

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The fifty-eighth yearly general meeting of the Bank of British North America was held in London, Eng., on Tuesday, 6th March.

The report of the directors was as follows:
REPORT.

The court of directors have pleasure in submitting the accompanying balance sheet to the 30th December last, showing, with £5,613 12s. 7d. brought forward from the last account, the sum of £47,618 14s. 1d. as the available profit for the half year.

Out of this amount the directors have now to report the declaration of a dividend of 40s. per share payable, free of income tax, on the 6th April next, making a distribution of 7½ per cent. for the year 1893, and leaving a balance of £7,618 14s. 1d. to be carried forward.

The dividend warrants will be remitted to the proprietors on the 5th April next.

The following appropriations from the profit and loss account have been made for the benefit of the staff, viz.: To the officers' widows' and orphans' fund, £403 15s. 5d.; to the officers' life insurance fund, £285 3s. 3d.

BALANCE SHEET, 30TH DECEMBER.

Dr.		£	s.	d.
To capital	.....	1,000,000	0	0
20,000 shares of £50 each fully paid.				
Reserve Fund	.....	275,000	0	0
Deposits and current accounts	.....	2,074,956	7	9
Notes in circulation	.....	222,830	17	0
Bills payable and other liabilities	.....	1,238,813	8	10
Rebate account	.....	11,584	14	0
Profit and Loss acct., being balance from 30th June, 1893, viz., £40,613 12 7, less dividend paid Oct., 1893, £35,000		5,613	12	7
Net profit for the half year ending this date, after deducting all current charges and providing for bad and doubtful debts, £42,694 0 2; less paid to two funds £688 18 8, as above stated		42,005	1	6
Cr.		£	s.	d.
By cash and specie at bankers and in bank	.....	461,098	19	2
By cash at call and short notice	.....	243,257	16	10
By investments—				
Consols, £150,000 at 90	.....	135,000	0	0
Other securities	.....	26,455	0	7
By bills receivable, loans on security and other accounts	.....	3,888,992	8	10
By bank premises, &c., in London and at the branches	.....	115,999	7	3
		£4,870,804	1	8

CALIFORNIA AS A WINE-PRODUCING COUNTRY.

In chapter fifteen of *The Book of the Fair*, parts eleven and twelve of which beautiful publication have just been received, we find some illustrations of Canadian exhibits at the great Chicago Exhibition. For example, pictures of Canadian fruits and Canadian vegetables on page 447, the Ontario show of palms in the Canadian exhibit, in Horticultural Hall, besides half a dozen illustrations of the woods and minerals of the Dominion. We have not yet, however, come upon any description of Canadian wines among those of the German, French, Australian and other wines commented upon. We find in Part XI. an eloquent paragraph on California wines. Writing of the large vintners of that State the writer says: "Their cellars in San Francisco and elsewhere contain larger stores of wine than those which Hannibal wasted when, on his march towards Rome, he bathed his horses' feet in the choicest vintages of Italy." As late as 1860 the bulk of California's wines was made of mission grapes such as the Franciscan fathers transplanted from Mexico. Later "many foreign varieties were introduced, and presently wine making was based on scientific methods." And now, of 20,000,000 gallons a year, nearly three-fourths is shipped to the Eastern States and foreign markets.

It may be interesting to know that these delicious wines have been introduced into Ca-

nada, and notwithstanding the duty, are meeting with success in competition with the Bordeaux of France and the Hocks of Germany.

The characteristic wine in claret is said to be "Zinfandel," with an individual aroma of its own (something like raspberries). Dealers say it is sound at ten years of age and improves by bounds each year. The so-called Burgundies also deserve mention; they are of a heavier class (or type) and improve with age. In hook the delicate "Reisling" and "Gutadel" are described by connoisseurs as wonders, and perhaps the greatest success California produces, rivalling the Niersteiners, at half the price. They contain body, and are favorites as a fish wine. To those whose palates like sweet liquids the very luscious "Angelicas" and "Muscatelles" will appeal. They are worthy rivals of the Italian sweet wines.

California is the fruit paradise of the United States, and produces the true wine grape, "estable all the way through," as an enthusiast says, "a fruit which you can chew and hold in your mouth as the pulp of a peach until your palate has taken its savor of every particle." Isabella, Concord, Delaware and Catawba grapes slide down your throat, says this writer, really unseasoned or untasted except on the surface of the berry. No matter how ripe they are they have an acid core, which sets your teeth on edge if you bite it. It is different, however, with California grapes, and probably climate has much to do with this.

ODE TO WINTER.

AIR: MAID OF ATHENS.

Wretched Winter, 'ere we part,
Give us yet another start!
Shoot the sunshine and the rain,
Send us blizzards once again!
Cash is scarce and trade is slow,
Give us Zero or below.

By the Muffs that did not sell,
Tho' the month began so well;
By the bills past falling due;
By each worthless I O U.
By the Ulsters that would not go,
Give us Zero or below.

Oh! my Seal-skin (alias cat);
Oh! my Persian Lamb peak cap,
Oh! my Ulsters soft and warm,
Made to suit each handsome form.
Shall the moths devour you? No!
Give us Zero or below.

Wretched Winter! we are gone
If you do not quick atone.
Though we offer under cost—
Spring is here and we are lost,
Blow your Northers, sleet or snow,
Give, oh, give us Ten below.
—Ridley, in *Chatham Planet*.

LORD ROSEBERY.

J. M. Barrie, in his book, "An Edinburgh Eleven," draws a portrait of Lord Rosebery, drawn mainly from college life. What he says below was written in 1889, and in view of the present status of affairs it is little else than prophetic:

"The 'Uncrowned King of Scotland' is a title that has been made for Lord Rosebery, whose country has faith in him from the beginning. Mr. Gladstone is the only other man who can make so many Scotsmen take politics as if it were the Highland Fling. Once when Lord Rosebery was firing an Edinburgh audience to the delirium point, an old man in the hall shouted out, 'I dinna hear a word he says, but it's grand, it's grand!' During the first Midlothian campaign Mr. Gladstone and Lord Rosebery were the father and son of the Scottish people. Lord Rosebery rode into fame on the top of that wave, and he has kept his place in the hearts of the people, and in oleographs on their walls, ever since. In all Scottish matters he has the enthusiasm of a Burns dinner, and his humor enables him to pay compliments. . . . His address to the Edinburgh students on 'Patriotism' was the best thing he ever did outside politics, and made the students his for life. . . . Lord Rosebery could not now step up without stepping into the premiership."

Further, we learn about his ancestry—his name being Primrose—that the Primroses

cannot be classed with the *Nouveaux Riches*, as they have had a place among the titled gentry for nearly two centuries and a half, and have been classed among the nobles of the land since the year 1700. The first baronet was rewarded for his fidelity to King Charles in his conflict with the English Parliament. Forty years later, Archibald Primrose, a cadet of the house, was created a viscount by William III., and on the accession of Anne, he was raised to the higher dignity of an earl. On Lord Dalmeny's death in 1851, his eldest son succeeded to his title, and when his father died in 1868 young Lord Dalmeny became the 5th Earl of Rosebery. In 1854 Lady Dalmeny became Duchess of Cleveland. These are the generations of Lord Rosebery. He thus represents the families of the Earls of Stanhope and Radnor, of the Vincents, baronets, of Stoke d'Aubern, of the Dukes of Argyll and the Yorkshire Cressys, and all for which they stood at the dates of intermarriage. With such a lineage it is not difficult to account for Lord Rosebery's gift of statesmanship.

A NEWSPAPER REVOLUTION.

The *Toronto Globe* has just been celebrating the completion of its fiftieth year, the first number having appeared on the 5th of March, 1844. It has been an eventful half century for Canada, the occurrences of which have been chronicled in the *Globe's* columns, and in shaping them, the paper and those who controlled it have had an important influence. Down to the time of Confederation the *Globe* was an unique power. George Brown conducted it, and he was, if somewhat narrow sometimes, a strong man with strong convictions, which he enunciated with a vigor that impelled respect and made converts. . . . When he died, under circumstances which all lamented, the *Globe*, though still a leader in the ranks of the Ontario press, had lost much of its special predominance. The revolution that changed the newspaper from being an organ voicing the sentiments of one mind, with the editor's opinion the first thing looked for, into the production of many minds with the news the feature of its daily issues, had been in operation, and as it progressed the one-man power declined. Not again will the country see a journal dominated by one man dominating a political party, and through it dominating the course of legislation and settling the fate of ministers. The change, however, is for the better. If there were giants in those days they were vindictive giants. . . . A new generation has grown up which has begun to recognize that men may differ one from the other on public questions and both sides be honest. Personal abuse is being eliminated from discussion. Argument is addressed to the intelligence of the reader. Appeal to his prejudice is becoming less common. In condemning a public man it is his public acts that are held up for public reprobation. . . . A newspaper that aspires to lead to-day can only hope to succeed by showing superior intelligence in its management and superior skill in presenting its case. The change amounts to a revolution, and it is only doing the *Globe* justice to say that in its case it has been very marked. From being one of the most bitter it has become one of the most moderate in presenting its views, and though, like others, it has its failings, it can be said of it that it fairly represents the best type of Canadian journalism.—*Montreal Gazette*.

EXPIRATION OF PATENTS.

A despatch dated 6th, from Washington, says that several patents expired by limitation on that day. Among the more important inventions were the following: Grain binders, G. A. Houston, Beloit, Wis.; photographic cameras, J. O. H. Jewett and P. F. Leonard, Macon City, Mo.; spring air guns, H. M. Quackenbush; grain binder, L. A. Scoville, Circleville, O., assignor to himself and I. F. Scoville; railroad switches, R. W. Barrett, Ely, Vt.; breech-loading firearms, J. S. Edge, jr., Yardley, Eng.; printing presses, W. C. Kritch and Arthur Greenwood, Leeds, Eng.; grain binders, D. McPherson, Caledonia, N.Y.; fire alarm telegraph repeaters, bell strikers and signal boxes, C. H. Pond, Jackson, Mich.; water meters, Parker Wells, Lynn, Mass.; hydraulic engines, A. J. Stott, Philadelphia; revolving firearms, Daniel Moore, Brooklyn, N.Y.