

## THE SHAREHOLDER.

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## THE AMERICAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of this important financial body will take place next week, and though the greater part of the business brought before it is of course confined to subjects of American interest exclusively yet there always still remains much to attract outside attention. Among the subjects for discussion not entirely of local moment are the following:—The present aspects of the silver question; the indications of the foreign demand for securities; the prospective crop exports and the international exchanges; the decline in the rate of interest; the less remunerative results of bank circulation; the later tendencies of usury legislation; the best means of obtaining sound bankruptcy legislation; the guarantees against defalcation and breach of trust; the proposed improvement in bills of lading; the lessons from the recent panic; and others. Several papers from English and other European bankers are promised, and the usual annual courtesy of a special invitation to the most prominent gentlemen connected with Canadian finances has once more been extended. Several of these are spoken of as likely to be in attendance next week, as we trust they will, though their acceptance of these letters of invitation too frequently goes unredeemed—a circumstance to be regretted from not a few points of view. It may be worthy of consideration whether the time has not come when some similar institution might be profitably established in Canada. We are quite disposed to think that such a society, well attended by the most representative men in the banking profession in the Dominion, would be calculated to effect much solid benefit by comparing notes and interchanging views on the financial position as they found it to exist at the time of assembling. The advantages would be increased by the preparation of an annual programme, such as is issued by the American Banking Association, bringing up for review and discussion the most important financial topics of the day, especially as affecting our Canadian interests.

AN interesting point has been decided by the New York Court of Appeals which held that sureties on the bond of a young man who was employed as a bookkeeper in a bank were not liable for embezzlements committed by him after he had been made receiving-teller.

## THE FEDERAL BANK

NOTHING bearing the weight of official authority respecting the condition of the Federal Bank has issued since our last with the exception of a letter from the General Manager to the representative of the institution at that very important branch the Agency at London, Ont. That communication is, however, so important and reassuring that we give it in full. It reads—"The run upon our deposits and circulation now being practically over, and having fortified ourselves with sufficient money for our needs, and having, after much careful and anxious investigation, satisfied myself that our depositors, note-holders, and other creditors are safe, and that beyond that we have capital sufficient to do a reasonable and careful business, I feel I can address you now freely and authorize you to speak with confidence to our friends. I hope, therefore, your deposits will remain with you substantially, and increase from time to time." Whether in consequence of the above, at all events simultaneously with its appearance, the price of Federal stock advanced largely both here and in Toronto. In the latter place, however, it experienced on Wednesday a sharp decline. It was understood locally that this arose from a conflict of opinion as to the extent to which the amount of capital should suffer reduction. On this subject, too, official information is wanted, but a Toronto paper, usually well informed on matters connected with the Federal Bank since the late complication came to a head, says:—"Mr. YARKER has never stated that Federal stock must be cut down to one million, all reports to the contrary notwithstanding. In fact he has not stated any figure, and it would seem very singular in face of the Bank's annual statement, if it were found necessary to cut so deep. Mr. YARKER will no doubt wish to be careful. At the same time he can be relied on to be just." It may be anticipated that this difference of views will not be slow in being arranged, and thus from present appearances the late appreciation in quotations is likely to be maintained.

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.—The London Times of the 23rd ult. states that on the preceding day a General Court of the above Company was held to consider a resolution authorising the Governor and Committee to accept a supplemental charter, in the form submitted to the General Court on the 1st ult., with such modifications as might be imposed by the Crown and sanctioned by the Governor and Committee. Sir JOHN ROSE presided and explained the changes sought in the original charter granted in 1670. After a few words of explanation by the Chairman the resolution submitted was agreed to without a single word of comment from the shareholders, and with a unanimous holding up of hands.

THE promoters of the Bank of Winnipeg expect to have it established in about three months.

## BANQUE VILLE MARIE.

THIS Bank, about which the public has heard so little since its 1878 "misfortunes," is again furnishing talk in financial circles in consequence of a great mass of legal proceedings it has just entered into. It appears that some years, before the trouble fell upon the Banque Ville Marie, and when from outward appearance its conditions was a prosperous one, a number of merchants from Three Rivers requested its Board of Directors here to establish a branch there. The then Directors stated, at least it is now so represented on behalf of the Bank Ville Marie, that they did not desire a branch there, but that if \$25,000 of the capital stock of the Bank were taken up by the Trifluvians a branch office would be opened. Arrangements were then made by which a syndicate of Three Rivers merchants were to subscribe for 25,000 shares of Hon. Senator TRUDEL's stock, on which only ten per cent. was paid, ten per cent. to be paid in cash and the balance by note, payable by instalments of ten per cent. per annum. The branch was duly established, the first payment made by the Three Rivers people, and notes given for the balance. The branch had but a short duration, however, as immediately after its embarrassments it was closed, and those who had given the notes for the balance of the stock heard nothing more of the matter until a few days ago, when the suits were served on them through Hon. Mr. TRUDEL, the solicitor of the Bank. Many of the defendants intend contesting the suits, alleging that inasmuch as the Bank failed to establish a branch permanently in Three Rivers, the consideration promised as value for the notes had never been received. Some of the defendants also take exception to what they consider the excessive rate of interest charged. The principal gainers in this fight will no doubt, as usual, be the lawyers—with, to tolerable certainty, a "well-posted" insider or so in addition. What an unqualified blessing our financial institutions have been to the long-robed gentry within the last few years!

THE collapse in England of the parcel-post system is indicated in some details elsewhere published. The account is self-evidently supplied from a not impartial source. It demonstrates, however, the wisdom of our own Post-Office Department in waiting to see how the new system worked, in practical operation, before introducing so radical an innovation into Canada.

APPLICATION has been made to the London Stock Exchange Committee to appoint a settling-day in, and to grant a quotation to, the scrip and fully-paid scrip and inscribed stock of the Dominion of Canada 3½ per cent. loan.

THE new Canadian Government 3½ per cent. scrip is now quoted at ½ @ ¾ premium in London.