
Act 34 Victoria, chap. 8., the Governor-in-Council had authority to advance the sum of \$250,000 to pay off claims on the estate of the Bank—the amount advanced to the 30th June last, was \$252,370.08. I recommend that an amending Act be introduced, authorizing a further advance of \$5,000, and as the Government is virtually now the only creditor (only \$464.25 being paid during the year to other creditors) I would suggest the desirability, during the recess, of closing up the affairs of the institution.

I have mentioned my regret at not being enabled to close up the Province Accounts; however, with the assistance of the Officers of the Department, I have examined into and closed many of the Miscellaneous and Banking Accounts on the liability side of the balance sheet; this has led to a slight rectification of the general liability statement. I regret that in the Note Circulation Account, and in the Receiver-General's account with the Bank of Montreal, discrepancies which arose prior to the amalgamation of the Finance and Receiver-General's Departments have been discovered which require adjustment.

I have now to draw attention to the transactions of the Department during the past year. I find that, in the first place, the amount credited to premium for the difference between the par of exchange and the amount paid for the £2,205,000 purchased for remittances to England, amounted to \$90,537.51, which represents an average purchase during the year at the rate of about $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This has been arrived at by purchasing sixty days' exchange in advance of payments by tender from some sixteen Banks, and has, to a great extent, proved satisfactory. The profit on the silver coined for the Dominion during the past year has been \$97,854.34, and in the copper \$12,467.62, both of which amounts have been credited to Casual Revenue.

In conclusion, I have to state that, from the Officers of the Department, I have generally received steady and effective support in carrying on its affairs, and although the number has decreased by retirement, I am glad to be able to report that much has been done during the year in examining and verifying balances of open accounts in the Dominion Ledger.

The whole of which is respectfully submitted.

J. M. COURTNEY,

Deputy Minister of Finance.