

4. The bank might receive deposits, deal in bills of exchange, discount notes, buy gold and silver coin and bullion, etc., but might not engage in business other than banking.

5. It could not lend money directly upon real property. It could, however, take such property as additional security for loans already made. It was not permitted to lend money to a foreign country.

6. It could issue notes to circulate as money, but with no limit of amount other than the general limit for all obligations. The limitations at the present time are quite different.

7. The Government might require at any time, for the protection of the public, a statement under oath of the position of the bank.

8. Transfers of shares in the bank were not valid unless registered in the stock-book of the bank, and the bank had a prior lien on the stock for ordinary debts due by the holder.

The following regulations, on the other hand, are different in principle from the general Act now in force:

1. The total liabilities were not to exceed three times the capital stock actually paid in, and directors were personally liable if they permitted such excess. Any director might save himself from liability by publicly protesting within eight days after the transactions causing the excess took place.

2. The shareholders were exempt from any liability except that of payment for the stock for which they had subscribed, with a penalty of five per cent. for non-payment of instalments at maturity.

3. The voting power of shareholders was not, as now, in exact proportion to the shares held, but the number of votes diminished by a scale as the holdings increased; so that, while one share gave one vote, ten shares gave only five, and thirty shares only ten. No holding gave more than twenty votes.

The banks soon opened branches and agencies, and imperfect in detail as it was at this time, the present system of banking began its course. From the first the banks