

this Company at the bankers, I may say, in explanation, that the amount was to its credit as on the 31st of December, but that immediately after—on the 1st of January—a large sum had to be paid out of that on debentures, and in dividends payable on the 1st of January, and in interest on debentures then falling due; and that at all times there is a considerable amount in the shape of applications for loans in the solicitor's hands to be provided for. There is one item with regard to which no information appears in this Report, but to which reference was made in last year's report. I may state with respect to that item—that of deposits—that in that branch of our business there has been a falling off, and that that falling off has been owing to the fact that the rate of interest allowed for deposits was reduced to five per cent. We made that reduction anticipating that it would lead to a much larger decrease in the deposits than has actually taken place, and believing that it would be in the interest of the shareholders to bring about that result, inasmuch as we can procure the money we require on very favorable terms for fixed periods, which is much better than holding money payable on demand, as deposits usually are. During the year a further increase was made in the stock of the Company, and now the subscribed stock of the Company amounts to \$750,000, leaving \$250,000 still available, to be used whenever the interests of the shareholders are apparently to be subserved by calling that up. At the last session of our Legislature certain amendments to our charter were, as the Report states, obtained. To only one of them need I refer particularly, the Agency clause. We have now, under our charter, power to act as an Agency and Trust Company, and I think there is every reason to believe that that will be to the interest and advantage of the shareholders. The report also mentions a fact of some consequence and interest to the shareholders; that is, that the Company has now acquired as its own the premises in which we are assembled to-day. The time, I believe, had come when it was necessary for the Company to be in a different position with respect to premises to what we had occupied in the past. When a Company has attained to the position which has in many respects been realized by this, it becomes desirable that it should occupy premises of its own, and so not to be exposed to the contingencies either of having the rent increased some day, or of being obliged at an inconvenient time to look for other premises. Fur-