

the extra loss, it would seem, must be attributed to constitutional effects.

The comments of this eminent actuary upon the foregoing are deserving of especial attention. Premising that the belief is general that the drinking of spirits short of intoxication is less injurious than the drinking of beer, he tells us that there is nothing in these results to the contrary. "It is the danger of falling into a habit of intoxication that makes spirit drinking the more formidable of the two; whilst undoubtedly the habit of drinking either beer, wine, or spirits beyond a certain medical limit, not well defined, because it cannot be the same for all constitutions, and usually exceeded by those who drink at all, tends in many cases towards disease." In concluding his remarks Mr. McClintock questions very seriously whether the physicians should not fix their limit of safety for any individual at a lower point for beer, measuring by alcoholic contents, than for spirits; "that is to say, whether there is not an injurious element in beer apart from the alcohol which it contains." It is properly observed that excessive death losses among those who take intoxicants are not always (necessarily) due to drink. The coincidence between excessive drinking and lowered vitality may be partly due to bad risks taking to drink as well as good risks becoming bad because of drink. "On the whole, however," and this is the root of the matter, "the teetotal habit, not only before but after middle age, must be counted as a favorable indication in judging of proposals for insurance from persons not known to be careful and moderate in the use of beverages." Which is another way of saying, that if you know that a man takes no intoxicating beverage, he is likely to prove a better assurance risk, other things being equal, than a man whom you know to be in the habit of drinking intoxicants, and as to whose moderation you have no means of information.

#### LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE.

Montreal newspapers of the 9th instant contain notice to depositors in La Banque du Peuple that a circular explaining the condition of the bank as at 30th September has been forwarded to them at the last address on the books of the bank. This circular was prepared by the directors and the advisory committee chosen by the shareholders and depositors. It states, as will be seen, that two-thirds of the bank's paid capital of \$1,200,000 is lost, but it urges depositors to leave their money in the bank for two years at 4 per cent., and holds out a hope that if this be done the bank may resume. It will be observed, too, that the committee recommends a change in the terms of the charter.

The circular is as follows:—

OFFICE OF LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE,  
Montreal, October 7th, 1895.

SIR,—The undersigned directors have decided to send the following circulars to all the depositors and to ask their co-operation in the endeavor to again open the bank for business.

The directors submit the following statement, which shows the condition of the bank on the 30th day of September last, a marked improvement since the last monthly statement.

Liabilities.	
Balance of circulation.....	\$145,325 00
Due Provincial Government .....	235,143 24
Due Dominion Government .....	12,596 40
Due to the public .....	4,345,432 54
Other liabilities.....	195,454 18
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	\$4,933,951 36
Assets.	
Cash on hand and due from bank, etc. ....	\$804,697 78
Debts due to the bank .....	5,152,863 03
Real estate, mortgages and other assets ....	639,787 50
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	\$6,597,348 31

From these figures the joint cashiers have found the capital intact to the extent of over \$400,000, which the directors hope will be considerably increased should the bank resume business.

The directors beg leave to add that they have been in communication with the committee appointed by the depositors and stockholders. This committee unanimously agree with the directors in saying

that there is but one way to save the bank from liquidation, and the depositors from large losses.

If the bank is obliged to go into liquidation, the court will be called upon to name official liquidators, who will take possession of all the assets of the bank, and in due course of law, realize upon the assets and divide them equally among the claimants, after deducting their own salaries, and the necessary legal expenses.

You are all aware that this is a long and expensive process, taking from five to ten years to complete it.

Supposing the average time of liquidation is five years, at four per cent., this represents a loss to each of you of 20 per cent. of your claim; then the directors think it possible that the lengthy liquidation proceedings will impair the assets and cause further loss.

On the other hand, if the plan adopted by the directors can be carried out, and the directors are of opinion that it can, with your assistance, then no loss will be incurred by you. It does not involve any diminution in your security, only a delay of payment and interest at four per cent. secured to you thereon.

The plan is as follows: The bank will issue deposit receipts for the amount due you, bearing interest at 4 per cent. per annum, payable at 6, 12, 18 and 24 months. These deposit receipts will be negotiable and have a market value at all times, thus affording those who are obliged to realize at once an opportunity of doing so at a fair market value.

An agreement is enclosed for you to sign and return to the bank. By so doing you will enable the bank to resume business and you will receive interest at 4 per cent. per annum.

[Signed] J. GRENIER, President.  
ALPHONSE LECLAIRE,  
CHARLES LACAILLE,  
GEO. S. BRUSH, V.P.,  
WILLIAM FRANCIS,  
ARTHUR PREVOST,  
T. PREFONTAINE.

The committee appointed by the depositors and shareholders of the bank have examined the statements submitted to them, and are unanimously of opinion that unless the bank can arrange with the depositors for sufficient delay to enable it to realize from its available assets, sufficient to meet its liabilities, the bank must necessarily go into forced liquidation, and this to the detriment of the depositors.

The committee have no hesitation in recommending to you the plan submitted by the Board of Directors in the foregoing pages, and are of opinion that in this way every depositor will receive the full amount of his claim.

This committee also recommend that a meeting of the shareholders be convened, and that it is recommended that the shareholders do apply to have its charter so changed as to come within the Dominion Banking Act.

Montreal, 7th October, 1895.

(Signed) F. E. GILMAN,  
ALF. A. THIBAUDEAU,  
JOHN CRAWFORD,  
J. O. DUPUIS,  
GEO. E. EADIE,  
L. L. RODIER.

#### LONDON AND CANADIAN LOAN AND AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED.

It is evident from the report of the company's transactions, that no great effort has been made by its management to effect loans during its last year. Scarcely a quarter of the business offered was accepted; probably it was thought advisable to await a more propitious time before making loans freely. While paying off \$607,000 of debentures and certificates in the twelve months under review, the company issued and renewed \$301,000 of debentures; it also issued \$402,000 of debenture stock, out of a total authorized of \$500,000. This debenture stock was floated in the old country at what is regarded as a satisfactory rate of interest, but from the amount which stands in revenue account at the debit of commission and agency charges for the year, we infer that it was not floated for nothing.

As a result of the labors of a committee appointed some months ago to revalue the company's securities, the board of directors has set aside, out of the reserve fund, the sum of \$200,000 to cover estimated probable shrinkage in value of assets. The remaining \$210,000 of the reserve fund, which is required by the company's charter to be put aside for meeting contingencies and equalizing dividends, is invested in sound municipal securities. The \$200,000 thus taken from reserve is deemed ample for its purpose; and if, as a result of the present year's good crops in Manitoba, farm lands in that province improve in value, a good share of this sum temporarily written off may not be required.