

been done in other countries. The Chartered Bank obsession has become so firmly rooted here that it has now come to be regarded as the one and only way. It is the veriest truism of other lands that regular commercial banking and co-operative banking cover different fields; so that the two are complimentary, and mutually helpful.

The volume now before us is concerned, besides, with the practical management of these institutions. It contains much valuable information and many hints for those who may be engaged in the work of actual administration. Upon general and special grounds, we can recommend the book to anyone who is desirous of obtaining a brief historical sketch of a movement that is no doubt destined to become, sooner or later, world-wide.

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**Through the MacKenzie Basin.** By Charles Mair. (William Briggs, Toronto. \$2).

The author of this volume was secretary to the Commission of 1899, which was appointed to visit and confer with the Indians of the Peace River district with a view to obtaining from them a transfer to the Government of their territorial rights. The diary which Mr. Mair then kept has been worked up into this most interesting book.

To the scientifically inclined, the extensive notes upon the birds and mammals of Northern Canada, contributed by Mr. Roderick Macfarlane, for many years a chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, will prove most interesting. To Mr. Macfarlane this region was a stamping-ground for a lifetime, and he is well fitted both by training and experience to speak upon scientific subjects.

But the general reader, who aims to maintain at a respectable level his knowledge of our immense country, will regard this volume as an important contribution to the literature of

the subject. Besides describing very fully, of course, the manners, customs and characteristics of the aboriginal inhabitants,—a subject which is always most fascinating to the philosophic mind,—the book devotes special attention to the nature of the country, the productions best fitted to the soil, the probable mineral wealth, and the certain abundance of many varieties of fish. Of the presence of rich minerals in the Great Slave Lake district, there appears to be little room for doubt: a district which could easily be tapped by a branch railway from the western end of Chesterfield Inlet, to connect with the proposed Hudson's Bay Railway as trunk. The fitness of much of the country in the MacKenzie Basin for agriculture has long been suspected, and in many districts actually demonstrated. In fact, the now well-known climatic conditions of the region between the Rockies and Hudson's Bay justifies the most buoyant faith in the greatness of its future. Here we have presented the paradox of a climate increasing in geniality as one travels towards the Pole, so that Vermilion and Athabasca Landing possess climates less harsh than those of Northern Minnesota, Dakota, or Southern Manitoba.

The book is illustrated by a large number of excellent photographs.

#### JOINT LECTURE COURSE.

Last summer, a movement eminently useful and destined to have far-reaching consequences, was inaugurated by two prominent citizens of Ottawa, namely, Dr. Flint, the Clerk of the House of Commons, and Dr. J. F. White Principal of the Normal School. These gentlemen realizing the overlapping and the consequently diminished audiences resulting from a number of lecture courses under the auspices of several literary and scientific societies in a comparatively small city such as Ottawa—especially when,