of the loans of every bank should be annually made known in some such general way to the great body of shareholders.

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS BANK.—Another successful year has just closed for the shareholders of this bank, who find their Rest account again increased by \$50,000, an enlarged balance going forward to Profit and Loss, and themselves enriched by dividends