

—except in being useful on occasion to raise the wind by supplying pledges for the auction commission houses. About a year ago it became evident that the concern could not go on without a further supply of capital. It became necessary to raise about \$50,000; appeals by circular were made to members to little effect. At the recent meeting a committee of fifteen was appointed to canvass for increased subscriptions to the preferred stock, and it is now claimed that over \$20,000 has been promised, but on condition that the balance to make the whole amount \$45,000 be secured. And here the matter rests. An offer of 50 cents in the dollar has been made for the dry goods stock, but they seem of opinion that they can get more for it over the counter.

At the annual meeting on the 14th inst. the assets and liabilities were understood to be about as follows, no statement having been made public:

Assets.		Liabilities.	
Groceries.....	\$19,000	Bills payable..	\$16,000
Wines.....	5,000	Advances.....	54,000
Dry goods.....	86,000	Open accounts	22,000
Stationery, etc.	12,000	Overdue rent	1,800
Jewellery.....	4,000	Depositors.....	10,000
Crockery.....	10,000	Shareholders	
Other assets..	7,700	(ord.).....	52,000
		Shareholders	
		(pref.).....	43,000
Total.....	\$143,700	Total.....	\$198,000

Mr. J. F. Nott, the lately resigned manager, who has been called to more active service in the North-West, stated at the meeting that "the position of affairs is far better now than 3 years ago when the present directors took charge. On their entry upon their duties it was commonly stated that there would not be 60 cents on the dollar for the creditors if the estate had gone into liquidation. This was caused by laying in goods that were suitable for customers in England, but not the kind for consumption here, and hence they became dead stock. Notwithstanding this state of affairs and commencing on too large a scale in expensive premises, the directors had met their creditors in full and had made a profit the 1st year of \$10,000 and the 2nd year of \$12,000 and at present there was a surplus. It had last year been agreed by the shareholders to raise \$45,000 or \$50,000 of additional capital on preference shares, to place the company out of debt instead of having to pay banks heavy interest for advances. The directors, to prove their confidence in the investment being a profitable one, actually subscribed for a large portion of \$22,000, or half the whole amount demanded, although they were the largest original shareholders. From the registered stockholders, of whom there

are 3,500, only a sum between \$1,000 and \$1,500 had been received after repeated appeals were made, and with the knowledge that the money subscribed could not be used without all the stock being taken. This has been embarrassing to the directors, who have given their own personal security for \$45,000 to keep the company going, and without any collateral security whatever. They rank only with the general creditors. Mr. Nott further remarked that they had the nucleus of a fine and profitable business that would grow and increase every year hereafter. He had no doubt there would be favorable balance sheets if the business is continued and dividends would be declared. The directors were the largest creditors of the company, and could only get what was due them *pro rata* with the other creditors. In conclusion, he said the assets were amply sufficient if the company went into liquidation to pay the creditors in full and leave a large surplus besides."

Mr. Yates of Brantford, Ont., the owner of 420 shares, only 20 shares less than Mr. Geo. R. Grant, the president, said he still had confidence in the future success of the Company, and had proved that by going security with his creditors for \$70,000, to keep up the company's credit. This amount had been greatly reduced. He appealed to the shareholders present to help in raising the \$22,000 required to complete the \$45,000 of preference stock, or the Association would have to go into liquidation, there being no other alternative.

The number of directors was reduced to five, and the meeting was closed by the re-election of Messrs. Grant, Yates, Henshaw, Simard and Mathews as directors for the current year. The business for the year (ending last month) was less than for the twelve months preceding, being only \$288,860, or less than an average of \$82 for each customer. The president attributed the falling off to the dullness in business and the necessity for forced economy. The head of a family whose grocery bill would amount to only \$80 a year—let alone his dry goods (including buttons) crockery, stationery, etc.—must have discovered some methods of economy not generally known, and might confer a benefit by giving it to the public—say anonymously.

It is remarked as not a little singular that those members who acknowledge having saved \$100 to \$125 a year by trading at the counters of the Association—some members must buy much less than \$80 worth—do not seem to be willing enough to subscribe to the increased preference stock: they argue;

wisely enough, that the simple membership, which costs only \$1, gives them all the advantages they desire. Herein lies a weak spot, evidently overlooked by the original promoters of the system as practised in Montreal. In conning over the recent report one can hardly avoid running against one or two inconsistencies. We may be mistaken,—but here they are: The late manager is reported to have said at the last meeting that they had lost \$16,000 on goods which they had sold. It is probable that in these were included some \$17,000 worth recently pledged for about \$4,000 to an auction firm, who have doubtless since disposed of them for the Association; but he also remarked that the goods on which the above loss was made cleared them completely out of bad stock. His remarks that they were in a far better position now than they were three years ago seems rather at variance with the words of the president, Mr. J. S. Hunter, in May, 1882, as then reported: "Mr. Hunter said he was glad to report the affairs of the Association in a prosperous condition." At the same meeting "a shareholder asked if it was true that so far the institution had not paid its expenses, and that there was a deficiency of over \$6,000. Mr. Nott, the manager, replied that it was true." (We quote from the reports printed at the time). In the directors' report, printed for 1883, it is stated that the profits after paying all expenses and charges, amount to over \$12,000; at the meeting held on the 14th inst., Mr. Nott said "the profits for the first year were \$10,000, for the second year \$12,000, and for the year under review a surplus. Surely it were but reasonable to ask, what disposal has been made of these profits?"

Notwithstanding the discouraging aspect of affairs as they appear to an outsider, the new manager and directors are still hopeful of being able to secure the \$22,000 necessary to put the concern fairly on its keel and launch it on a more prosperous career.

THE BANK STATEMENTS.

The usual comparative statements of the returns of the Chartered Banks will be found below. The circulation is about \$1,300,000 less than last month, while the aggregate liabilities are only about \$430,000 less. The deposits have increased. The available assets have decreased to about the same extent as the reduction of circulation. There is an increase in