

SUPPLEMENT

TO

The Economist.

REPORTS

OF

JOINT STOCK BANKS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM,

For the HALF-YEAR or for the YEAR ending June 30, 1864.

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CONTENTS.

|  |    |   |    |
|--|----|---|----|
| Adelphi Bank, Limited .....                        | 1  | Imperial Bank .....   | 11 |
| Alliance Bank, Limited .....                       | 1  | Land Mortgage Bank of India .....                               | 11 |
| Bank of Australasia .....                          | 2  | Liverpool Commercial Banking Company, Limited .....             | 12 |
| Bank of India .....                                | 2  | London Chartered Bank of Australia .....                        | 12 |
| Bank of British Columbia .....                     | 2  | London and County Banking Company .....                         | 12 |
| Bank of British North America .....                | 2  | London Joint Stock Bank .....                                   | 12 |
| Bank of Egypt .....                                | 3  | London, Birmingham, and South Staffordshire Bank, Limited ..... | 13 |
| Bank of England .....                              | 3  | London and Westminster Bank .....                               | 13 |
| Bank of Ireland .....                              | 5  | Manchester and County Bank, Limited .....                       | 14 |
| Bank of London .....                               | 5  | Mercantile and Exchange Bank, Limited .....                     | 14 |
| Bank of New South Wales .....                      | 5  | Metropolitan and Provincial Bank, Limited .....                 | 15 |
| Bank of New Zealand .....                          | 5  | Midland Banking Company, Limited .....                          | 15 |
| Bank of Queensland, Limited .....                  | 6  | National Bank of Liverpool, Limited .....                       | 16 |
| Bank of Victoria .....                             | 6  | Northern Banking Company .....                                  | 16 |
| Bank of Wales, Limited .....                       | 6  | North and South Wales Bank .....                                | 16 |
| Belgian Lines Company .....                        | 6  | Oriental Bank Corporation .....                                 | 17 |
| Bank of Whitehaven .....                           | 7  | Royal Bank of India .....                                       | 17 |
| Birmingham and Midland Bank .....                  | 7  | Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank .....                            | 17 |
| Birmingham Town and District Banking Company ..... | 7  | Southern Australian Banking Company .....                       | 18 |
| Bolton Banking Company .....                       | 7  | Stanford, Spalding, and Boston Banking Company .....            | 18 |
| Caledonian Banking Company .....                   | 7  | Ulster Banking Company .....                                    | 18 |
| Carlisle City and District Bank .....              | 7  | Union Bank of Australia .....                                   | 18 |
| City Bank, London .....                            | 8  | Union Bank of Ireland .....                                     | 19 |
| City (Sydney) Bank .....                           | 8  | Union Bank of London .....                                      | 19 |
| Commercial Bank, Limited .....                     | 8  | Union Bank of Manchester, Limited .....                         | 19 |
| Commercial Banking Company of Sydney .....         | 9  | Whitehaven Joint Stock Banking Company .....                    | 20 |
| Consolidated Bank .....                            | 9  | Yorkshire Banking Company .....                                 | 20 |
| Continental Bank Corporation, Limited .....        | 9  |   |    |
| Cyprus Bank .....                                  | 9  |   |    |
| Chartered Bank .....                               | 10 |   |    |
| Bank Leaden Bank, Limited .....                    | 10 |   |    |
| Glasgow and South Western Banking Company .....    | 10 |   |    |
| Glasgow and Yorkshire Banking Company .....        | 10 |   |    |

ALLIANCE BANK, LIMITED.

At a general meeting of the shareholders, held at the London Tavern, on Friday, July 22, 1864, the following report was presented:—

In presenting to the shareholders the fourth half-yearly report of the business of the bank, the directors have the pleasure to state that the net profits for the half-year ending the 30th ult. amount to 62,397/ 2s 5d, which, with 6,933/ 12s 4d available from the previous half-year, makes a net balance of 69,330/ 14s 9d, being upwards of 22 per cent. on the capital—for the time it has been paid up—after defraying current expenses, and making ample provision for all bad and doubtful debts. This balance the directors propose to appropriate as follows:—31,250/ in payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital of the company in the proportion in which it has been called up, viz.:—25s per share on the 20,000 original shares; 12s 6d per share on the 10,000 new shares; 1,500/ in reduction of preliminary expenses and building account; 30,000/ to reserve fund, thereby raising that fund to 84,000/; 6,580/ 14s 9d to profit and loss account of the current half-year. The accompanying balance sheet and profit and loss account, as compared with those of December last, exhibit satisfactory evidence of the progress of the bank, and the directors feel that they may justly congratulate the shareholders on the results of little more than two years' working. Looking at the rapid increase of the business of the bank, and having due regard to the requirements of the branch successfully established in Manchester, the directors have resolved to recommend the immediate increase of the capital of the company to four millions, by the issue of 10,000 additional shares in the manner set forth in their circular addressed to the shareholders of the 16th inst.

|  |       |           |    |   |
|--|-------|-----------|----|---|
| DR. BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.   |       | £         | s  | d |
| Capital paid up .....  |       | 692,725   | 0  | 0 |
| Amount due to customers on current, deposit, and other accounts, circular notes, letters of credit, &c. .... |       | 6,065,889 | 15 | 3 |
| Reserve fund .....   |       | 54,000    | 0  | 0 |
| Profit and loss, balance Dec. 31, 1863 .....   |       | 20,778    | 19 | 6 |
| Less directors' remuneration for six months, ending Dec. 31, 1863 .....                                      | 2,000 | 0         | 0  | 0 |
|  |       | £6,933    | 12 | 4 |
| Net profit for half-year ending June 30, 1864 .....  |       | 62,397    | 2  | 5 |
|  |       | 69,330    | 4  | 9 |

|   |  |           |    |    |
|---|--|-----------|----|----|
| CR.   |  | £         | s  | d  |
| Cash in hand, at Bank of England, and at call .....   |  | 555,232   | 9  | 11 |
| Investment in consols .....   |  | 54,489    | 10 | 0  |
| Bills discounted, loans to customers, &c. ....  |  | 6,238,778 | 0  | 11 |
| Buildings, furniture, bank fittings, &c., in London, Southwark, Liverpool, Manchester, and Birkenhead ..... |  | 44,564    | 4  | 0  |
| Preliminary expenses .....  |  | 3,660     | 4  | 8  |
|   |  | 6,902,724 | 9  | 6  |

|   |         |         |    |         |
|---|---------|---------|----|---------|
| DR. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.  |         | £       | s  | d       |
| Current expenses, including salaries, stationery, provision for bad debts, &c. .... |         | 23,457  | 8  | 5       |
| Directors' remuneration for half-year ending June 30, 1864 .....                    |         | 2,000   | 0  | 0       |
| Interest on current and deposit accounts .....                                      |         | 47,837  | 5  | 3       |
| Rebate on bills discounted not yet due .....  |         | 20,778  | 19 | 6       |
| Dividend account for payment of dividend of 10 per share on 20,000 shares .....     | £25,000 | 0       | 0  | 0       |
| Ditto for payment of dividend of 12s 6d per share on 10,000 shares .....            | 6,250   | 0       | 0  | 0       |
| Amount carried to reserve fund .....  | 30,000  | 0       | 0  | 0       |
| Amount written off preliminary expenses and building account .....                  | 1,500   | 0       | 0  | 0       |
| Balance carried to profit and loss new account .....                                | 6,580   | 14      | 9  | —69,330 |
|   |         | 163,404 | 7  | 11      |

|   |       |         |    |    |
|---|-------|---------|----|----|
| CR.   |       | £       | s  | d  |
| Gross profits for half-year ending June 30, 1864 .....                    |       | 156,470 | 15 | 7  |
| Balance, December 31, 1863 .....  |       | £28,933 | 12 | 4  |
| Less directors' remuneration for half-year ending December 31, 1863 ..... | 2,000 | 0       | 0  | 0  |
|   |       | 6,933   | 12 | 4  |
|   |       | 163,404 | 7  | 11 |

|                                   |  |        |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------|---|---|
| DR. RESERVE FUND.                 |  | £      | s | d |
| Balance carried down .....        |  | 84,000 | 0 | 0 |
| CR.                               |  | £      | s | d |
| Balance, December 31, 1863 .....  |  | 54,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Amount transferred as above ..... |  | 30,000 | 0 | 0 |
|                                   |  | 84,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Balance brought down .....        |  | 84,000 | 0 | 0 |

ADELPHI BANK, LIMITED.

Annexed is the report for the half-year ending June 30, 1864:—

The directors beg to present herewith the statement of accounts for the past half-year, which has been certified as correct by two members of the board. After payment of all general expenditure, and making an ample allowance for bad and doubtful debts, the net profits, including the balance of 550/ 19s 3d from the preceding half-year, amount to 4,914/ 1s 3d, which the directors have appropriated as follows, viz.:—2,443/ 15s 3d to pay a dividend for the half-year on the paid-up capital, at the rate of ten per cent. per annum; 1,931/ 8s 8d added to the reserve fund, which now amounts to 30,000/; and the balance of 539/ 17s 4d carried forward in favour of the current half-year.

The directors have the satisfaction of announcing that their expectations of an increased and improved class of business in the new premises have been fully realised. The offices in the Bank buildings have been let to such an extent as to produce a fair return on the entire outlay. An arrangement has been made with the City Bank of London to act as the London agents of the bank on terms which it expected will prove very beneficial.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS—December 31, 1863, to June 30, 1864.

|   |          |         |    |    |
|---|----------|---------|----|----|
| DR. LIABILITIES.  |          | £       | s  | d  |
| Subscribed capital .....  | £100,220 | 0       | 0  | 0  |
| Capital paid-up .....   |          | 55,292  | 0  | 0  |
| Amount due by bank on current and other accounts .....  |          | 177,415 | 17 | 3  |
| Reserve fund per last report .....  | £28,000  | 0       | 0  | 0  |
| Collected this half-year on account of debts previously declared bad .....  | 68       | 11      | 4  |    |
| Amount added this half-year .....   | 1,931    | 8       | 8  |    |
|   |          | 30,000  | 0  | 0  |
| Amount of dividend now due, and dividends unpaid .....  |          | 2,443   | 15 | 3  |
| Balance of profit carried forward to next half-year .....   |          | 539     | 17 | 4  |
|   |          | 265,705 | 7  | 8  |
| CR. ASSETS.   |          | £       | s  | d  |
| Bills discounted, promissory notes, &c. ....  |          | 236,216 | 18 | 6  |
| Bank premises, &c., &c. ....  |          | 22,569  | 18 | 0  |
| Cash on hand and at call .....  |          | 16,918  | 11 | 2  |
|   |          | 265,705 | 7  | 8  |
| DR. PROFIT AND LOSS.  |          | £       | s  | d  |
| General expenses, including salaries, stationery, directors' remuneration, law expenses, income tax, allowance for bad and doubtful debts, &c. .... |          | 3,756   | 4  | 10 |
| Interest on deposits, &c. ....  |          | 3,437   | 2  | 2  |
| Dividend now due .....  |          | 2,443   | 15 | 3  |
| Amount added to reserve fund .....  |          | 1,931   | 8  | 8  |
| Balance carried forward to next half-year .....   |          | 539     | 17 | 4  |
|   |          | 12,107  | 8  | 3  |
| CR. PROFIT.   |          | £       | s  | d  |
|   |          | 12,107  | 8  | 3  |

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## BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

The half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held on Aug. 22, at the Bank buildings, Threadneedle street, Mr White in the chair. Mr Milliken, the secretary, having read the notice calling the meeting, the following report was read and unanimously adopted:—

The directors stated that the progress of the bank during the half-year to April 11 has been steady and satisfactory. Favourable accounts had been received from the three branches recently opened in New Zealand. The war in the Northern island rendered circumspection necessary at Auckland, but at this branch, as well as at Dunedin and Christchurch, the bank was gradually acquiring a connection, and the directors believed that the basis was being laid of a remunerative business. The only new feature to which the directors had to call the attention of the proprietors was the determination they had come to of receiving deposits in London at interest for fixed periods, as announced by their circular letter of June 29. This measure has been adopted after mature consideration, the object being to employ the money so raised in the general operations of the bank in the Australian colonies, and the directors confidently expected that it would become a useful auxiliary to the business. The fourth and last instalment of 10*l* per share on the new stock would be payable on the 1st November next. This would complete the paid-up capital of the bank to 1,200,000*l*, the amount limited by the charter, and the directors remind the proprietors that this accession of 300,000*l* to the capital had been effected on very advantageous terms to the holders of old shares, the new shares having been distributed at par. In conclusion, the directors announced their intention of declaring the same dividend and bonus on the old shares as at April last, being together 2*l* 12*s* per share, or at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, payable on the 11th October next, free of income tax. The first instalment of 10*l* paid on the new shares, amounting to 75,000*l*, would then also participate at the same rate, namely 14*s* per share.

## BANK OF BOLTON.

The annual general meeting of this company was held at the bank on Friday, August 26. The chairman of the directors, Peter Martin, Esq., J.P., presided. The report gave a very favourable account of the operations of the bank for the previous year. The usual dividend of 10 per cent., without deduction for income tax, was declared, and a bonus of 1*l* per share added to the paid-up capital, making each share 12*l* paid up; the result to the shareholders for the year being nearly 20 per cent. It was also agreed to establish a branch bank forthwith at Farzworth, a populous and prosperous locality within about three miles of Bolton, and where there has not yet been any bank established. Thanks were unanimously voted to the chairman and directors, and also to Mr Ferguson, the manager, and other officers of the company, for their efficient and successful services during the past year. A very warm and cordial vote of thanks was also given to the late venerable chairman, William Cannon, Esq., who retired from office at last Christmas. The paid-up capital of this company now stands at 120,000*l*, and the guarantee fund at over 37,000*l*.

## BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

At the general meeting held at the London Tavern, on 26th September, 1864, the following report was presented:—

By the annexed statement of accounts, which the directors have much pleasure in submitting to the shareholders, it will be seen, that after paying current expenses, the amount of undivided profit at the conclusion of the half-year ending June 30 last was 11,105*l* 16*s* 6*d*. Out of this sum the directors propose to appropriate 5,000*l* to paying a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, free of income tax; to add 4,000*l* to the reserve fund, which is thereby increased to 6,000*l*; and to carry forward 2,105*l* 16*s* 6*d* to the current half-year. The directors are happy to inform the proprietors that the supplemental charter, which they have obtained, authorises them to establish branches at other places in the West of North America, besides British Columbia and Vancouver Island; and to defer calling up the remainder of the capital (which otherwise by the terms of the original charter must have been paid-up this month) until such time as they think it desirable to do so.

## LIABILITIES AND ASSETS—June 30, 1864.

| LIABILITIES.  |  | £       | s  | d  |
|---|--|---------|----|----|
| Capital paid up .....   |  | 125,000 | 0  | 0  |
| Reserve fund .....  |  | 2,000   | 0  | 0  |
| Deposits, notes in circulation, bills payable and other liabilities .....   |  | 115,771 | 3  | 4  |
| Balance of profit and loss on June 30, 1864.....  |  | 11,105  | 16 | 6  |
|   |  | 253,876 | 19 | 10 |
| ASSETS.   |  | £       | s  | d  |
| Specie and bullion in hand, and cash at bankers.....  |  | 57,549  | 5  | 6  |
| Bank premises, furniture, and other property .....  |  | 4,889   | 14 | 11 |
| Bills discounted, bills receivable, Government and other securities .....   |  | 191,837 | 19 | 5  |
|   |  | 253,876 | 19 | 10 |
| PROFIT AND LOSS—June 30, 1864.  |  | £       | s  | d  |
| Dividend paid April 30, 1864 .....  |  | 3,125   | 0  | 0  |
| Balance of preliminary expenses paid off .....  |  | 2,156   | 19 | 2  |
| Amount carried to reserve fund.....   |  | 2,000   | 0  | 0  |
| Charges to June 30, 1864, including rent, taxes, salaries, directors' fees, and all other expenses at head office and branches..... |  | 5,186   | 8  | 10 |
| Balance of profit June 30, 1864.....  |  | 11,105  | 16 | 6  |
|   |  | 23,874  | 4  | 6  |

|  |   |        |    |   |
|--|---|--------|----|---|
| Balance of profit and loss brought forward December 31, 1864 .....   | £ | 9,179  | 14 | 6 |
| Profit for six months ending June 30, 1864, after deducting rebate of interest on bills not due .....                        |   | 14,394 | 10 | 2 |
|  |   | 23,574 | 4  | 6 |
| Proposed appropriation, viz. :—  |   |        |    |   |
| Dividend for the six months ending June 30, 1864, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum (to be paid free of income tax) ..... |   | 5,000  | 0  | 0 |
| Amount to be applied in augmentation of reserve fund .....   |   | 4,000  | 0  | 0 |
| Amount to be carried forward .....   |   | 2,105  | 16 | 6 |
|  |   | 11,105 | 16 | 6 |
| By balance .....   |   | 11,105 | 16 | 6 |

## BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

At the twenty-eighth yearly general meeting, held on Tuesday, June 7, 1864, the following report was read:—

Your directors have the pleasure to report that, during the past year, there has been a considerable improvement in the general trade of the North American provinces. The timber trade of Canada has been active and remunerative, the export of sawn lumber to the United States has greatly increased, and both at Quebec and St John, New Brunswick, a large quantity of shipping has been built, which it is believed will realise satisfactory prices. The crop of wheat in Canada last year was much below an average; but the yield of other grain was very abundant, and commanded high prices, owing to the great demand for the United States. At Victoria, Vancouver Island, the business of the bank continues to make satisfactory progress, which has induced your directors to extend their operations in that quarter. They have therefore decided on opening an agency at San Francisco in California, and officers are already appointed, who will proceed thither and commence business forthwith. It is confidently expected that besides the benefit which the Victoria branch will derive from increased facilities in transacting its San Francisco business, this agency will itself prove a new source of profit to the bank. Since the issue of their last report, your directors have had the advantage of an interview with their general manager. Some time having elapsed since they had communicated with him personally, it was thought desirable that he should visit London during the spring of this year; and they anticipate that great good will result both from the extensive and valuable information with which they have been furnished, and from the opportunity thus afforded to the directors of putting the general manager in full possession of their views in regard to the conduct of the business in the colonies. Your directors availed themselves of the general manager's presence in this country to go with him through the whole of the outstanding debts due to the bank; and he submitted to them a new and recent valuation of the properties by which they are secured. Your directors are sorry to report that this investigation has led them to the conclusion that the provision heretofore made to meet these old dependencies, will not suffice to cover the estimated loss on them at the present depressed value of the securities. The sum required to meet this estimate of increased loss is 10,000*l*; and considering that this additional provision is rendered necessary by a reduction in the value of properties held against the debts of former years,—being in no way connected with the business of the year 1863,—your directors have felt justified in transferring the required amount from the rest, or balance of undivided profit, instead of charging it to the current year. As regards 1863, your directors have made ample provision to meet all anticipated losses, and there remains (as will be seen from the annexed statement) a net profit for that year, after deducting charges and income tax, of 61,412*l* 14*s* 7*d*. Out of this amount, your directors have declared a half-yearly dividend, payable on and after the 5th July next, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income tax. The sum of 1,413*l* 14*s* 7*d* will then be left to be added to the rest, which, including that addition and after providing for the dividend paid in January last, and for the deduction of 10,000*l* above referred to, amounted on the 31st December, 1863, to 120,024*l* 2*s* 10*d*. After the thorough investigation of the bank's affairs which your directors have so recently completed, they are enabled to express a confident opinion, that the business is in a satisfactory condition, and that the future prospects of the bank are decidedly encouraging. The trade of Canada is recovering from the disorganisation and depression consequent upon the civil war in the United States, in addition to which your directors feel convinced, that on the Pacific coast an extensive field lies before them for the gradual cultivation of a safe and profitable business.

## BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1863.

| LIABILITIES.                                 |  | £         | s  | d  |
|--|--|-----------|----|----|
| Capital .....                                |  | 1,000,000 | 0  | 0  |
| Circulation .....                            |  | 247,292   | 14 | 10 |
| Deposits .....                               |  | 639,48    | 7  | 1  |
| Bills payable and other liabilities .....    |  | 496,598   | 9  | 8  |
| Reserve to meet bad and doubtful debts ..... |  | 64,130    | 18 | 10 |
| Reserve for Christmas dividend .....         |  | 30,000    | 0  | 0  |
| Undivided net profit .....                   |  | 120,024   | 2  | 10 |
|  |  | 2,597,594 | 13 | 10 |
| ASSETS.                                      |  | £         | s  | d  |
| Specie and cash at bankers .....             |  | 342,132   | 11 | 10 |
| Bills receivable and other securities .....  |  | 2,202,462 | 1  | 10 |
| Bank premises.....                           |  | 33,000    | 0  | 0  |
|  |  | 2,597,594 | 13 | 10 |

| PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, to December 31, 1863.   |         | £  | s  | d |
|--|---------|----|----|---|
| Dividends declared as follows—At Midsummer, 1863, payable July, 1863.....  | £30,000 |    |    |   |
| At Christmas, 1863, payable Jan., 1864.....  | 30,000  |    |    |   |
| Balance in hand, being undivided net profit to December 31, 1863...  | 60,000  | 0  | 0  |   |
|  | 120,024 | 2  | 10 |   |
|  | £       |    |    |   |
| Balance of undivided net profit to December 31, 1862 £128,610 s 3  |         |    |    |   |
| Less carried to "reserve to meet bad and doubtful debts," being additional provision on losses of previous years formerly under-estimated..... | 10,000  | 0  | 0  |   |
|  | 118,610 | 8  | 3  |   |
| Net profit for the year 1863, after deduction of all current charges and income tax, and providing for bad and doubtful debts.....             | 61,413  | 14 | 7  |   |
|  | 180,024 | 2  | 10 |   |

**BANK OF EGYPT.**

At an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders, held on July 29, 1864, the following report was presented:—

The directors of the Bank of Egypt have the pleasure to submit to the shareholders the annexed statement of accounts for the half-year which ended on June 30 last, by which it will be seen that the net profits, including a balance of 7,220/ 0s 2d brought forward from the previous half-year, amount to 18,772/ 12s 8d. This enables the directors to recommend a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum (12,500/), free of income tax, leaving 6,272/ 12s 8d to be carried forward to the next account.

**BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.**

| LIABILITIES.  |         | £  | s | d |
|---|---------|----|---|---|
| Capital paid up.....  | 250,000 | 0  | 0 |   |
| Reserve fund, with interest to date.....  | 13,124  | 0  | 0 |   |
| Bills payable.....  | 298,342 | 19 | 1 |   |
| Current and other accounts.....   | 186,581 | 12 | 0 |   |
| Profit and loss, balance as below, after payment of dividend.....   | 6,272   | 12 | 8 |   |
|   | 759,301 | 3  | 9 |   |
|   | £       |    |   |   |
| ASSETS.   |         | £  | s | d |
| Cash.....   | 104,660 | 5  | 3 |   |
| Bills receivable.....   | 272,352 | 3  | 7 |   |
| Government securities (Egyptian).....   | 146,834 | 8  | 5 |   |
| Other securities.....   | 236,454 | 6  | 6 |   |
|   | 759,301 | 3  | 9 |   |
|   | £       |    |   |   |
| DE. PROFIT AND LOSS—June 30, 1864   |         | £  | s | d |
| Dividend for the half-year, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable on the 5th August.....   | 12,500  | 0  | 0 |   |
| Balance carried to next account.....  | 6,272   | 12 | 8 |   |
|   | 18,772  | 12 | 8 |   |
|   | £       |    |   |   |
| CR.   |         | £  | s | d |
| Balance of undivided profits, December 31, 1863.....  | 7,220   | 0  | 2 |   |
| Net profits for the last six months, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, rebate of interest, current expenses in London and Egypt, and directors' remuneration..... | 11,552  | 12 | 6 |   |
|   | 18,772  | 12 | 8 |   |

**BANK OF ENGLAND.**

The quarterly general court of the proprietors of the Bank of England was held on the 22nd September, in the board room of the Bank, Threadneedle street, Kirckham D. Hodgson, Esq., M.P., the Governor of the Bank, presiding.

The Governor, after the minutes of the last meeting had been read, said that he had now to acquaint the court that this was their quarterly general court, appointed by the charter, and it was also their half-yearly court, appointed by the 12th bye-law for making dividend. The net profits for the half-year ending the 31st August were 850,813/, making the amount of rest that day 3,859,957/, and after providing for dividend at the rate of 5/ 15s per cent. for the half-year, the rest would be 3,022,760/ 4s 5d. He therefore proposed that the half-yearly dividend on the profits be paid on the 10th October, at the rate of 5/ 15s per cent. for the half-year, without any deduction on account of income tax. That was the proposition he had to make to them.

Mr Gabriel rose to congratulate the governor and the proprietors on the improved dividend it was proposed to declare. It was desirable to know that it was increasing, but it was not yet what he should have expected. His view was, that the rest should be made more subservient to the purposes of their dividend. He had no idea that their dividend should go very much beyond 6 per cent. in each half year, but their rest should be made to supplement the working of the profits, so that in each half-year they should receive 6 per cent. dividend. The Bank of England was differently situated from all other banks. It had a position the most high and exalted. Its paid-up capital was so great that they might take all the other banks, with their paid-up capital and rest, and leave them far behind. Other banks must have a rest, because their capital was small; but the Bank of England was differently situated, and therefore, he thought keeping the rest at the inordinate amount of 3,000,000/ was unnecessary: and if in each half-year a portion of that was appropriated to the proprietors it would be a great advantage to them, without interfering with the solidity or high position which the Bank of England had and must, of course, sustain. The whole of the proprietary had the strongest confidence in the ability, responsibility, and integrity of the directory; and there was not one amongst them who was likely to suggest a measure who would not prefer to suggest it to them, feeling that if the measure were entertained it would be ably dealt with by the governor and his co-directors. But there were times when even a board of directors would like suggestions from the proprietary, and would be heartily inclined to act on such suggestions. He

therefore said, as a humble individual, that the dividend should be maintained at something like six per cent., and if the average profit did not reach that amount the reserve fund should be treasured upon to give the proprietors 6 per cent., without interfering with the advantageous position of the Bank.

Mr Laurence Levi thought, in the position which he held, not alone as a proprietor himself, but as a trustee to a very considerable amount, he should be very sorry to see anything like the proposition which the last speaker had brought forward carried into effect; and for this reason. Whilst he cordially agreed with the hon. proprietor in all the praise he had bestowed on the management of the Bank, he thought that all the lessons of prudence would be set at naught if they were to commence to carry out a system so fraught with danger. For, if he understood the hon. proprietor rightly, they would have to eat up their rest—that was to say, although their profits did not allow them to pay 6 per cent., 6 per cent. should be paid and continued hereafter, notwithstanding that the actual profits were much less. Now, they should not lose sight of the fact that the rest formed a part of the working capital of the bank, and working with that, if they were to take away the rest, they would be diminishing their dividends hereafter. He would, however, suggest to the consideration of the governor and directors of the Bank of England the propriety of their not, in future, locking themselves up with any securities having a number of years to run; because there could be no doubt, in the altered and probable state of the future money market, any investment of that kind would be detrimental. But he did think on the system adopted long ago—namely, of rejecting six months' bills—they should alter their policy, and for this reason. There was no doubt when the resolution was arrived at it was a wise and prudent one, because they knew that in a period of six months the Bank of England might have possessed an amount of bills, with a long term of existence, that, if not unsafe, would be at least imprudent. Look at the altered position of things. Why, it must be patent to them all that the best bills were such as were drawn by the Indian banks on such banks as the London and Westminster Bank, the London Joint Stock Bank, &c. The securities there were undoubted, and he thought the time had now arrived when the directors should have the discretion of discounting those bills in common with others. For his own (Mr Levi's) part he would wish to leave that entirely under the control and direction of the directors; his object ever being, and ever should be, whilst they were represented as they were on the direction, to enlarge the control of the governor and directors. He regretted to be obliged to oppose the proposition which emanated from the last speaker, or that they should do that for a moment which would lessen the value of their property in that most valuable bank.

Mr James Higham said he wished to call the attention of the court to the excessively high rate of discount. It might be a debateable question whether the present state of things was of advantage to the bank or not, but it must be admitted to be a very serious thing indeed for the commercial community. He found, from looking over the returns, that during the past year they had had fourteen alterations in the rate of discount, sliding between 6 per cent. and 9 per cent. It seemed to him that was a matter of the most serious importance, and it should be taken into anxious consideration whether the bank charter of 1844 was adapted to the present state of things. It appeared to him that an Act passed in 1844 could not be so adapted, such had been the rapidly extending course of the commerce of the country—could not be adapted to the present state of things. At that period joint stock banks were in their infancy, and were considered by financiers to be a mere crude suggestion; they had no idea of their being developed in the extraordinary way they had been. Neither had Sir Robert Peel, nor those who acted with him, then any idea that the time would come when the Bank of England and this metropolis would become the money market for the whole world. He would, therefore, most respectfully suggest that he thought the time had arrived for the public to speak out on this question, and to say that the Act of 1844 was not adapted for the present state of things. No reason was given, when discount was raised to 9 per cent., why should they not have it at 10 or 12 per cent. The only reason given for the increase was that practically it would stop wild speculation. But practically it did not stop it: nor would it stop it whilst they had large capitalists and financial companies who were willing for a large premium to bring speculations into the market, and would continue to do so as long as they had a chance of getting large bonuses. The Act of 1844 broke down in 1847, and since that time when the pressure really came it had been found not to be adapted to the wants and necessities of commerce. Having dealt with that, he wanted to allude to another subject; but before doing that he had to anticipate an objection, that the proprietors had no business to deal with it. It appeared to him (Mr Higham) that this position was wrong, because if the directors of the Bank did an act by which the public out of doors might infer that the Bank of England was compromised, he submitted that was a fair question for the proprietors to consider. It would probably be imagined he was alluding to the loan of 2,000,000/ to the Spanish Government by two or three houses in

the City, and in each case the parties who were members of the firms were also directors of the Bank of England. They found it so stated in the public press, in the monetary articles of the *Times*, when the rate of discount was increased to 8 per cent., "That it was within the knowledge of certain directors that certain loans were being entered into with foreign governments, and they were to effect them, and it must be known that it has been done by directors of the Bank of England." He thought this was a fair question for consideration. It had been stated in the papers that such was the fact, and it must be a fair question for their consideration.

The Governor—I do not quite understand what is the question.

Mr Higham—I am coming to the question.

The Governor—I thought you had put the question, and I omitted to catch what it was.

Mr Higham continued—It was stated that in consequence of those three gentlemen being known to be connected as directors with the Bank of England, the Madrid loan was granted by the Bank of England. That would be ruinous; but it might be inferred that such was the case, and under the circumstances the question he would press was, whether it was a right thing in the interest of the state creditors of Spain that that loan should be continued. He was not asking the Governor to do anything more than give an assurance, if he could, that the question would be looked over and reconsidered. If it were known out of doors, the Bank of England would be compromised by lending money indirectly to a Government which none of the bourses of Europe would recognise, and he trusted that would be a sufficient excuse for having introduced the subject.

Mr Moxon asked if there was any intention on the part of the Bank of England to receive money on deposit, the same as the joint stock banks. It was a very large field of operation, and with their extended branches and ramifications, they would be able, with very great convenience to themselves, benefit to the proprietors, and also to the trade of the country, to receive money on the same principle of deposit as the joint stock banks. They would then be able to regulate the circulation with a great deal more care and judgment than when it was spread over ten or fifteen joint stock banks, which had only a small paid-up capital, and a very large fund at their discretion, as it were, entrusted to them for its management. If any great political crisis were to take place, which would shake the present system of the money market, the joint stock banks, having so small a basis to stand upon, would have very great difficulty in weathering the storm. That was the opinion of many persons out of doors; and he merely wished to know whether there was any intention to receive money on deposit, on the same principle, and with the same practice—perhaps a little more fruitful than the joint stock banks—because they would observe they only allowed 5 per cent. on deposits when the discount was 9 per cent. at the Bank of England, and formerly the joint stock banks made it a rule if the discount was 5 per cent. at the Bank of England to allow 4 per cent. on deposit. Therefore, they saw the Bank of England was allowing to pass from its hands a large amount of profit, which one would think the proprietors would be glad to see gathered into their coffers. He simply threw that out, and he hoped the Governor would be kind enough to give some answer, so that they might know a little of what was likely to take place.

The Governor—The first question was as to the amount which they considered it wise and expedient to keep as a rest. That amount was fixed by the proprietors several years ago as the rest which was proper for them to keep, having in view the great extent of their business. It was then fixed, and they had acted consistently upon it, and their dividends had been made with reference to the necessity and the obligation they conceived themselves to be under for keeping it at 3,000,000. No doubt the question of the rest rested entirely in the hands of the proprietors; but he thought the error all the hon. gentlemen committed in looking at the rest was to suppose that it was lying idle and useless, whilst, in reality, it was working to the last penny in making the dividend they were about to declare that day. If they were to attempt such a novel system in banking as had been suggested, to have a uniform dividend of 12 per cent., whatever the actual profits of the half-years might have been, then they might depend upon it they would have a very large draw to make every half-year, at least in ordinary times, on the rest, and if they did that the rest would be getting smaller, less able to earn a dividend; every withdrawal would be larger until the whole was appropriated. He put it to the meeting, would that be a desirable thing to do? The hon. proprietor had said their capital was large. No doubt it was; but, as he had stated before in that room, the very necessities, therefore, of their case involved the having of a very large rest indeed. He had stated that other banks were able to deal with their assets without reference to any one but their own proprietors; but the Bank of England had to deal with their capital, not only with reference to what their proprietors might think, but also with reference to what the whole nation might think. They were mighty bankers; sometimes the national deposits amounted to 7,000,000 in every quarter; and every man who paid a tax had a right to know that the money deposited in the Bank of England was safely guarded

and secured against any concurrence or contingency that might happen. That was the reason why the rest should be kept up and not interfered with. Another honourable proprietor had said that they rejected six months bills: he was quite willing to give an explanation on that point. The Bank of England did not like to place its deposits at a fixed rate for so long a period; but it was practically open for the reception of all first-class bills by the system of advances, and when they came within a discountable time they were then discounted at the rate of the day. That gave them many advantages, and the system had been found to work well. Another honourable proprietor had alluded to the excessive rate of discounts, and had called upon him (the Governor) for an opinion on the Act of 1844. He should be very glad, in another place, to discuss the subject and give his opinion on it, but he could not say that the rate of discount charged could be called excessive. It was charged for one purpose only, the purpose of keeping their reserve fund at a proper and safe limit, and it had done that, and only done that. He thought, therefore, the rate of discount was not to be called excessive. This was not the place to go into a discussion of the Act of 1854. He had a strong opinion in favour of that bill; but he was not prepared then to enter into the question. The rate of discount had no reference to it, and they dealt with it without any object or intention of putting a stop to speculation. The public had to consider that question; they had to consider whether speculation was excessive or not. They must deal with that. Their business was to mind the business of the Bank of England, and to keep their reserve in such a state that they thought the Bank was safe, and leave the rest of the world to take their own course; and the best course they could take would be to act with an enlightened view to their own interests. As to the loan to the Spanish Government, the Bank of England had nothing to do with it; but, at the same time, the Bank had never taken upon itself to impose any conditions or regulations as to the freedom with which the members of its direction were to manage their own business. The question as to whether they should receive deposits on the same principle as the joint stock banks was a very large one, and had attracted the attention of the Bank of England in common with every banker who looked about him and saw the changes that were taking place. He might say that at the present moment, however, the Bank of England had no intention to give interest on deposits. There were many difficulties in the way, but unless at least every bank in London had adopted it they were not prepared to do so. When proprietors talked of competition with other bankers, it should be recollected that they were in an entirely different position, because those bankers they were called upon to enter into competition with were very good customers, and therefore they felt they were bound to them to do what any one banking establishment was bound to do to a neighbour in the next street.

The statement of profits and the declaration of dividend was then unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman then intimated that as the present dividend was larger than the last one, it was necessary there should be ballot, to be held on Tuesday, September 27, at four o'clock, to confirm it.

Mr Laurence Levi said every proprietor must feel deeply indebted to the Governor for the very lucid and eloquent manner in which every question had been taken up and answered by him. But he thought he had unintentionally omitted a fact in reference to six months bills. He believed any one coming to the Bank of England to borrow money on a six months bill would be charged 1 per cent. above the minimum rate. But that was the very point which, in his humble opinion, might be the means of keeping good and safe business from this great institution, especially in times like the present, because he was sure all connected with mercantile securities must know at that moment a six months bill accepted by the London Joint Stock Bank or the London and Westminster, and several other equally important banks, could be negotiated in the market at  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. below the bank rate—at a rate that all commercial men must feel to be safe. The safest course, therefore, would be to take such bills as would be consistent with their means. He believed he was right—they charged 1 per cent. above the minimum rate?

The Governor—Not as a rule.

Mr Levi said, that being so, they must all consider the present prices above the average value, and he took it bankers and capitalists would be glad to have this interest.

The Governor—The Bank of England had no absolute rule of the kind; but the Bank of England acted in accordance with its convenience and the number of applications made. If the Bank of England wanted long bills they would take them in a moment; but it did not want them, although it was anxious to accommodate its customers. They used to come to them and, like every intelligent banker, they said they did not want to turn custom away, but they did not want long bills; but they said they would charge a little more for them. He thought, therefore, speaking as a banker, the proprietors would agree with him that this might have had something to do with the rate of dividend which he had the honour to propose to them that day.

Mr Higham explained. He did not mean excessive, but a very high rate of discount.

On the motion of Mr Alderman Salomons, M.P., thanks were unanimously voted to the governor and directors.

The Governor, in acknowledging the compliment, said the times had been troublous: he did not attempt to deny that they were troublous and would be troublous, but he saw nothing whatever to warrant the feeling of alarm which some people felt as to the future. If the Bank of England continued its course keeping its reserve at a safe and proper point they could have nothing either in the shape of a panic or alarm. A state of things existed which tended to make people imagine there were insurmountable difficulties before them. He believed they would have difficulties, but they were difficulties that could be overcome by the exercise of firmness and discretion on the part of the banking community generally, and by the exercise of a firm and intelligent appreciation of what was being done out of doors. If the whole banking body generally—he did not speak of this house or that—if, as a whole, the whole banking body would act as, with a few exceptions, they had acted up to the present time, they would go through the difficulties which were before them as easily as they had gone through those which they had just passed. He would have great pleasure in meeting them in April with as good an account, or nearly as good an account, as he had shown them that day, and he had also come to the conviction that the predictions he had ventured to make would be fulfilled.

The business then concluded, after a discussion which was stated to be unprecedented for length, and the variety of topics touched upon, in the modern history of the Bank of England.

**BANK OF IRELAND.**

Paid-up capital, 3,000,000*l*, Irish currency, of which 2,600,000*l* is lent to Government: reserve fund, 1,062,400*l*; dividend for year ended June 24, 1864, 10 per cent.

**BANK OF LONDON.**

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in this bank was held on July 20, at the London Tavern; Sir J. V. Shelley, Bart., M.P., in the chair. Mr Allen, the secretary, read the following report, which was unanimously agreed to:—

By the annexed statement of accounts which the directors have the gratification of submitting, it will be seen that the balance of profit at the conclusion of the past half-year amounts to 87,575*l* 0*s* 4*d*. After deducting from this sum the current expenses, rebate of interest on bills discounted, not as yet due, and an ample provision for all bad or doubtful debts, there remains for appropriation the sum of 59,321*l* 6*s* 3*d*. The directors declare a dividend at the usual rate of 10 per cent, per annum, and a bonus of 2*l* 10*s* per share, amounting together to 20 per cent. per annum, both free of income tax, and they transfer to the credit of the reserve fund the sum of 18,000*l*, thereby increasing that fund to 130,000*l*. The balance, viz., 11,321*l* 6*s* 3*d*, is carried to profit and loss account of the current half-year. The allotment of new shares, the issue of which was authorised by the shareholders at the special general meeting of the 9th and 24th of May last, has been fully taken up, and 39,000*l* has been received by the bank on account of the first instalment. In recognition of the valuable services rendered to the bank by the manager, Mr Marshall, and the sub-manager, Mr Allen, the directors have presented the sum of 1,500*l* to Mr Marshall, and 1,000*l* to Mr Allen, both amounts having been paid out of the profits of the past half-year.

| DR. LIABILITIES and ASSETS—June 30, 1864.   |           | £  | s | d |
|---|-----------|----|---|---|
| Capital paid up   | 300,000   | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| Amount received on account of new shares  | 39,000    | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| Reserve fund  | 112,000   | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| Amount due by the bank on current, deposit, and other accounts  | 4,890,289 | 11 | 8 |   |
| Profit and loss account after payment of 44,010 <i>l</i> 5 <i>s</i> 4 <i>d</i> to customers for interest on their balances  | 87,575    | 0  | 4 |   |
|   | 5,428,855 | 12 | 0 |   |
| CR.   |           | £  | s | d |
| Investments, viz.:—In Government securities, India bonds, &c.   | 227,822   | 11 | 2 |   |
| Ditto in freehold premises in Threadneedle street, let at a rental yielding 4½ per cent. 40,000 <i>l</i> ; freehold premises in the occupation of the bank, 35,000 <i>l</i> | 75,000    | 0  | 0 |   |
| Bills discounted, loans, &c.  | 4,374,796 | 16 | 0 |   |
| Cash in hand, and at call   | 730,821   | 16 | 1 |   |
| Lease and buildings at Charing cross branch, furniture, &c.   | 414       | 8  | 9 |   |
|   | 5,428,855 | 12 | 0 |   |

**PROFIT and LOSS ACCOUNT for the Half-Year ending June 30, 1864.**

| DR.  |        | £  | s  | d |
|--|--------|----|----|---|
| Half a year's current expenses at head office and Charing cross branch, bad and doubtful debts, directors' remuneration, &c.                               | 16,590 | 11 | 3  |   |
| Rebates of interest on bills discounted not yet due, carried to profit and loss new account  | 11,463 | 2  | 10 |   |
| Charing cross branch lease account   | 200    | 0  | 0  |   |
| Dividend for the half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum   | 15,000 | 0  | 0  |   |
| Bonus at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, or 2 <i>l</i> 10 <i>s</i> per share   | 15,000 | 0  | 0  |   |
| Half-year's interest on the reserve fund at 4 per cent. per annum, 2,240 <i>l</i> ; amount now added thereto, 16,760 <i>l</i>                              | 18,000 | 0  | 0  |   |
| Balance carried to profit and loss new account   | 11,321 | 6  | 3  |   |
|  | 87,575 | 0  | 4  |   |
| CR.  |        | £  | s  | d |
| Balance of profit brought from last half-year, 1,030 <i>l</i> 7 <i>s</i> 6 <i>d</i> ; ditto for current half-year, 86,544 <i>l</i> 12 <i>s</i> 10 <i>d</i> | 87,575 | 0  | 4  |   |
|  | 87,575 | 0  | 4  |   |

| DR. RESERVE FUND ACCOUNT.  |         | £ | s | d |
|----------------------------|---------|---|---|---|
| Balance                    | 130,000 | 0 | 0 |   |
| Cr.                        |         |   |   |   |
| Amount from last half-year | 112,000 | 0 | 0 |   |
| Additions brought down     | 18,000  | 0 | 0 |   |
|                            | 130,000 | 0 | 0 |   |

**BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.**

At the half-yearly general meeting, held on Wednesday, April 27, 1864, the annexed report was adopted:—

The directors have the pleasure to present to the proprietors a statement of the bank's position for the half-year ended on the 31st March. The net profit for that period, after deducting rebate on current bills, interest on deposits, providing for bad and doubtful debts, and reducing valuation of bank premises and office furniture, amounts to 71,784*l* 10*s* 8*d*; to which is to be added:—recoveries from debts previously written off as bad or doubtful, 2,310*l* 7*s* 9*d*; undivided balance from last half-year, 4,801*l* 17*s* 3*d*—giving for distribution, 78,896*l* 15*s* 8*d*. Which the directors appropriate as follows:—to payment of dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, 56,250*l*; to bonus of 2½ per cent. on capital—750,000*l*, 18,750*l*; balance carried to profit and loss new account, 3,896*l* 15*s* 8*d*. The resolutions passed at the special general meeting of the proprietors held on the 16th March, for increasing the capital to 1,000,000*l* sterling, provide that not less than one-third of the new shares allotted to each proprietor shall be payable on to-morrow the 28th instant. The directors invite the attention of the meeting to this provision, as all shares so payable and not taken up on that day will, in pursuance of the resolutions, be forfeited. It has been represented to the directors that it would be a hardship to enforce this forfeiture in respect to shares allotted to absent proprietors not duly represented in the colony; the directors therefore recommend that power be given to them to extend the time of payment, as regards these absentees, where the circumstances of the case seem to demand it, to the 27th October next subject to forfeiture if not then taken up. To facilitate the disposal of the shares payable in October and April next, certificates having this effect will be issued to such proprietors as may desire them. The gold agencies at Forbes and Burrangong in this colony, and at Pleasant Creek, in Victoria, having ceased to be profitable, are now in course of withdrawal.

**AGGREGATE BALANCE SHEET—March 31, 1864 (including the London Branch to 31st December, 1863, and New Zealand Branches to 7th March, 1864).**

| DR.   |           | £  | s | d |
|---|-----------|----|---|---|
| Bank Stock  | 750,000   | 0  | 0 |   |
| Reserve fund  | 250,000   | 0  | 0 |   |
| Notes in circulation  | 663,743   | 0  | 0 |   |
| Bills payable   | 1,753,778 | 7  | 7 |   |
| Deposits and other liabilities                                      | 3,614,929 | 15 | 6 |   |
| Profit and loss   | 102,244   | 16 | 8 |   |
|   | 7,141,695 | 19 | 9 |   |
| CR.   |           | £  | s | d |
| Gold and cash balances  | 807,016   | 4  | 7 |   |
| Bullion in hand, and in transit to London 31st March, 1864          | 808,197   | 13 | 8 |   |
| Government securities   | 164,613   | 7  | 9 |   |
| Notes of other banks  | 17,187    | 0  | 0 |   |
| Bank premises   | 100,921   | 4  | 6 |   |
| Bills receivable, bills discounted, and other debts due to the Bank | 5,242,673 | 18 | 9 |   |
| Insurance account   | 1,156     | 10 | 6 |   |
|   | 7,141,695 | 19 | 9 |   |

**DR. PROFIT AND LOSS—March 31st, 1864.**

| DR. PROFIT AND LOSS—March 31st, 1864.                               |         | £  | s | d |
|---|---------|----|---|---|
| Rebate (at current rates) on bills discounted, not due at this date | 30,348  | 1  | 0 |   |
| Dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum                      | 56,250  | 0  | 0 |   |
| Bonus of 2½ per cent. on paid-up capital, 4750,000                  | 18,750  | 0  | 0 |   |
| Balance carried to profit and loss "new account"                    | 3,896   | 15 | 8 |   |
|   | 102,244 | 16 | 8 |   |
| CR. Sept. 30, 1863.   |         | £  | s | d |
| Amount from last account  | 4,801   | 17 | 3 |   |
| March 31, 1864.   |         | £  | s | d |
| Recoveries from bad debts   | 2,310   | 7  | 9 |   |
| Balance of half-year's profits after writing off bad debts          | 102,132 | 11 | 8 |   |
|   | 102,244 | 16 | 8 |   |

**BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.**

At the general meeting of the proprietors, held at Auckland, on April 28, 1864, James Williamson, Esq., in the chair, the following report was read:—

The directors have again the pleasure to report, that after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, setting apart 2,058*l* 4*s* 3*d* towards reducing the cost of bank premises, and defraying the whole expenses of the establishment, the net profits of the bank for the half-year ending March 31, 1864, amount to 49,589*l* 19*s* 8*d*, to which is to be added the unappropriated balance from last half-year of 1,724*l* 0*s* 6*d*, making a total available for division of 51,314*l* 0*s* 2*d*. The directors recommend that the sum of 35,000*l* be added to the reserve fund, by which that fund will be increased to 95,000*l*; and that the sum of 14,054*l* 2*s* 3*d* be set apart as a dividend, at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, on the paid-up capital of the bank, leaving a balance of 2,259*l* 27*s* 11*d* to be carried to the credit of profit and loss new account for next half-year.

**BALANCE SHEET for the Half-Year ending March 31, 1864 (including the London office balances, December 31, 1863.)**

| DR.  |           | £  | s | d |
|--|-----------|----|---|---|
| Paid-up capital  | 313,542   | 0  | 0 |   |
| Notes in circulation                                     | 321,444   | 0  | 0 |   |
| Bills in circulation                                     | 236,764   | 15 | 6 |   |
| Deposits   | 1,176,450 | 18 | 8 |   |
| Reserve fund   | 170,819   | 2  | 2 |   |
| Balance of profit and loss account at September 30, 1863 | 60,000    | 0  | 0 |   |
|  | 1,724     | 0  | 6 |   |
| Net profit for half-year                                 | 49,589    | 19 | 8 |   |
|  | 2,330,634 | 16 | 8 |   |

| Cr.   | £                        | s  | d  |
|---|--------------------------|----|----|
| Coin and bullion                                  | 328,644                  | 9  | 5  |
| Bills receivable and all other advances           | 1,352,653                | 2  | 5  |
| Balances due by Colonial Governments              | 173,323                  | 5  | 6  |
| Balances due by other banks and branches          | 130,798                  | 7  | 6  |
| Notes of other banks                              | 2,260                    | 16 | 2  |
| Government securities                             | 300,000                  | 0  | 0  |
| Landed property                                   | 17,050                   | 7  | 10 |
| Bank premises, furniture, and stationery          | 26,994                   | 7  | 8  |
|   | 2,330,634                | 16 | 6  |
| Dr.   | PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT. |    |    |
| Increase of reserve fund                          | 35,000                   | 0  | 0  |
| Dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum    | 14,054                   | 2  | 3  |
| Amount carried to profit and loss new account     | 2,259                    | 17 | 11 |
|   | 51,314                   | 0  | 2  |
| Cr.   | £                        | s  | d  |
| Balance of profit at September 30, 1863           | 1,724                    | 0  | 6  |
| Net profit for half-year                          | 49,589                   | 19 | 8  |
|   | 51,314                   | 0  | 2  |
| Dr.   | RESERVE FUND.            |    |    |
| Balance   | 95,000                   | 0  | 0  |
|   | 60,000                   | 0  | 0  |
| Amount transferred from profits of past half-year | 35,000                   | 0  | 0  |
|   | 95,000                   | 0  | 0  |

## BANK OF QUEENSLAND, LIMITED.

At the first ordinary general meeting of the shareholders, held on April 19th, 1864, the subjoined report was adopted:—

In accordance with the articles of association, the directors now submit to the shareholders the audited accounts of the company to December 31, 1863. It will be observed that the net profit in London and Brisbane amounts to 4,358/19s 2d. Out of this sum the directors have applied 298/2s 11d in reduction of preliminary expenses, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and they recommend the payment of a dividend of 7s 6d per share, free of income tax, on the shares issued, which will absorb 3,123/7s 10d, leaving a balance of 937/8s 5d to be carried forward to profit and loss new account. In reporting the above result, the directors beg to remind the shareholders of the short period which has elapsed since the commencement of business in Queensland. Although the premises in Brisbane were opened early in the month of August last, the bank did not fully begin operations until 1st September, the date of the Colonial Act empowering the company to issue notes and conduct its business in a corporate capacity. Other branches are in course of being established, under favourable circumstances, in several of the principal towns in the colony. The directors congratulate the shareholders on the progress and prospects of the bank, which has been started in Queensland under very favourable auspices. The trade of the colony is rapidly extending; the population has largely increased; upwards of 20,000 immigrants have landed in the colony during the past year, and owing to the impetus thereby given to the various branches of trade, especially to pastoral pursuits, there exists considerable demand for banking facilities, which has enabled the bank safely and profitably to employ its funds. Three gold fields have been proclaimed in the colony, and by last mail a fourth is reported to have been discovered; these, if successful, together with the extensive public works shortly to be carried out by the Government, cannot fail to have a beneficial effect, greatly adding to the material wealth and prosperity of the colony.

## LIABILITIES AND ASSETS—December 31, 1863.

| Dr.  | LIABILITIES.   |    |    |
|--|--|----|----|
| Capital  | 119,445  | 0  | 0  |
| Circulation  | 3,394  | 0  | 0  |
| Deposits   | 21,116   | 19 | 4  |
| Bills payable and other liabilities  | 99,281   | 19 | 9  |
| Net profit to December 31, 1863  | 4,358  | 19 | 2  |
|  | 247,596  | 18 | 3  |
| Cr.  | ASSETS.  |    |    |
| Specie and cash at bankers   | 27,071   | 5  | 0  |
| Bills discounted, bills receivable, and other securities                                     | 212,672  | 9  | 5  |
| Preliminary expenses   | 5,962  | 19 | 11 |
| Bank premises, furniture, &c.  | 1,890  | 3  | 11 |
|  | 247,596  | 18 | 3  |
| Cr.  | PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—December 31, 1863.                                   |    |    |
| Current charges, including salaries, rent, taxes, stationery, &c., at head office and branch | 5,937  | 11 | 6  |
| Dividend of 7s 6d per share (free of income tax) on 8,093 shares                             | 3,034  | 17 | 6  |
| Income tax on dividend   | 88   | 10 | 4  |
| Amount written off preliminary expenses  | 298  | 2  | 11 |
| Balance carried to profit and loss new account   | 937  | 8  | 5  |
|  | 10,296   | 10 | 8  |
| Dr.  | Gross profit to December 31, 1863, after paying interest on deposit receipts |    |    |
|  | 10,296   | 10 | 8  |

## BANK OF VICTORIA.

The following is the twenty-third report of the directors of this bank presented to the proprietors at the half-yearly general meeting, held at the bank, in Collins street, Melbourne, on Aug. 2, 1864:—

The board of management have much pleasure in submitting the following statement of the business of the bank for the half-year ending June 30, 1864:—Balance of undivided profits, Dec. 31, 1863, 1,193/15s 6d; net profits for past half-year, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, 36,006/9s 6d; together, 37,200/5s. Which the directors propose to apportion as follows:—Dividend at 10 per cent., 25,000/; bank premises creditor account, 5,000/; leaving 7,200/5s, being balance of undivided profits carried forward. The directors have with much regret to

announce the resignation of their colleague, the Hon. Wm. Nicholson, M.L.A., in consequence of continued ill health. Mr Nicholson was one of the original promoters of the bank, and always took an active part in its advancement.

## AGGREGATE BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.

| Dr.   | AGGREGATE BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864. |    |    |
|---|--|----|----|
| Proprietors' capital  | 500,000                                | 0  | 0  |
| Notes in circulation  | 281,673                                | 0  | 0  |
| Bills in circulation  | 431,985                                | 19 | 7  |
| Deposits (including interest accrued)   | 1,559,992                              | 12 | 5  |
| Due to other banks  | 40,489                                 | 18 | 10 |
| Reserve fund  | 100,000                                | 0  | 0  |
| Profit and loss   | 37,200                                 | 5  | 0  |
|   | 2,971,311                              | 16 | 2  |
| Cr.   | AGGREGATE BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864. |    |    |
| Coin, bullion, and cash balances  | 752,076                                | 8  | 1  |
| Bull on in transit to London  | 142,537                                | 0  | 0  |
| Due from other banks  | 99,062                                 | 16 | 2  |
| Bills receivable and other advances   | 1,833,658                              | 6  | 7  |
| Policies of insurance   | 2,777                                  | 2  | 3  |
| Bank premises   | £153,700                               | 3  | 1  |
| Less written off  | 22,500                                 | 0  | 0  |
|   | 2,971,311                              | 16 | 2  |
| Dr.   | PROFIT AND LOSS.                       |    |    |
| Current expenses, head office and 17 branches, with 13 sub-branches   | 26,375                                 | 9  | 5  |
| Bank premises Cr. account   | 5,000                                  | 0  | 0  |
| Balance   | 32,200                                 | 5  | 0  |
|   | 63,575                                 | 14 | 5  |
| Cr.   | PROFIT AND LOSS.                       |    |    |
| Balance from December 31, 1863  | 1,173                                  | 15 | 6  |
| Gross profit for half-year (after deducting all interest paid or due to customers and providing for bad and doubtful debts) | 62,381                                 | 18 | 11 |
|   | 63,575                                 | 14 | 5  |
| Dr.   | PROFIT AND LOSS.                       |    |    |
| Dividend at 10 per cent.  | 25,000                                 | 0  | 0  |
| Balance carried forward to next half-year   | 7,200                                  | 5  | 0  |
|   | 32,200                                 | 5  | 0  |
| Cr.   | RESERVE FUND.                          |    |    |
| Balance   | 32,200                                 | 0  | 0  |
|   | 100,000                                | 0  | 0  |
| Balance from December 31, 1863  | 100,000                                | 0  | 0  |

## BANK OF WALES, LIMITED.

The following report was read at a meeting of proprietors, held Aug. 2, 1864, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate street:—

The directors have the pleasure of submitting the following report and balance sheet to the 30th of June last. In the report presented to the shareholders at the first meeting of the company, on Oct. 23 last, it was stated to be found very inconvenient to make up accounts at other periods than to the end of June and December. The directors therefore resolved to hold this meeting, so quickly after the last, to obviate any inconvenience in future. The annexed balance sheet shows that the gross profit for the three months, including 1,113/7s 3d brought forward from the last account, amounts to 4,937/18s 2d, and that after deducting salaries, rent, and current expenses, there remains a balance of 2,287/19s. The directors recommend that out of this last mentioned sum 1,584/2s 4d should be appropriated to the payment of a dividend for the last six months, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, upon all the shares of the company upon which 20/ per share have been received; that 500/ should be placed to the credit of a reserve fund; and that the balance, 203/16s 8d, should be carried to a profit and loss new account. On June 30, the business of Messrs Look, Hulm, and Co., of Pembroke and Tenby, was transferred to this bank, and the directors have much pleasure in stating that it was effected without the loss of a single account, and that the business fully realises their expectations as to its value and importance.

## BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.

| Dr.   | BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864. |    |    |
|---|------------------------------|----|----|
| Capital   | 72,285                       | 0  | 0  |
| Amount due on current, deposit, and other accounts  | 136,363                      | 8  | 1  |
| Gross profit—From last account  | £1,115                       | 7  | 3  |
| Interest, discount, commission, and other profits   | 3,882                        | 10 | 11 |
|   | 4,937                        | 18 | 2  |
| Cr.   | BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864. |    |    |
| Preliminary expenses  | 213,586                      | 6  | 3  |
| Cash on hand and at bankers   | 6,278                        | 12 | 6  |
| Freehold and leasehold premises, furniture, expenses of establishing and purchasing branches, &c. | 58,259                       | 1  | 7  |
| Bills discounted, loans, &c.  | 18,821                       | 13 | 0  |
| Current expenses  | 127,577                      | 0  | 2  |
|   | 2,649                        | 19 | 2  |
|   | 213,586                      | 6  | 3  |
| Dr.   | PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.     |    |    |
| Current expenses  | 2,649                        | 19 | 2  |
| Dividend at 5 per cent. per annum   | 1,584                        | 2  | 4  |
| Reserve fund  | 500                          | 0  | 0  |
| Balance carried forward   | 203                          | 16 | 8  |
|   | 4,937                        | 18 | 2  |
| Cr.   | PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.     |    |    |
| Gross profit as above   | 4,937                        | 18 | 2  |

## BRITISH LINEN COMPANY.

At the general meeting, held June 20, 1864, the following abstract of the books of the bank was submitted to the proprietors:—

| Dr.   | LIABILITIES. |    |    |
|---|--------------|----|----|
| Deposits, notes in circulation, and all other liabilities to the public                   | 7,318,545    | 4  | 10 |
| Capital   | 1,000,000    | 0  | 0  |
| Reserve   | 300,000      | 0  | 0  |
| Profit for the year ending April 15, 1864, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts | 118,212      | 12 | 5  |
|   | 8,736,762    | 17 | 3  |

| ASSETS.  |  | £         | s  | d |
|--|--|-----------|----|---|
| Advanced on accounts .....   |  | 2,110,994 | 13 | 4 |
| Bills under discount .....   |  | 2,633,366 | 7  | 9 |
| Houses and offices in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and the branches .....   |  | 162,484   | 15 | 1 |
| Government stocks, and balance at credit with London correspondents, 1,682,763 11s; stock in Bank of England, and other stocks, bonds, debentures, and other securities, 1,183,386 4s 7d; gold and silver coin, notes of the Bank of England and other banks, 563,790 11s 6d ..... |  | 2,929,917 | 1  | 1 |
|  |  | 8,736,762 | 17 | 3 |

After declaring a dividend of 10 per cent., free of income tax, the surplus profits of the year, amounting to 18,217 12s 5d, were ordered to be carried to the reduction of the cost of houses and offices belonging to the bank.

**BANK OF WHITEHAVEN.**

At the annual meeting of this bank, held Feb. 2, 1864, the net profits for the year ending Dec. 31, 1863, were stated to be 10,279 11s 7d. A dividend of 1 1/2 per share and a bonus of 10s per share were declared, amounting to 7,500 1/2. The balance was carried to the surplus fund, which now amounts to 13,459 1s 6d.

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND BANK.**

At the twenty-eighth annual general meeting, held at the Royal Hotel on August 1, 1864; Samuel Thornton, Esq., in the chair, the following report was presented:—

The directors have much pleasure in reporting that the year's profits, after paying the past year's income tax and providing for every bad and doubtful debt, amount to 46,935 8s 5d; deduct dividend of 4 10s per share paid for half year ending December 31, 1863, 18,000 1/2; the directors recommend a dividend of 4 10s per share for the half-year ending June 30 last, 18,000 1/2; making a total deduction of 36,000 1/2; leaving a balance to be carried to the guarantee fund of 10,935 8s 5d. The guarantee fund at the last annual meeting amounted to 125,618 14s 4d; add interest to June 30, 1864, 3,900 8s 5d; premium on shares sold, 6,137 1/2; surplus profit as above, 10,935 8s 5d; the present amount of the guarantee fund will then be 146,591 11s 2d. The paid-up capital amounts to 200,000 1/2. The directors congratulate the proprietors on the growing prosperity of the bank, as evinced by the payment of an augmented dividend of 1 1/2 per share for the past year, owing to the largely extended business of the bank. The directors propose that the capital be increased from 200,000 1/2 to 300,000 1/2, by the creation of 2,000 shares of 50 1/2 each. They suggest that 20,000 1/2 be taken from the guarantee fund for the creation of 400 shares fully paid up for allotment to the shareholders, in the proportion of one share in every ten existing shares. They further recommend that 600 shares be left in the hands of the directors for disposal in such a manner as they think best for the interests of the bank, the remaining 1,000 shares being reserved for the future disposal of the proprietors.

**BIRMINGHAM TOWN AND DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY.**

At the twenty-eighth annual general meeting of the proprietors, held at the Queen's Hotel, Aug. 9, Samuel Rawlins, Esq., in the chair, the following report was read and approved:—

The directors of the Birmingham Town and District Bank have much pleasure in calling the proprietors together on the return of their annual meeting, to lay before them a statement of the profit realised from the business of the past year. The general character of the trade for the past twelve months has, upon the whole, been favourable to banking operations; and your directors have the satisfaction to report a larger amount of profit than has been made by the bank in any previous year. The accounts for the year ending June 30 last have been carefully examined by the directors; and, after writing off amply to cover bad and doubtful debts, paying the income tax for the last year, interest on the guarantee fund, and the expenses incidental to the working of the business, they find a net profit on the year of 28,027 14s 5d. In addition to the above sum, they have to bring forward a surplus profit from last year of 4,061 11s 2d. The directors have also issued a portion of the shares last created; the premiums obtained on these shares amount to 3,465 1/2. The above items added together make a disposable fund of 35,554 5s 7d: this sum the directors propose, with the concurrence of the meeting, to appropriate as follows:—Paid dividend and bonus, free of income tax, due last March, 9,000 1/2; to pay on Sept. 1, dividend of 7s 6d, and bonus of 2s 6d, free of income tax, 9,192 10s; to building account, 100 1/2; to guarantee fund, 14,885 1/2; to next year's account, 2,376 15s 7d;—forming the total previously stated, 35,554 5s 7d. By the above addition to the guarantee fund it will amount to 84,885 1/2, which is a large sum in proportion to the paid-up capital of the bank. The directors are therefore desirous that each shareholder should participate in the success attained, and propose to increase the amount paid upon each share issued prior to the 30th June last to 6 1/2, instead of 5 1/2, by taking from the guarantee fund 18,385 1/2. This proposal, if carried out, will give a bonus to each share equal to a grant of one share for every five shares held by the proprietors, and will make the paid-up capital of the company amount to 110,310 1/2, and the guarantee fund will stand at 66,500 1/2.

**BELFAST BANKING COMPANY.**

The annexed report of the board of superintendence was read and adopted at the thirty-seventh annual meeting, held at the bank, Belfast, on October 13, 1864, James Hamilton, Esq., in the chair:—

Your board, in making their report to the proprietors of the Belfast Banking Company, have pleasure in congratulating them on the continued prosperity of the bank. The high rate of interest during a portion of this year has increased the profits of the bank, which, as made up to July 30 last, amounted to 59,786 6s 11d, out of which the usual dividend of 12 per cent., and two extra dividends of 6 per cent. and 12 per cent., leaving a sum of 22,286 6s 11d—8,000 1/2 of which has been added to the reserve fund, making it 200,000 1/2, and leaving 14,286 6s 11d, which has been carried to profit and loss, making now to the credit of that account the sum of 23,412 19s 5d, after deducting a bonus of 10 per cent. paid your officers on their year's salaries. Your board and directors are of opinion that the reserve fund of 200,000 1/2 need not at present be increased; consequently, a larger portion of the profits may be paid out in future, after supplementing our profit and loss account. Your board have also much pleasure in reporting that an Act of Parliament has been obtained which finally settles the town affairs, and legalises the unsecured debts of the Belfast Corporation, in which this bank were interested as creditors.

**CALEDONIAN BANKING COMPANY.**

At the twenty-fifth annual general meeting of shareholders, held on Monday, August, 1, 1864, the following report was adopted:—

The directors have much pleasure in submitting to the shareholders the annexed abstract of the bank's annual balance statement of 30th June last. The net profits of the year amount to upwards of 12 1/2 per cent. upon the bank's capital, being 15,739 13s, after making provision, as usual, for income tax, and bad and doubtful debts. The undivided profits of the bank, including 1,026 3s 11d brought from last year's account, amount to 16,765 16s 11d, which the directors propose to appropriate as follows, viz.:—11,258 1/2 in payment of a dividend, at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, without deduction of income tax; 4,000 1/2 for addition this year to the bank's surplus or guarantee fund, thereby increasing it to 29,000 1/2; 750 1/2 for annual instalment in reduction of the cost of the bank's houses; 765 16s 11d balance to be carried to next year's account. The shareholders will observe that the directors propose to raise the dividend to 9 per cent., an increase which they consider is justified by the position of the bank. The directors have to report that they have deemed it expedient to contract for suitable premises for the branch at Rothes, where they have hitherto rented an office. According to the rules of the bank, two directors retire at this time. The one is Robert Smith, Esq., Gordon terrace, and the other would have been Alexander Forbes, Esq., Drummond, an esteemed member of the board, whose death occurred so near the termination of his rotation that the vacancy was not filled up. As Mr Smith cannot by your rules be at present re-elected, the directors recommend that David Rose, Esq., Viewmont, and George May, Esq., C.E., Clachnaharry, be elected in their room, and they offer themselves accordingly.

**BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.**

| DEBIT.  |  | LIABILITIES. |       |
|---|--|--------------|-------|
| Paid-up capital .....   |  | £            | s d   |
| Circulation .....   |  | 120,000      | 0 0   |
| Deposit accounts, interest receipts, balances of banking correspondents, &c. .... |  | 75,888       | 0 0   |
| Surplus fund .....  |  | 571,397      | 10 2  |
| Undivided profits—Balance brought forward from last year .....                    |  | 25,000       | 0 0   |
| Net profits of year ending this date .....  |  | £1,026       | 3 11  |
|   |  | 15,739       | 13 0  |
|   |  | 16,765       | 16 11 |

| CREDIT.   |  | ASSETS. |       |
|---|--|---------|-------|
| Investments, advances on bills discounted, credit and other accounts, debentures, bonds, and other securities ..... |  | £       | s d   |
| Specie, notes of other banks, and cash in hands of banking correspondents .....                                     |  | 734,536 | 16 11 |
| Bank's offices, and furniture at head office and branches .....   |  | 64,047  | 8 7   |
|   |  | 15,367  | 1 7   |
|   |  | 813,751 | 7 1   |

**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—June 30, 1864.**

|  |        |       |
|--|--------|-------|
| Dividend at 9 per cent. per annum .....                                | £      | s d   |
| Surplus fund, being transfer to this account .....                     | 11,250 | 0 0   |
| Increasing the surplus fund to £29,000 .....                           | 4,000  | 0 0   |
| Bank's houses—transfer applied in reduction of cost to 14,617 1s 7d .. | 750    | 0 0   |
| Balance of this account carried to next year's account .....           | 765    | 16 11 |
|  | 16,765 | 16 11 |
| Balance brought forward from last year .....                           | £      | s d   |
| Net profits of year ending this date .....                             | 1,026  | 3 11  |
|  | 15,739 | 13 0  |
|  | 16,765 | 16 11 |

**CARLISLE CITY AND DISTRICT BANK.**

The directors declared a dividend, payable on August 11, of 1 1/2 2s 6d per share, for the half-year ending June 30, 1864, being equal to 18 1/2 per cent. per annum. The profits for the half-year, after paying all expenses, amount to 7,423 18s 7d, being at the rate of 25 1/2 12s per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital of 58,000 1/2. After paying the above dividend there will remain in

the auxiliary fund a sum of 4,966l 0s 3d. The guarantee fund now stands at 23,000l.

| BALANCE SHEET for the Half-Year ending June 30, 1864.          |              |
|--|--------------|
| LIABILITIES.   |              |
| Capital stock.....   | £ 58,000 0 0 |
| Deposits, balances of accounts, and notes in circulation ..... | 222,686 2 11 |
| Guarantee fund .....   | 23,000 0 0   |
| Auxiliary fund .....   | 2,762 1 8    |
| Net profits for the half-year.....                             | 7,423 18 7   |
|  | 413,872 3 2  |
| ASSETS.  |              |
| Bank premises, old and new, and at branch .....                | £ 7,138 9 7  |
| Cash and bills in the bank, advances on securities, &c.....    | 406,738 13 7 |
|  | 413,872 3 2  |
| DR. PROFIT AND LOSS, AND AUXILIARY FUND.                       |              |
| Property and income tax paid.....                              | £ 148 2 6    |
| Dividend to June 30, 1864.....                                 | 5,220 0 0    |
| Auxiliary fund for balance .....                               | 4,966 0 3    |
|  | 10,334 2 9   |
| CR.  |              |
| Balance of auxiliary fund on February 9, 1864 .....            | £ 2,899 14 0 |
| Net profits, June 30, 1864.....                                | 7,423 18 7   |
| Transfer fees, &c.....   | 10 10 2      |
|  | 10,334 2 9   |
| Undivided profits, as under—Guarantee fund.....                | £ 23,000 0 0 |
| Auxiliary fund.....  | 4,966 0 3    |
|  | 27,966 0 3   |

### CITY BANK, LONDON.

At a general meeting of the shareholders, held at the London Tavern, on Tuesday, July 19, 1864, the seventeenth report was read as follows:—

The directors have to submit to the shareholders the annexed statement of the liabilities and assets of the City Bank, and of the profit and loss account, for the six months ending June 30, which show a net profit of 57,969l 17s 9d, and enable the directors to declare the usual dividend of 6 per cent. per annum upon the paid-up capital, and a bonus of 3l 10s per share (together equal to 10 per cent. for the half-year), free of income tax; to place 10,000l to the reserved fund (thereby increasing it to 140,000l); and to carry forward to the new profit and loss account 7,969l 17s 9d. This very satisfactory result of the half-year's operations has induced the directors to increase the reserved fund. The directors have to announce, with great regret, that Mr A. J. White has been compelled by continued ill health, to resign the appointment of manager, which he had held since the formation of the bank. The directors believe that the shareholders will cordially approve of the grant of a retiring pension of 1,500l per annum, made to him in recognition of his past most valuable services; and, subject to the confirmation of this meeting, they have elected him to a seat at the board.

| DR. LIABILITIES AND ASSETS—June 30, 1864.   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Capital paid up, viz., 50l per share on 8,000 shares .....  | £ 400,000 0 0    |
| Amount of reserved fund.....  | 130,000 0 0      |
| Amount received on account of new shares.....   | 100,000 0 0      |
| Amount due by the bank on current and deposit accounts, bills payable, letters of credit, &c.....   | 4,781,633 11 8   |
| Profit and loss for the balance of that account, viz.—  |                  |
| Surplus profit brought forward from last half-year .....  | £ 29,880 19 8    |
| Since added .....   | 73,855 9 1       |
|   | 83,236 8 9       |
|   | 5,494,870 0 5    |
| CR.   |                  |
| Exchange bills, Government securities and East India debentures .....   | £ 2,298,590 15 4 |
| Other debentures .....  | 10,243 15 0      |
| Other securities, including bills discounted and loans .....  | 309,224 10 4     |
| Bank premises in Threadneedle street and Old Bond street, furniture, fixtures, &c.....  | 4,449,218 7 8    |
| Cash in hand, at Bank of England, and at call .....   | 29,944 15 0      |
|   | 706,482 7 5      |
|   | 5,494,870 0 5    |
| DR. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—Half-Year ending June 30, 1864.   |                  |
| Current expenses, including salaries, rent, stationery, directors' remuneration, proportion of building expenses, allowance for bad and doubtful debts, income tax, &c..... | £ 14,214 18 11   |
| Amount carried to profit and loss new account, being rebate on bills discounted not yet due.....  | 11,051 12 1      |
| Amount transferred to reserve fund, in addition to the 130,000l already at the credit of that account.....  | 10,000 0 0       |
| Dividend account for the payment of a dividend at the rate of 6l per centum per annum upon 400,000l, amount of paid-up capital upon 8,000 shares .....                      | 12,000 0 0       |
| Bonus of 3l 10s per share on 8,000 shares .....   | 28,000 0 0       |
| Undivided profit transferred to profit and loss new account .....   | 7,969 17 0       |
|   | 83,236 8 9       |
|   | 83,236 8 9       |
| CR.   |                  |
| Balance brought down, viz.:—  | £ s d            |
| Surplus profit brought forward from last half-year .....  | £ 29,880 19 8    |
| Since added .....   | 73,855 9 1       |
|   | 83,236 8 9       |

### CITY (SYDNEY) BANK.

The following is the report of the City (Sydney) Bank presented to the proprietors at the first half-yearly general meeting, held at the Chamber of Commerce, Sydney, on July 12:—

The directors have much pleasure in submitting to the proprietors the following report of the bank for the period ended June 30 last. Gross profits, less interest and exchange paid, 11,161l 6s 11d; current expenses, including fees to directors and auditors, salaries, rent, stationery, &c., 2,991l 16s; five per cent. of cost of repairs and alterations to bank premises, 226l 4s 2d; pre-

liminary expenses (the whole of which are now written off), 1,848l 10s 6d; rebate on bills discounted current at June 30, 1864, 3,513l 9s 8d; interest accrued on fixed deposits not yet matured, 1,456l 3s 8d; amount set aside for commencement of a reserve fund, 500l; balance at credit of profit and loss account, 625l 2s 4 1/2d.

In submitting the accompanying statement, your directors feel themselves justified in congratulating the proprietors on the marked success which has attended the whole of the operations of the bank. The proprietors will perceive that a large and profitable business has been initiated, many valuable accounts have been opened with the bank, no losses whatever have been sustained, and all circumstances yield a very favourable augury of the future success of the institution, which, however, must be more or less dependent upon the zealous co-operation of the shareholders themselves. Your directors have not thought it advisable to declare a dividend upon the present occasion, but have apportioned the profit earned in such way as they believe will best tend to secure the confidence of the public and the future interests of the bank.

### BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.

| DR.   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Capital paid .....  | £ 196,457 0 0 |
| Notes in circulation .....  | 18,926 0 0    |
| Deposits and other liabilities .....  | 170,689 9 1   |
| Profit and loss .....   | 625 2 11      |
| Reserve fund .....  | 500 0 0       |
|   | 887,197 13 0  |
| CR.   |               |
| Coin in hand .....  | £ 40,178 11 8 |
| Bank premises and furniture.....  | 4,297 18 4    |
| Bills discounted and other debts due to the bank.....   | 342,721 2 0   |
|   | 887,197 13 0  |
| DR. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.  |               |
| Current expenses—including fees to directors and auditors, salaries, rent, stationery, &c.....          | £ 2,991 16 0  |
| Bank premises, being 5 per cent. of the cost of repairs and alterations.....                            | 226 4 2       |
| Preliminary expenses (the whole of which are now written off) .....                                     | 1,848 10 6    |
| Rebate on bills discounted current at 30th June, 1864 .....   | 3,513 9 8     |
| Interest accrued on fixed deposits not yet matured .....  | 1,456 3 8     |
| Reserve fund.....   | 500 0 0       |
| Balance .....   | 625 2 11      |
|   | 11,161 6 11   |
| CR.   |               |
| Gross profits for period ending June 30, 1864, less interest and exchange paid during same period ..... | £ 11,161 6 11 |
|   | 11,161 6 11   |

### COLONIAL BANK.

The half-yearly general meeting was held at the London Tavern on July 6, Mr Marryatt in the chair. The Secretary read the report of the directors as follows:—

As required by the charter, the directors lay before the proprietors the following account of the debts and assets of the corporation, on Dec. 31, 1863, and of the net profit of the half-year which terminated on that date. Debts—Circulation, 226,881l 8s 4d; deposits, bills payable, and other liabilities, 1,467,545l 15s 10d; reserved fund, 121,000l; paid-up capital, 500,000l; balance of profit from last half-year, 1,319l 6s 5d; net profit for the half-year 36,217l 13s 8d; total, 2,352,964l 4s 3d. Assets—Specie, 331,295l 6s 6d; due to the bank in the colonies on bills discounted and purchased, including those past due, &c., 1,045,951l 9s 4d; due to the bank in the colonies on current accounts, 10,548l 0s 6d; due to the bank in London on bills remitted, cash at bankers, &c., 955,160l 3s 11d; bank premises and furniture in London and in the colonies, 10,009l 2s; total, 2,352,964l 4s 3d. The directors have much pleasure in presenting the above statement, which exhibits a larger amount of profit than they had reason to expect, seeing that the transactions of the half-year now under observation have been benefited to a small extent only by the rise in the price of colonial produce adverted to in their last report. They are happy to state that the improvement still continues, but there is unfortunately a counteracting influence in the shape of short crops, occasioned by a prevalence of drought in several of the West India colonies, which will to some extent neutralise the advantage of higher prices. The directors are glad to report that the accounts of business from the branches are satisfactory down to the latest dates in their possession. Considering that the reserve fund has reached an amount which renders it unnecessary to make such large additions to it as formerly, the directors feel themselves justified in recommending, on this occasion, an additional dividend or bonus of 1 per cent.; they therefore propose that out of the net profit of the half-year, which amounts, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and for income tax, as per preceding statement, to 36,217l 13s 8d, an ordinary dividend be made of 6 per cent. for the half-year ending Dec. 31, 1863, being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum upon the paid-up capital of the corporation, which will require 30,000l, and an extraordinary dividend of 1 per cent., which will require 5,000l—35,000l, leaving 1,217l 13s 8d, to which add amount brought forward from the last half-year, 1,319l 6s 5d; together, 2,537l 0s 1d. From this amount the directors propose to carry 2,000l to the reserve fund, increasing it to 123,000l, and the balance of 537l 0s 1d forward to next half-year.



**COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY.**

At a general meeting of the shareholders, held at the banking house, on July 27, 1864, the following report was presented:—

The directors have now the pleasure to submit to the proprietors the following statement of the position of the bank on June 30. The net profits for the half-year, after deducting rebate upon bills, all expenses of management, reduction of cost of premises, allowance for bad and doubtful debts, &c., &c., including undivided profits from the previous half-year, amount to 32,664/ 8s 1d, which the directors have decided to appropriate as follows:—Dividend for half-year at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, 24,000/; bonus of 5s per share on 12,800 shares, 3,200/; increase of reserve fund, 1,333/ 6s 8d; balance undivided profit carried to next half-year's account, 4,131/ 1s 5d. On May 18 a branch, designated the "Eastern branch," was opened in a central part of the South Head road, Sydney, which doubtless will be felt of much public convenience to that neighbourhood. A vacancy now occurs in the board of directors, by the retirement, in rotation, of George King, Esq. The Hon. Charles Kemp, Esq., had given notice of his being a candidate for the office, which was notified by advertisement, but which notice he has found it necessary to withdraw, your directors deeply regret to say, owing to the critical state of his health. There being now no candidate on the list, a subsequent meeting will have to be held to fill up the vacancy, of which due notice will be given. On the present occasion, also, two auditors to serve for the year, to July, 1865, have to be appointed. At a special general meeting of proprietors, held on May 17, it was resolved unanimously, that the bank's capital should be increased to 400,000/ by the creation of 3,200 new shares, of 25/ each, at a premium of 8/ 6s 8d per share, and a special general meeting will be held this day to confirm the same. Upon the confirmation being carried, there will be receivable, as premium on new shares, the sum of 26,666/ 13s 4d, payable by December 31 next to the credit of the reserve fund, which, with the amount of 1,333/ 6s 8d which the board have now applied, will augment that fund to 100,000/. The dividend and bonus are now payable.

| LIABILITIES AND ASSETS.  |       | £         | s  | d  |
|--|-------|-----------|----|----|
| Capital paid up  | ..... | 320,000   | 0  | 0  |
| Reserve  | ..... | 72,000    | 0  | 0  |
| Notes in circulation   | ..... | 172,056   | 0  | 0  |
| Bills in circulation   | ..... | 4,878     | 11 | 7  |
| Deposits and other liabilities   | ..... | 1,239,345 | 16 | 2  |
| Profit and loss account  | ..... | 42,852    | 8  | 3  |
|  |       | 1,847,132 | 16 | 0  |
| ASSETS.  |       | £         | s  | d  |
| Coin and bullion in hand and in transit  | ..... | 219,312   | 1  | 10 |
| Notes and bills of other banks   | ..... | 15,124    | 2  | 1  |
| Bills discounted and all other debts due to the bank   | ..... | 1,582,029 | 13 | 5  |
| Bank premises, furniture, &c.  | ..... | 30,666    | 18 | 8  |
|  |       | 1,847,132 | 16 | 0  |
| PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.   |       | £         | s  | d  |
| Rebate on bills current  | ..... | 10,188    | 0  | 2  |
| Dividend account for payment of a dividend for past half-year, at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum | ..... | 24,000    | 0  | 0  |
| Bonus of 5s per share  | ..... | 3,200     | 0  | 0  |
| Addition to reserve fund   | ..... | 1,333     | 6  | 8  |
| Balance undivided profit carried to next half-year   | ..... | 4,131     | 1  | 5  |
|  |       | 42,852    | 8  | 3  |
| Amount undivided profit from last half-year  | ..... | 4,997     | 9  | 9  |
| Net profit for half-year ending June 30, 1864  | ..... | 38,754    | 18 | 6  |
|  |       | 42,852    | 8  | 3  |
| RESERVE FUND.  |       | £         | s  | d  |
| 1864—June 30—Balance   | ..... | 73,333    | 6  | 8  |
| 1863—Dec. 31—Balance   | ..... | 72,000    | 0  | 0  |
| 1864—June 30—Transferred from profit and loss account  | ..... | 1,333     | 6  | 8  |
|  |       | 73,333    | 6  | 8  |

**CONSOLIDATED BANK, LIMITED.**

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in this bank was held on July 28, in the Board room, Manchester. Mr J. A. Turner, M.P., presided. Mr Farrar, the manager, read the following report:—

The directors beg to lay before the shareholders their third half-yearly report, to June 30. The accompanying statements of account will show that the gross profits for the half-year were 108,041/ 14s 2d, and that the net profits (after deducting all expenses of management, rebate of interest on bills not due, income tax, interest paid to customers, and writing off all ascertained bad debts) amount to the sum of 71,012/ 1s 3d, to which may be added, brought from the last account, 1,076/ 0s 2d, making together, available for distribution, the sum of 72,088/ 1s 5d, with which it is proposed to deal as follows:—To carry to reserve fund, 18,000/; to declare a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 2s per share for the half-year, free of income tax (being together equal to 15 per cent. per annum), 44,822/ 2s; to write off the cost of bank furniture at Manchester, and expenses of removal and alterations in London, together, 2,289/ 12s 7d; to carry forward to the next account, 6,967/ 6s 10d. The reserved fund will then stand (with interest added to the previous balance of 20,000/) at 88,500/. During the last half-year the directors have availed themselves of an opportunity of establishing a branch bank in the city of Norwich—a measure which appeared to them likely to promote the business and prosperity of the bank.

**CONTINENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED.**

The second report of the directors was submitted to the ordinary meeting of the company, on Wednesday, August 3, 1864, as follows:—

The balance sheet now presented to the proprietors embraces the period from January 1 to June 30 of the present year, and exhibits a result of the operations of the bank during that time of a most satisfactory kind. The report of February showed that a basis had been laid last year for an extensive and profitable business, but the rapid progress which has since been made in developing the prospects of the bank has greatly exceeded the expectations of success then formed, and the board are of opinion that, by a judicious extension of capital, the bank will very soon occupy a most influential position, and at the same time continue to afford good profits to the shareholders. The capital account now consists of 5,000 original shares—15/ paid; a call of 5/ having been made payable on March 30 last: and of 5,000 new shares—5/ paid. The arrears of calls on the first issue amounted, at June 30, to 1,205/—and 1,145/ having been since paid up, the remainder now outstanding is only 60/. The amount due on the second issue at July 1, viz., 25,000/, has been paid up in full. The net profit at June 30 last, is 6,000/ 8s 11d, and out of this sum the directors propose to pay a dividend of 15s on each original share, being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the capital, as progressively paid up. They have appropriated 719/ 13s 10d in reduction of preliminary expenses, and 1,000/ towards the formation of a reserved fund, leaving a balance of 530/ 15s 1d to be carried over. The only serious impediment which the directors have encountered in conducting the business, has arisen from the smallness of the available capital; and, from the experience which they now have gained, they feel satisfied that if they had had more ample means at command, they could have extended their operations to great advantage. Entertaining these views, the directors have been enabled to arrange terms for an amalgamation with another company, by which the bank's capital will be doubled, and facilities will thus be afforded for calling up such an amount as will enable the board to complete the circle of business centreing in Marseilles, and open up a new field of operations in connection with the large trade growing out of the new international treaties.

| BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.  |       | £       | s  | d  |
|---|-------|---------|----|----|
| LIABILITIES.  |       |         |    |    |
| Capital paid up:—1st and 2nd calls  | ..... | £50,000 |    |    |
| 3rd call due March 30   | ..... | 25,000  |    |    |
| Less arrears  | ..... | 75,000  |    |    |
|   |       | 1,205   |    |    |
| Total first issue   | ..... | 73,795  |    |    |
| Second issue (paid in advance)  | ..... | 890     |    |    |
|   |       | 74,685  | 0  | 0  |
| Sundry creditors, current accounts and deposits   | ..... | 161,893 | 3  | 6  |
| Bills payable   | ..... | 388,727 | 2  | 6  |
| Balance of profit and loss, after deducting all charges, rebate of interest, &c.                  | ..... | 6,000   | 8  | 11 |
|   |       | 601,275 | 14 | 11 |
| ASSETS.   |       |         |    |    |
| Cash, bill receivable and foreign bills   | ..... | 236,765 | 18 | 0  |
| Sundry debtors on current accounts, coupons, and other securities                                 | ..... | 357,597 | 16 | 11 |
| Office furniture and fittings   | ..... | 715     | 1  | 8  |
| Preliminary expenses and cost of establishing London office, and branches at Paris and Marseilles | ..... | 7,196   | 18 | 4  |
|   |       | 601,275 | 14 | 11 |
| PROFIT AND LOSS.  |       | £       | s  | d  |
| Dividend account  | ..... | 3,750   | 0  | 0  |
| 10 per cent. of preliminary expenses  | ..... | 719     | 13 | 10 |
| Reserved fund   | ..... | 1,000   | 0  | 0  |
| Balance carried forward   | ..... | 530     | 15 | 1  |
|   |       | 6,000   | 8  | 11 |
|   |       | 6,000   | 8  | 11 |
| Amount at credit of profit and loss, as above   | ..... | 6,000   | 8  | 11 |

**CLYDESDALE BANKING COMPANY.**

At the twenty-sixth annual general meeting held at Glasgow, on Wednesday, July 13, 1864, the annexed report was read:—

The directors have to congratulate the partners on the results of the business of the bank for the past year. After providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and making allowance for rebate on bills not due, the net balance of profit and loss account for the year ending June 8 last amounts to 111,322/ 3s 6d; to which add the balance brought forward from the previous year, 3,913/ 15s 2d; making together 115,235/ 18s 8d for disposal at this time. The directors have carefully considered the amount of dividend they should propose to this meeting, and they unanimously recommend that the rate should be raised to 9 per cent., payable, under deduction of income tax, at the usual periods of August 1 and February 2 next. The amount required for this dividend will be 80,728/ 4s, leaving a surplus of 34,507/ 14s 8d, which the directors recommend should be applied as follows, viz., that 20,000/ should be added to the reserved surplus fund, which will then amount to 220,000/; 5,000/ applied towards reduction of the cost of bank buildings; and 9,507/ 14s 8d be carried forward to next year's account. The directors have the pleasure to announce that the agreement with the Eastern Bank has been fully completed, and the debt due to this bank discharged. During the past year the directors have had to lament the loss by death of their colleague Sir James Anderson, whose long services as a director have been of the

greatest advantage to the bank. To supply his place, the directors appointed John King, of Levernholme, to a seat at the board.

BALANCE SHEET—June 8, 1864.

| LIABILITIES.  |            | £  | s  | d |
|---|------------|----|----|---|
| Capital of the bank   | £1,000,000 |    |    |   |
| Unissued stock, as per balance sheet, June 10, 1863   | 103,020    |    |    |   |
| Reserved surplus fund   | 896,980    | 0  | 0  | 0 |
| Circulation   | 200,000    | 0  | 0  | 0 |
| Deposits  | 692,701    | 0  | 0  | 0 |
| Acceptances on account of customers, against securities held by the bank  | 4,149,422  | 19 | 8  |   |
| Surplus profits   | 142,780    | 2  | 9  |   |
|   | 115,235    | 18 | 8  |   |
|   | 6,107,119  | 12 | 1  |   |
| ASSETS.   |            | £  | s  | d |
| Bills discounted, head office and branches  | 3,204,717  | 13 | 0  |   |
| Credit accounts, head office and branches   | 1,190,261  | 11 | 4  |   |
| Bank buildings, including new buildings at Stranraer, Wraithorn, Portobello, Mid-Calder, Dollar, and St Andrews | 92,991     | 10 | 9  |   |
| Balances due by other banks   | 37,333     | 4  | 6  |   |
| Investments in consols and other securities   | £785,405   | 7  | 10 |   |
| Gold and silver coin and notes of other banks on hand, and cash balances with London bankers                    | 796,490    | 4  | 8  |   |
|   | 1,581,825  | 12 | 6  |   |
|   | 6,107,119  | 12 | 1  |   |

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN CHARTERED BANK.

At the twenty-second ordinary meeting on Monday, July 25, 1864, the subjoined report was agreed to:—

The directors have to lay before the proprietors the result of the operations of the bank for the half-year ending March 31 last in the colonies, and June 30 in London. It will be observed from the annexed statement of the accounts, that the balance of profit is 28,467l 0s 10d, which the directors trust will be satisfactory to the proprietors. The branch at Adelaide, to which reference was made in the last report, was opened on the 4th of April, with every prospect of success, owing to the prosperous condition of the colony. Three gentlemen of high standing and influence had consented to form themselves into a local board, Mr John B. Spence, who was strongly recommended for the office, had been appointed manager, and premises had been secured on favourable terms. The directors continue of opinion that the prudent course will be further to increase the reserved fund, before raising the rate of dividend, and they, therefore, recommend that the balance of 28,467l 0s 10d be appropriated as follows, viz.:—To the payment of a dividend at the rate of six per cent. per annum, free of income tax, on 600,000l, 18,000l; towards the reduction of bank premises and furniture accounts, 1,000l; to the reserved fund, 8,000l; which will then amount to 43,000l, leaving a balance of 1,467l 0s 10d to be carried forward.

| LIABILITIES.  |           | £  | s  | d |
|---|-----------|----|----|---|
| Paid-up capital   | 599,420   | 0  | 0  |   |
| Deposits  | 818,112   | 2  | 9  |   |
| Bills payable and other liabilities   | 113,104   | 13 | 2  |   |
| Circulation   | 74,417    | 0  | 0  |   |
| Reserved fund   | 35,000    | 0  | 0  |   |
| Amount carried to profit and loss account   | 38,929    | 3  | 10 |   |
|   | 1,678,982 | 19 | 9  |   |
| ASSETS.   |           | £  | s  | d |
| Bills receivable (including the estimated value of those overdue) loans on security, cash at bankers, &c. | 1,479,176 | 6  | 5  |   |
| Specie and bullion  | 141,365   | 8  | 0  |   |
| Bank premises and furniture   | 58,441    | 5  | 4  |   |
|   | 1,678,982 | 19 | 9  |   |
| PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.  |           | £  | s  | d |
| Current expenses in Melbourne, Sydney, and sub-branches   | 7,653     | 8  | 9  |   |
| Ditto in London, including Directors' remuneration and income tax   | 2,828     | 14 | 3  |   |
|   | 10,482    | 3  | 0  |   |
| Balance   | 38,929    | 3  | 10 |   |
|   | 38,929    | 3  | 10 |   |
| Amount brought down   | 38,929    | 3  | 10 |   |

EAST LONDON BANK, LIMITED.

Annexed is the first report presented at a general meeting, held at the London Tavern, Aug. 4, 1864:—

The directors have pleasure in submitting to the shareholders their first report and accounts, as audited to June 30, 1864. The bank commenced business at the temporary head office, in Fenchurch street, on Nov. 16 last; two of the branches were opened on the 1st day of the present year, and the third late in the month of January. The gross profits have been 10,576l 17s 1d; against this have been charged the current expenses of the head office and branches for the half-year, amounting to 3,941l 4s; interest on current and deposit accounts, amounting to 2,037l 10s 2d; rebate calculated at the Bank rate, at the date of making up the accounts, viz., 6 per cent., amounting to 1,640l 6s 1d; leaving an available balance of 2,957l 17s 8d as certified by the auditors. The directors recommend that such balance be appropriated as follows:—A dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, free of income tax, on the original capital (60,000l), which absorbs 1,500l. Interest at the same rate, also free of income tax, on the new capital (40,000l), from the date of calls to June 30, which amounts to 683l 6s 8d, leaving a balance (including rebate) to be carried forward to the present half-year of 2,414l 17s 1d. The premium of 30s per share on the 8,000 new shares, amounting to 12,000l, has, in accordance with the circular of Dec. 26 last, been appropriated to the formation of a reserve fund, and is now invested in 13,296l 8s consols.

The temporary premises first taken for the head office were found to be too far removed from the centre of banking operations. Premises have now been secured in Cornhill for the permanent head office, and will be occupied as soon as the requisite alterations are made. The directors record with satisfaction the efficiency of the staff, from the general manager downwards. According to the articles of association, auditors will have to be elected at the present meeting, one of whom must be a professional accountant. The directors will submit to the meeting for confirmation the resolution of the board increasing the capital of the company from 1,000,000l to 2,000,000l. In congratulating the shareholders upon the progress of the bank, which cannot be regarded as otherwise than as highly satisfactory, the directors would impress upon them the importance of their continued active co-operation in the introduction of additional current and deposit accounts. The success of a bank depends upon its good management and the personal and energetic support of those who benefit by its prosperity.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.

| CAPITAL, LIABILITIES, &c.  |           | £  | s | d |
|--|-----------|----|---|---|
| Capital—Authorised, in 12,000 shares of 50l each, with power to increase | 2,000,000 | 0  | 0 |   |
| New issue of 8,000 shares of 50l each                                    | 400,000   | 0  | 0 |   |
|  | 1,000,000 | 0  | 0 |   |
| 5l per share paid up on 20,000 shares                                    | 100,000   | 0  | 0 |   |
| Amount due on current, deposit, and other accounts                       | 299,700   | 7  | 7 |   |
| Reserve fund   | 12,000    | 0  | 0 |   |
| Rebate of interest on current bills                                      | £1,640    | 6  | 1 |   |
| Profit and loss account—not profit, as per statement                     | 2,957     | 17 | 8 |   |
|  | 4,598     | 3  | 9 |   |

| ASSETS, &c.                                   |         | £  | s | d |
|---|---------|----|---|---|
| Cash at Bank of England, in hand, and at call | 137,043 | 8  | 6 |   |
| Bills discounted, loans, &c.                  | 235,082 | 15 | 1 |   |
| Investments (13,296l 8s consols)              | 12,000  | 0  | 0 |   |
| Bank premises, furniture, fittings, &c.       | 24,704  | 14 | 8 |   |
| Preliminary expenses                          | 7,468   | 18 | 8 |   |
|   | 416,298 | 11 | 4 |   |

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, from November 16, 1863, to June 30, 1864.

| DEBIT.   |        | £  | s  | d |
|--|--------|----|----|---|
| General charges at head office and branches for the past half-year | 3,941  | 4  | 0  |   |
| Interest paid and due on current and deposit accounts              | 2,037  | 10 | 2  |   |
| Reserve fund   | 12,000 | 0  | 0  |   |
| Rebate of interest on current bills at 6 per cent.                 | 1,640  | 6  | 1  |   |
| Balance, being net profit to June 30, 1864                         | 2,957  | 17 | 8  |   |
|  | 22,576 | 17 | 11 |   |
| CREDIT.  |        | £  | s  | d |
| Gross profit to June 30, 1864                                      | 30,576 | 17 | 11 |   |
| Premium on 8,000 new shares issued, at 30s per share               | 12,000 | 0  | 0  |   |
|  | 22,576 | 17 | 11 |   |

GLAMORGANSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

At the half-yearly meeting of the proprietors, held at Swansea, on Aug. 9, 1864, Mr John Crow Richardson, in the chair, the following report was presented and read, and also summaries of the liabilities and assets of the company, as they stood on June 30, 1864:—

The directors and managers of the Glamorganshire Banking Company have the pleasure of submitting to the proprietors summaries of the assets and liabilities of the bank, as they stood on June 30 last. And they have to report that after making due provision for bad and doubtful debts, presenting a gratuity of 10 per cent. on their salaries to all the officers of the establishment, and appropriating 652l 2s 1d towards reduction of the cost of the bank's premises in Swansea and Neath, they are enabled to recommend that a dividend out of the profits, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and free from income tax, be declared upon the paid-up capital of 150,000l; that the guarantee fund be increased to 47,000l; and that the sum of 1,985l 4s 1d be carried forward to the next half-year.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

At the thirty-third annual general meeting of proprietors, held at the bank on Aug. 10, 1864, William Phillip Price, Esq., in the chair, the following report was presented to the directors:—

The Gloucestershire Banking Company has now been in existence for 33 years. It originated in the conviction "that a well-conducted bank, possessing ample means, and an influential and affluent proprietary, whose affairs should be closely investigated by a board of directors, and annually submitted to the proprietors, could not but largely benefit the trade and agriculture of the county, and afford a fair and certain return for its capital." These anticipations have been abundantly realised. The operations of the bank have been extended far beyond the design or expectation of its founders, but by a steady adherence to sound principles of banking the stability and success of the company have proportionally increased. The successive boards of directors have refused to engage the company in any transactions, however lucrative or plausible, which were not within the legitimate province of banking. They have recognised the necessity of increasing the capital and guarantee fund of the company, in proportion to the increase of its business; and, with the wise and cordial support of the shareholders, they have been enabled to do this, for the most part, by appropriations from profit, and with, at the same time, a steadily increasing dividend. The paid up capital and guarantee fund of the company are now 375,000l, and there are the means of still further increase. The

confidence of the public has been abundantly shown in the steady augmentation of deposits, amidst much competition, and the temptation in every form to speculative and attractive enterprises. The high value of money during a great part of the past year has largely increased your profits; but your directors, while enabled to employ your surplus funds to great advantage, have not thought it right to require from their customers the high rates of interest which have obtained in London. They trust that their moderation in this respect will be appreciated, and will tend to the permanence and extension of their business. The new branches in Herefordshire are progressing satisfactorily. In realising the securities held from the late banking firm of Morgan and Adams, your directors have been met by unlooked-for delays on the part of the assignees, but they entertain no apprehension whatever of ultimate loss. The authority given by the shareholders at their last annual meeting, to erect a banking house at Hereford, has not yet been acted on, the directors not being satisfied that the site contemplated is the best that can be obtained. The supplemental deed of settlement has been signed by nearly all the shareholders; difficulty of access has alone prevented its being signed by all. The accounts of the year show a balance on the rest account of 64,306/ 12s 9d. The directors recommend a dividend of 30s per share, clear of income tax, for the half-year ending June 30 last, making, with the 25s paid at Christmas last, a dividend of 55s per share for the year. They believe that this increased dividend may be maintained. After payment of this dividend there will still remain a balance of undivided profits of 41,806/ 12s 9d, to which an addition may safely be assumed at Christmas; and, acting on the policy you have so often sanctioned, and believing it to be necessary to the maintenance of your extended business, your directors ask you to authorise them, at Christmas next, to add 50,000/ (or 3/ 6s 8d per share) to the paid-up capital of the company; thus raising such capital to 20/ per share, or 300,000/, with a guarantee fund of 125,000/. In conclusion, your directors desire to warn the shareholders against the reckless spirit of adventure which has prompted the establishment of most of the companies started in the past year. Many of them, though promising large profits, are founded and conducted upon principles which must inevitably involve their supporters in disappointment and loss; and few, if any, will prove an exception to the rule, that extraordinary profits can only be obtained at extraordinary risks. Your directors urge upon the proprietors of this company to be content with moderate but steadily increasing and safe profits, unattended with anxiety as to the liability upon their shares.

IMPERIAL BANK.

The fourth half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held at the London Tavern, July 21; Mr Alderman Lusk in the chair. The secretary (Mr Manning), having read the advertisement convening the meeting, read the following report and statement of accounts:—

The directors have much pleasure in submitting their report to the shareholders for adoption, with the balance sheet for the half-year ending June 30. The directors have to announce, that in consequence of the extension of business, and with a view to advance the influence of the bank, they deemed it advisable to increase the subscribed capital, and give additional strength to the direction. They, therefore, in exercise of the authority vested in the board by the 18th and 21st regulations, issued 12,500 shares of the original capital—in addition to the first issue of 10,000 shares—thereby raising the subscribed capital from 1,000,000/ to 2,250,000/. The premiums on the shares recently issued have placed at disposal the sum of 48,288/, which the directors recommend to be carried to the reserve fund; and they are happy to state that the increased capital has placed the bank in a position to meet the requirements of extending connections. The directors have to report, that after payment of the whole of the current charges, making allowance for bad and doubtful debts, and rebate on bills, writing off 2,110/ 6s 3d (the profit on sale of fractional parts of new shares) against preliminary expenses, the profit and loss account exhibits a balance of 63,437/ 12s 1d, including 48,288/, the premium received on new shares, and they recommend the appropriation to be as follows:—To dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, for six months ending June 30, 1864, on paid-up capital of 12,000 shares first issue, 9,600/; to payment at rate of 5/ per cent. per annum on paid-up capital of 10,500 shares of the 2nd and 3rd issues in lieu of dividend, 849/ 5s 3d to reserve fund, premium on new shares, 48,288/; to balance to be carried forward to credit of profit and loss new account, 4,700/ 6s 10d—63,437/ 12s 1d.

| DR. LIABILITIES AND ASSETS—June 30, 1864.   |           | £  | s | d |
|---|-----------|----|---|---|
| Capital paid up—viz.:—£20 per share on 12,000 shares  | 240,000   | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto on 10,500 new shares  | 104,520   | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| Amount due by the bank on current, deposit, and other accounts  | 1,017,293 | 7  | 0 | 0 |
| Reserve fund  | 3,000     | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| Receipt on of premises fund   | 204       | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| Balance of profit and loss account, Dec. 31, 1,613/ 13s 4d; gross profits for half-year, 35,858/ 3s 10d—37,471/ 13s 2d; less interest paid to customers, 9,797/ 12s 10d—27,674/ 6s 4d. Amount of premium received on new shares, 48,288/; amount received on sale of fractional parts of new shares, 2,110/ 6s 3d | 78,072    | 12 | 7 |   |
|   | 1,443,019 | 19 | 7 |   |

| CR.  |           | £  | s  | d |
|--|-----------|----|----|---|
| Consols and India debentures   | 37,320    | 4  | 6  |   |
| Bills discounted, loans to customers, &c.  | 1,201,987 | 11 | 7  |   |
| Bank premises, furniture, and fixtures   | 22,581    | 14 | 0  |   |
| Preliminary expenses   | 4,000     | 0  | 0  |   |
| Cash in hand, at Bank of England, and at call  | 178,027   | 9  | 6  |   |
|  | 1,443,019 | 19 | 7  |   |
| DR. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.   |           | £  | s  | d |
| Current expenses, including salaries, rent, directors' remuneration, income tax, and allowance for bad debts | 7,131     | 0  | 1  |   |
| Amount carried to profit and loss new account, being rebate on bills discounted not yet due                  | 5,393     | 14 | 2  |   |
| Payment of dividend, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, for the last half-year                            | 9,600     | 0  | 0  |   |
| Payment of interest on new shares at 5 per cent. per annum   | 849       | 5  | 3  |   |
| Amount carried to reserve fund   | 48,288    | 0  | 0  |   |
| Amount written off preliminary expenses, leaving a balance of 1,889/ 13s 9d                                  | 2,110     | 6  | 3  |   |
| Carried to profit and loss new account   | 4,700     | 6  | 10 |   |
|  | 78,072    | 12 | 7  |   |
| CR.  |           | £  | s  | d |
| Balance brought down   | 78,072    | 12 | 7  |   |
| RESERVE FUND.  |           | £  | s  | d |
| Present amount   | 51,288    | 0  | 0  |   |
| CR.  |           | £  | s  | d |
| Amount on 1st January  | 3,000     | 0  | 0  |   |
| Amount added   | 48,288    | 0  | 0  |   |
|  | 51,288    | 0  | 0  |   |

LAND MORTGAGE BANK OF INDIA.

The subjoined report was presented to the first ordinary general meeting, held at the London Tavern, on October 4, 1864:—

The directors of the Land Mortgage Bank of India (Credit Foncier Indien), in presenting their first annual report and balance sheet, have to state that the present meeting is held in conformity with the articles of association, which prescribe that "the first general meeting shall be held within one year from the registration of the company." The annual accounts made up in India to December 31 in each year, being only due in this country in February or March, the directors propose to hold the future ordinary meeting in the month of April in each year. The next ordinary meeting will, therefore, be held in April, 1865, for the purpose of declaring a dividend, and for transacting such other business as it may be necessary to bring before the shareholders. In consequence of the high rates which unexpectedly ruled for exchange in India on London, when the bank's agencies were opened, it was found impossible to draw on England for the purpose of making advances, and it became necessary to send out bullion and Treasury drafts with that object; from this cause, funds were not available in India until April, so that the transactions now reported only extend over a period of five months, but there is every reason to anticipate that by the end of the year, when the annual accounts are rendered, the whole funds of the bank will have been invested in mortgage at rates equal to those already advised, enabling the directors to pay a satisfactory dividend. The total applications for advances on the security of land in India amounted, by last advices, to 571,800/, of which 132,140/ had been granted at rates of 8, 9, and 10 per cent., upon mortgages of real property. There were applications for 346,450/ still under consideration in reference to the titles and valuation of the properties; a considerable portion of which would probably be granted at an early date. The cash balances of the company in India are deposited with the Presidency banks for employment in loans, upon Government securities, until such time as they are required for advances upon mortgage. Of the debentures of the company recently issued, 38,060/ has been subscribed for, chiefly by shareholders of the bank—and of this sum 23,320/ has been paid up in full. The amount received on account of debentures is at present invested on Government securities in London at 8 per cent., until required for remittance to India. As the state of the money market admits of more capital being raised on debentures, the sphere of the company's operations in India will be extended; but, in the mean time, the funds in hand are sufficient for all engagements, and the directors may state, for the information of the shareholders, that they do not intend to make any further calls. The accounts, as now presented, show an estimated net profit of 7,975/ 4s 7d. They can, however, only be considered as approximate, as those rendered from India only reach to July 30; but the estimate, which is made upon the rates at which the bank's funds were invested at the latest dates, will be found rather under than over the amount to be actually realised. The system of agencies and sub-agencies, which were organised in India for the company, is working satisfactorily, both as regards the security which they insure to the operations of the bank, and the extension of its business. Besides the influential firms which are now acting as its agents at the Presidency cities, there are gentlemen of great local experience acting as sub-agents in all the principal cities, towns, and districts in Bengal, Madras, Bombay, Seinde, the North-West Provinces, and Oude. From all these places the directors have most encouraging accounts of the future prospects of the bank in regard to the opportunities afforded for the investment of money in the way of mortgage upon landed property, the titles and securities of which are undoubted. This is confirmed by the bank's inspector, who has recently made a lengthened tour through Bengal, Oude, and the North-West Provinces. The values of

the properties mortgaged, and the validity of the titles under which they are held, are, in all cases, ascertained by the careful examination of the solicitors and agents of the bank, aided by those made by the sub-agents and inspector from their local knowledge and experience.

**BALANCE SHEET—September 30, 1864.**

|   |          |         |       |
|---|----------|---------|-------|
| <b>Dr. LIABILITIES.</b>   |          |         |       |
| Capital paid up, 4l per share on 100,000 shares.....  | £        | 400,000 | 0 0   |
| Debtore capital .....   | £        | 38,060  | 0 0   |
| Bills payable .....   | £        | 15,761  | 17 4  |
| Sundry accounts.....  | £        | 610     | 3 4   |
| Profit and Loss—Balance at credit of this account.....  | £        | 7,975   | 4 7   |
|   |          | 467,407 | 5 3   |
| <b>Cr. ASSETS.</b>  |          |         |       |
| Capital in India, viz.—Invested on mortgages.....   | £132,150 | 0 0     |       |
| Loans on Government securities, and cash at bankers.....  | 250,329  | 19 11   |       |
| Loans on Government securities in London .....  | £        | 382,479 | 19 11 |
| Cash at bankers and in hand .....   | £        | 26,730  | 0 0   |
| Sundry accounts .....   | £        | 13,211  | 0 8   |
| Lesshold premises, No. 17 Change Alley (co-t).....  | £        | 30,546  | 12 1  |
| Office fittings and furniture, London and Calcutta .....  | £        | 8,749   | 19 2  |
|   | £        | 687     | 13 5  |
|   | £        | 467,407 | 5 3   |
| <b>Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.</b>   |          |         |       |
| Current expenses, London and India, viz.—Rent, salaries, advertising, books, stationery, printing, directors' remuneration, &c..... | £        | 5,432   | 4 8   |
| Ten per cent. of preliminary expenses * written off.....  | £        | 1,000   | 0 0   |
| Balance carried down .....  | £        | 7,975   | 4 7   |
|   | £        | 14,407  | 9 3   |
| <b>Cr. PRELIMINARY CHARGES ACCOUNT.</b>   |          |         |       |
| Brokerage and commission .....  | £        | 2,500   | 0 0   |
| Travelling expenses and allowance, managing director's journey to India .....   | £        | 1,905   | 2 0   |
| Stationery, books, printing, &c.....  | £        | 1,318   | 12 11 |
| Adve tising .....   | £        | 1,238   | 13 9  |
| Legal charges .....   | £        | 468     | 12 3  |
| Company's seal for Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras.....  | £        | 164     | 9 10  |
| General charges .....   | £        | 411     | 4 10  |
| Transfer from general management—charges for expenditure to April 30, 1864, according to the articles of association .....          | £        | 1,990   | 15 4  |
|   | £        | 8,997   | 10 11 |
| Sept. 30th—Written off to profit and loss.....  | £        | 1,000   | 0 0   |
|   | £        | 8,997   | 10 11 |

**LIVERPOOL COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.**

The annexed statement published as required by the Act 21 and 22 Vict., cap. 91, is dated August 1, 1864:—

The liability of the shareholders is limited. The capital of the company is one million, divided into fifty thousand shares of twenty pounds each. The number of shares issued is thirty-five thousand. Calls to the amount of ten pounds per share have been made, under which the sum of three hundred and fifty thousand pounds has been received. The liabilities of the company on the first day of August:—Notes issued, nil; deposits not bearing interest, 20,634l 5s 10d; deposits bearing interest, 798,702l 5s 4d; seven day and other bills, 159,511l 11s 7d—total, 978,849l 2s 9d. The assets of the company on that day were:—Government securities, nil; bills of exchange, 818,726l 12s 1d; cash on hand and at bankers, 175,307l 1s 1d—994,033l 13s 2d; loans on mortgage, nil; other loans, 395,691l 11s 3d; bank premises, and other freehold property, 140,000l; other securities, exclusive of unpaid calls on shares, 2,453l—total, 1,532,178l 4s 5d. Assets, as above stated, 1,532,178 4s 5d; liabilities, as above stated, deduct 978,849 2s 9d—553,329l 1s 8d; capital paid up, 350,000l; reserve fund, 183,000l; profit and loss balance, 20,329l 1s 8d—553,329l 1s 8d.

**LONDON CHARTERED BANK OF AUSTRALIA.**

At the annual general meeting of the proprietors of this company, held on June 10, at the London Tavern; William Fane de Salis, Esq., in the chair; the following report was read by the assistant secretary, Mr W. M. Young:—

The present being the period for the annual general meeting of the company, as prescribed by the Royal charter of incorporation and deed of settlement, the directors now submit to the proprietors their twelfth annual report, together with the accounts, duly audited, and showing the state of the bank's affairs for the financial year ending December 31, 1863. During the above period the trade of the colonies, though sound, has been inactive: severe competition between the existing banks has also been the means of depressing the rate of interest. Notwithstanding these facts, it will, however, be gratifying to the proprietors to learn that the material interests of the bank have in no way suffered, and that the directors consider they have every reason to be satisfied with the result of the past year's operations. The latest advices received from the colonies extend to March 24 from Melbourne, and March 22 from Sydney, and are of a favourable character. It is gratifying to the directors to be able to state that Mr Bramwell, the bank's inspector, who has recently arrived in this country on leave of absence, speaks in confident terms of the future prospects of this corporation, as well as the sound character of its business. From Mr Strachan, the secretary of the bank, who has proceeded to Australia to replace Mr Bramwell during his temporary absence, the directors have also received advices by the last mail, confirming the views expressed by Mr Bramwell. It will be observed that the ac-

counts appended to this report are made up, as customary, to December 31 last, from which it appears that, after the usual deductions, and also after making allowance for bad and doubtful debts, there remains to the credit of profit and loss the sum of 52,849l 3s 11d, out of which the directors recommend that a dividend be declared for the half-year of 4 per cent., free of income tax; and that a sum of 5,000l be placed to the reserve fund; leaving to be carried to next account a balance of 7,849l 3s 11d.

**BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1863.**

|   |          |           |       |
|---|----------|-----------|-------|
| <b>LIABILITIES.</b>   |          |           |       |
| Notes in circulation .....  | £        | 117,462   | 0 0   |
| Bills payable and other liabilities .....   | £        | 355,071   | 15 2  |
| Deposits .....  | £        | 597,487   | 5 4   |
|   | £        | 1,070,020 | 0 6   |
| Capital paid up, 1,000,000l; reserve fund, 75,000l; profit and loss, 52,849l 3s 11d .....   | £        | 1,127,869 | 3 11  |
|   | £        | 2,197,870 | 4 4   |
| <b>ASSETS.</b>  |          |           |       |
| Gold and bullion .....  | £200,982 | 5 5       |       |
| Balances due by other banks.....  | £        | 11,348    | 19 1  |
|   | £        | 221,331   | 4 4   |
| Bills receivable and other securities.....  | £        | 1,883,998 | 11 10 |
| Freehold, leasehold, and other property of the corporation .....  | £        | 80,596    | 16 10 |
| Open policies .....   | £        | 1,575     | 1 10  |
| Stamps .....  | £        | 368       | 9 4   |
|   | £        | 2,197,870 | 4 4   |
| <b>Cr. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.</b>   |          |           |       |
| Dividends paid, viz.:—Eighteenth dividend—4 per cent. for half-year ending December 31, 1862, paid July 1, 1863, 40,000l; Nineteenth dividend—4 per cent. for half-year ending June 30, 1863, paid January 1, 1864, 40,000l ..... | £        | 80,000    | 0 0   |
| Reserve fund—Amount transferred at Dec. 31, 1862, 5,000l; at June 30, 1863, 3,000l .....  | £        | 10,000    | 0 0   |
| Balance carried down .....  | £        | 52,849    | 3 11  |
|   | £        | 142,849   | 3 11  |
| <b>Cr.</b>  |          |           |       |
| Balance at December 31, 1862, per last statement.....   | £        | 52,492    | 17 4  |
| Balance of profits in London and in the colonies for the year ending December 31, 1863, after deducting current expenses and making provision for bad and doubtful debts .....  | £        | 90,356    | 6 7   |
|   | £        | 142,849   | 3 11  |

**LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY.**

At the half-yearly meeting of the proprietors, held on August 4, 1864, at the London Tavern, the following report for the year ending June 30, 1864, was read by the secretary:—

The directors in submitting to the proprietors the balance sheet of the bank, for the half-year ending June 30, 1864, have great pleasure in reporting that the net profit for the six months, after deducting all charges, amounts to 109,501l 12s 4d, which added to 16,668l 3s 10d brought forward from the last account, results in a total of 126,169l 16s 2d. Out of this sum the directors have declared a dividend of 6 per cent., and a bonus of 10 per cent. for the half-year, both free of income tax, amounting together to 104,443l, leaving a balance of 21,726l 16s 2d to be carried forward to profit and loss new account. The dividend and bonus will be payable at the head office, or at any of the branches, on and after Monday, August 15.

**Dr. BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.**

|   |            |            |       |
|---|------------|------------|-------|
| Capital paid up .....   | £          | 692,913    | 15 0  |
| Reserve fund .....  | £          | 192,913    | 15 0  |
| Amount due by the bank for customers' balances, &c. £29,299,871 7 4   | £          | 2,868,012  | 11 11 |
| Liabilities on acceptances, circular notes, &c.....   | £          | 12,167,883 | 19 3  |
| Profit and loss balance brought from last account.....  | £          | 16,668     | 3 10  |
| Gross profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts .....   | £          | 290,699    | 2 6   |
|   | £          | 307,367    | 6 4   |
|   | £          | 13,611,078 | 13 7  |
| <b>Cr.</b>  |            |            |       |
| Cash on hand at head office and branches .....  | £1,419,615 | 7 10       |       |
| By cash placed at call and at notice.....   | £          | 1,041,771  | 6 0   |
|   | £          | 2,461,386  | 13 10 |
| Investments, viz.:—Government and guaranteed stocks .....   | £          | 846,337    | 14 8  |
| Other stocks and securities.....  | £          | 105,175    | 11 10 |
|   | £          | 951,513    | 6 6   |
| Discounted bills, and advances to customers in town and country... Freehold premises in Lombard street and Nicholas lane, freehold and leasehold property at the branches, with fixtures and fittings ..... | £          | 9,677,737  | 17 10 |
| Interest paid to customers .....  | £          | 121,634    | 11 7  |
| Salaries and all other expenses at head office and branches, including income tax on profits and salaries .....   | £          | 76,354     | 13 11 |
|   | £          | 72,315     | 9 11  |
|   | £          | 13,861,078 | 13 7  |
| <b>Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.</b>   |            |            |       |
| Interest paid to customers .....  | £          | 76,354     | 13 11 |
| Expenses as above .....   | £          | 72,315     | 9 11  |
| Rebate on bills not due, carried to new account .....   | £          | 32,527     | 4 4   |
| Dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year .....   | £          | 39,166     | 2 6   |
| Bonus of 10 per cent. .....   | £          | 65,276     | 17 6  |
| Balance carried forward .....   | £          | 21,726     | 16 2  |
|   | £          | 307,367    | 6 4   |
| <b>Cr.</b>  |            |            |       |
| Balance brought forward from last account .....   | £          | 16,668     | 3 10  |
| Gross profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts.....  | £          | 290,699    | 2 6   |
|   | £          | 307,367    | 6 4   |

**LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK.**

At a general meeting of the shareholders, held at the banking house, in Princes street, Mansion house, on July 21, 1864, the following report was presented:—

The annexed accounts, which the directors have much pleasure in laying before the meeting, will inform the shareholders that during the six months, ending the 30th ult., the bank has made

a net profit of 124,476/ 7s 10d, out of which they will receive the usual dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, with a bonus of 1/ per share, leaving a balance of 26,976/ 7s 10d to be carried to profit and loss new account, for appropriation at the end of the year. The guarantee fund has been credited with the accruing interest and debited with the depreciation ascertained on the re-valuation of Government securities held by the bank, and now amounts to 276,301/ 7s 8d. The directors have not succeeded in their endeavours to obtain, by means of an Act of Parliament, the necessary powers to effect the contemplated partial capitalisation of this fund, and the removal of the restrictions by which the deed of settlement of the Company has hitherto limited its application to specific objects. Their bill was met at an advanced stage of its progress in the House of Lords by an objection, which made it evident that it would not be allowed to pass, and that to proceed further would only entail useless expense. The plan of dealing with the guarantee fund in the manner suggested at the last meeting was therefore necessarily abandoned, but the circumstances of the present time having forcibly brought under the consideration of the directors the expediency of making a substantial addition to the capital of the bank, commensurate with its enlarged and increasing business, they have decided to convene, for Thursday, the 18th proximo, a special general meeting of shareholders, when a resolution will be proposed to increase the capital to four millions by 20,000 new shares, 12,000 of which to be at once offered rateably to the proprietors of the existing shares, at a premium of 30/ per share, and the remaining 8,000 to be issued hereafter, at the discretion of the directors, to the then shareholders. The premium to be received on the 12,000 new shares to be capitalised rateably amongst all the shareholders, whereby the capital of the bank will be increased to 72,000 shares of 50/ each, paid up to the extent of 15/ per share, thus raising the paid-up capital, on the completion of the first issue, to 1,080,000/.

The dividend and bonus, free from income tax, will be payable on and after Friday, the 29th instant. The preceding report having been read to the meeting by the secretary, a dividend for the half-year ending the 30th June last, after the rate of 12½ per centum per annum, and a further division of 1/ per share, out of the net profits of the half-year ending as above, were declared by the chairman.

| LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, June 30, 1864.  |       | £          | s  | d  |
|---|-------|------------|----|----|
| Capital paid up, viz., 60,000 shares at 10/ each  | ..... | 600,000    | 0  | 0  |
| Amount due by the bank  | ..... | 14,959,919 | 17 | 3  |
| Amount of "the guarantee fund," December 31, 1863   | ..... | 2,279,759  | 19 | 8  |
| Six months' interest on ditto, at 3/ per cent. per annum  | ..... | 4,196      | 5  | 0  |
|   | ..... | 283,956    | 7  | 8  |
| Loss decrease since the valuation on December 31, 1863, in the market value of Government securities held by the bank | ..... | 7,655      | 0  | 0  |
| Amount carried to profit and loss account   | ..... | 276,301    | 7  | 8  |
|   | ..... | 190,030    | 15 | 9  |
|   | ..... | 16,025,982 | 0  | 8  |
|   | ..... | 1,025,070  | 8  | 3  |
|   | ..... | 14,959,919 | 17 | 3  |
|   | ..... | 255,600    |    |    |
|   | ..... | 6,250      |    |    |
|   | ..... | 41,850     | 0  | 0  |
|   | ..... | 16,025,982 | 0  | 8  |
|   | ..... | 1,025,070  | 8  | 3  |
|   | ..... | 60,000     | 0  | 0  |
|   | ..... | 26,976     | 7  | 10 |
|   | ..... | 190,030    | 15 | 9  |
|   | ..... | 190,030    | 15 | 9  |

**LONDON, BIRMINGHAM, & SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE BANK, LIMITED.**

Annexed is the report and balance sheet, presented at the second ordinary meeting of shareholders, held at the head office, 110 Cheapside, on Aug. 2, 1864, John Bethell, Esq., in the chair. Your directors beg to lay before you a statement of accounts for the half year ending June 30, showing the gross profit to amount to the sum of 14,728/ 14s 10d, inclusive of the sum of 1,211/ 14s 2d brought forward from Dec. 31, 1863. After deducting interest on customer's balances, &c., 3,297/ 19s 1d, and current expenses of every denomination, including provision for doubtful and bad debts, 4,686/ 7s 3d, there remains a net balance of 6,744/ 8s 6d, which your directors propose to deal with in the following manner, viz.:—to declare a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on both the first and second issues of capital, which will absorb the sum of 2,536/ 17s 11d, and to carry over the balance of 4,206/ 10s 7d to profit and loss new account. When it is remembered that the paid-up capital of the bank on Jan. 1 last amounted to but 69,523/ 10s, it cannot be otherwise than satisfactory to the proprietors to find the business in so healthy and promising a condition. During the half-year new premises, in a more eligible position, have been taken for the Burton

branch, a change which has already been productive of increased business; while the very encouraging success of the Longton branch, has induced your directors to establish another branch at Burslem, in the immediate district, where there is every promise of profitable results. From these facts, and from the figures laid before you, your directors might well have felt confident in the development of a sound and lucrative business, from their own resources, and limited to their original scheme. It has nevertheless appeared to them that the interests of the shareholders would be still better advanced by the amalgamation of the bank with another of equal capital and prosperity. The preliminaries of such an amalgamation have therefore been concluded, the particulars of which will be shortly announced. Mr Eugene Collins has been elected a member of the board of directors, the business of which has been much assisted by his banking experience and connection.

| BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.   |       | £        | s       | d  |
|--|-------|----------|---------|----|
| Capital subscribed, viz.:—5,000 shares of 100/ each, on which has been called  | ..... | £110,057 |         |    |
| 3,524 new shares   | ..... | 9,897    | 119,954 | 0  |
| Amount due by the bank on customers' accounts, deposits, loans, & liabilities on acceptances, and letters of credit, &c. | ..... | 209,458  | 16      | 6  |
| Balance of profit and loss account, after payment of all expenses  | ..... | 6,744    | 8       | 6  |
|  | ..... | 336,157  | 5       | 0  |
|  | ..... | 28,052   | 6       | 5  |
|  | ..... | 291,010  | 18      | 11 |
|  | ..... | 9,335    | 8       | 11 |
|  | ..... | 9,858    | 10      | 9  |
|  | ..... | 336,157  | 5       | 0  |
|  | ..... | 3,297    | 19      | 1  |
|  | ..... | 4,686    | 7       | 3  |
|  | ..... | 2,537    | 17      | 11 |
|  | ..... | 4,206    | 10      | 7  |
|  | ..... | 14,728   | 14      | 10 |
|  | ..... | 1,211    | 14      | 2  |
|  | ..... | 13,517   | 0       | 8  |
|  | ..... | 14,728   | 14      | 10 |

**LONDON AND NORTHERN, LIMITED.**

The following is the report presented to the shareholders at the ordinary half-yearly meeting, held at Leeds, July 28, 1864:—

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders a statement of the affairs of the bank up to June 30 last, by which it will be seen that, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, the directors are in a position to recommend a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, and to carry forward to the credit of the present half-year's interest account 2,656/ 5s 2d. Since the last report the directors have opened a branch at Sheffield, under the management of Mr Chambers, late of the Sheffield and Rotherham bank, and are happy to report that the business fully equals their expectations. The rapidly increasing demand of the present branches, and the representations received by the directors as to the desirability of commencing business in other important towns, makes it necessary to increase the capital of the bank. The directors therefore propose to issue the remaining 4,000 shares at a premium of 2/ per share, giving the shareholders and customers of the bank the preference in the allotment.

**BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.**

| BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.           |       | £       | s  | d  |
|--|-------|---------|----|----|
| Capital                                | ..... | 119,520 | 0  | 0  |
| Current deposit, and other accounts    | ..... | 186,892 | 13 | 7  |
| Outstanding liabilities on drafts, &c. | ..... | 41,237  | 1  | 4  |
| Reserve fund                           | ..... | 2,000   | 0  | 0  |
| In great Account—                      | ..... |         |    |    |
| Interest received                      | ..... | £16,861 | 3  | 1  |
| Interest paid                          | ..... | 5,841   | 8  | 6  |
|  | ..... | 11,019  | 14 | 7  |
|  | ..... | 360,609 | 9  | 6  |
|  | ..... | 308,153 | 3  | 10 |
|  | ..... | 488     | 8  | 8  |
|  | ..... | 13,429  | 10 | 9  |
|  | ..... | 5,731   | 9  | 5  |
|  | ..... | 37,866  | 16 | 10 |
|  | ..... | 360,609 | 9  | 6  |
|  | ..... | 5,731   | 9  | 5  |
|  | ..... | 2,632   | 0  | 0  |
|  | ..... | 2,046   | 14 | 8  |
|  | ..... | 619     | 19 | 6  |
|  | ..... | 11,019  | 14 | 7  |
|  | ..... | 11,019  | 14 | 7  |
|  | ..... | 2,036   | 14 | 8  |
|  | ..... | 619     | 19 | 6  |
|  | ..... | 2,000   | 0  | 0  |

**LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.**

At the half-yearly meeting, held at the bank in Lothbury, July 20, 1864, David Salomons, Esq., Alderman, M.P., in the chair, the following report was adopted:—

The directors have to report that, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, paying the income tax, and setting

apart 2,000l towards the buildings of the bank, the net profits of the bank for the last half-year amount to 234,032l 3s 8d. This sum, added to 18,844l 12s 9d the unappropriated balance of the preceding half-year, will amount to 252,876l 16s 5d. Out of this amount, interest on the rest or surplus fund at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum (6,898l 16s 7d) has been added to that fund, which now amounts to 282,852l 1s 2d. As the shareholders are aware, an arrangement was entered into with Messrs Jones, Loyd, and Co., for a transfer of their business on April 18 last. The sum paid, including their valuable freehold premises (at present temporarily used as the country office) is 187,500l. The directors now declare a dividend to the shareholders at the rate of six per cent. per annum, and by way of further dividend out of the profits, a bonus of eleven per cent. on the paid-up capital. The sum of 80,000l has been appropriated in reduction of the amount paid to Messrs Jones, Loyd, and Co. After these payments are made there will remain a balance of 25,977l 19s 10d. Out of this amount the directors recommend that the sum of 17,147l 18s 10d be added to the rest or surplus fund, which will then amount to 300,000l. This will leave a balance of 8,830l 1s to be carried to the profit and loss account for the present half-year. The directors desire to express their opinion that the rest should be increased to the sum of 500,000l.

|            |  |            |    |    |
|------------|--|------------|----|----|
| <b>Dr.</b> | <b>Proprietors for paid-up capital</b> .....   | 1,000,000  | 0  | 0  |
|            | Amount due by the bank on deposits, circular notes, dividends and other monies payable on demand .....   | 18,516,083 | 14 | 2  |
|            | Rest or surplus fund .....   | 275,933    | 4  | 7  |
|            | Balance of profit and loss account, 31st December, 1863.....   | 18,844     | 12 | 9  |
|            | Net profits of the past half-year.....   | 234,032    | 3  | 8  |
|            |  | 20,044,913 | 15 | 2  |
| <b>Cr.</b> | Government stock, Exchequer bills, and India bonds .....   | 2,492,412  | 9  | 0  |
|            | Bills discounted, loans to customers, and other securities .....   | 16,035,895 | 9  | 10 |
|            | Cash in hand .....   | 1,516,695  | 16 | 4  |
|            |  | 20,044,913 | 15 | 2  |
|            | <b>PROFIT AND LOSS.</b>  |            |    |    |
| <b>Dr.</b> | Total expenditure of the eight establishments, including rent, taxes, salaries, stationery, &c. ....   | 50,698     | 17 | 0  |
|            | Amount set apart towards the buildings of the bank .....   | 2,090      | 0  | 0  |
|            | Amount added to rest or surplus fund by interest thereon at five per cent. per annum.....  | 6,898      | 16 | 7  |
|            | Payment of the dividend now declared, at the rate of six per cent. per annum, for the last half-year on the paid-up capital of 1,000,000l..... | 30,000     | 0  | 0  |
|            | Bonus of eleven per cent. on the capital .....   | 110,000    | 0  | 0  |
|            | Payment on account of Messrs Jones, Loyd, and Co.....  | 80,000     | 0  | 0  |
|            | Balance of profit and loss account.....  | 25,977     | 19 | 10 |
|            |  | 305,579    | 13 | 5  |
| <b>Cr.</b> | Balance of profit and loss account, December 31, 1863 .....  | 18,844     | 12 | 9  |
|            | Gross profits of the last half-year, after paying the income tax, and making provision for all bad and doubtful debts .....                    | 282,852    | 1  | 2  |
|            |  | 305,579    | 13 | 5  |
| <b>Dr.</b> | <b>REST OR SURPLUS FUND.</b>   |            |    |    |
|            | Present amount .....   | 282,852    | 1  | 2  |
| <b>Cr.</b> | Amount on January 1, 1864 .....  | 275,933    | 4  | 7  |
|            | Interest on ditto, at 5 per cent. per annum.....   | 6,898      | 16 | 7  |
|            |  | 282,852    | 1  | 2  |

**MANCHESTER AND COUNTY BANK, LIMITED.**

At the third ordinary general meeting held on July 26, 1864, the following report was submitted to the shareholders:—  
The directors have pleasure in submitting to the shareholders the balance sheet for the half-year ending June 30, 1864, which they cannot doubt will be considered satisfactory. The net profit for the half-year is 27,946l, from which the directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of six per cent. per annum (free of income tax) upon the old capital of the bank, and one month's interest at the same rate upon the June call. The balance they propose to appropriate as shown in the annexed statement. The directors have to report that there has been a steady increase in the business of the bank. The new premises now occupied in York street are found convenient and well suited for banking purposes, and a considerable portion of that unoccupied by the bank has been advantageously let. Preliminary arrangements have been made to open a branch at Burnley.

|            |   |           |    |    |
|------------|---|-----------|----|----|
| <b>Dr.</b> | <b>BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.</b>                               |           |    |    |
|            | Capital, being 121 10s paid on 32,746 shares.....                 | £409,325  | 0  | 0  |
|            | June call not paid.....   | 3,527     | 10 | 0  |
|            |   | 405,797   | 10 | 0  |
|            | Lodgements on current and deposit accounts, &c. ....              | 1,155,069 | 16 | 4  |
|            | Balance, Dec. 31, 1863.....                                       | 21,374    | 11 | 4  |
|            | Gross balance as below .....                                      | 44,266    | 11 | 0  |
|            |   | 45,641    | 2  | 4  |
|            | Deduct expenses .....   | 5,694     | 16 | 4  |
|            |   | 39,946    | 6  | 0  |
| <b>Cr.</b> |   | 1,601,413 | 12 | 4  |
|            | Bills of exchange, loans, credits, &c. ....                       | 1,366,124 | 14 | 6  |
|            | Bank property .....   | 25,835    | 14 | 10 |
|            | Furniture .....   | 1,000     | 0  | 0  |
|            | Cash on hand at Bank of England, at bankers, and at brokers ..... | 208,453   | 3  | 0  |
|            |   | 1,601,413 | 12 | 4  |
| <b>Dr.</b> | <b>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.</b>                                   |           |    |    |
|            | Expenses, including income tax .....                              | 5,694     | 16 | 4  |
|            | Rebate on bills not due .....                                     | 12,000    | 0  | 0  |
|            | Guarantee account to meet bad and doubtful debts.....             | £3,000    | 0  | 0  |
|            | Reserve fund.....   | 10,000    | 0  | 0  |
|            | Dividend at 6 per cent. as per report .....                       | 10,233    | 2  | 6  |
|            | Building property (in reduction) .....                            | 2,000     | 0  | 0  |
|            | Balance carried forward.....                                      | 2,713     | 3  | 6  |
|            |   | 27,946    | 6  | 0  |
|            |   | 45,641    | 2  | 4  |

|            |  |        |    |   |
|------------|--|--------|----|---|
| <b>Cr.</b> | Balance, December, 1863 .....  | £1,274 | 11 | 4 |
|            | Gross profit (as above) for the six months ending June 30, 1864..... | 44,266 | 11 | 0 |
|            |  | 45,641 | 2  | 4 |

**MERCANTILE AND EXCHANGE BANK, LIMITED.**

The following report was presented to the shareholders, at the second general meeting of the company, held in Liverpool, on August 19, 1864:—

The directors, in the discharge of their duty, have now the pleasure to report to the proprietors upon the business of the bank for the second half-year of its existence, ending June 30 last. They call attention to the ample details of the working of the bank, shown in the annexed balance sheet, by which it will be seen that the gross profits for the half-year have been 33,018l 16s, and that, deducting expenses of management, directors' fees, bad debts, and income tax, 9,748l 10s 9d, and rebating undue bills, at 6 per cent., 6,598l 17s 2d:—

|            |   |        |    |   |
|------------|---|--------|----|---|
| <b>Dr.</b> | The net profits are .....   | £      | s  | d |
|            | To which is to be added—Balance of profit and loss, at December 31, 1863..... | £326   | 11 | 2 |
|            | Dividend on 25 forfeited shares .....   | 7      | 0  | 0 |
|            |   | 333    | 11 | 2 |
|            | Premium received on 20,000 new shares .....                                   | 17,005 | 19 | 3 |
|            |   | 40,000 | 0  | 0 |
|            |   | 57,005 | 19 | 3 |
|            | Balance at credit of reserve fund, December 31, 1863 .....                    | £6,747 | 0  | 0 |
|            | Amount transferred to reserve fund, December 31, 1863 .....                   | 594    | 0  | 0 |
|            | Premium on 25 forfeited shares.....   | 295    | 0  | 0 |
|            |   | 7,636  | 0  | 0 |

And there is left a sum of..... 64,641 19 3

**With which the directors propose to deal as follows:—**

|  |         |    |   |
|--|---------|----|---|
| Increase the reserve fund to .....                   | £43,890 | 11 | 4 |
| Pay off entire balance of preliminary expenses ..... | 2,745   | 8  | 8 |
| Pay a dividend, free of income tax, of—              |         |    |   |
| 11s 4d per share on 20,000 shares,                   |         |    |   |
| first issue.....                                     | £11,333 | 6  | 8 |
| 5s 8d per share on 20,000 shares, second issue ..... | 5,666   | 13 | 4 |
|  | 17,000  | 0  | 0 |
|  | 64,636  | 0  | 0 |

To carry to profit and loss new account .....

The paid-up capital, which was 198,476l on December 31, 1863, stood on June 30, 1864, at 311,217l, and, basing the average upon the due dates of the calls as they were made, the mean capital worked during the half-year has been 258,250l, and the dividend is, therefore, equal to more than 13 per cent. per annum thereon. This distribution, viewed in connection with the extinction of the entire amount of the preliminary expenses, attests the advantageous working, and the satisfactory progress of the bank. Steadily adhering to the intention of the founders of the bank, that Liverpool should be afforded facilities for its foreign exchange, the directors report that this branch of its business is profitable and successful. The American agency continues to be worked to advantage, and, under encouraging prospects, the directors have opened an agency for Canada at Montreal. The directors are occupied in working out the fusion with the London Bank of Scotland, sanctioned by the shareholders at their extraordinary meetings of July 5 and 22. The arrangements necessary to this end involve the dissolution of the London Bank of Scotland, the winding up of its accounts, and the transfer of its entire business, and lead to some delay, but your board will continue to urge them forward with all practicable expedition. On the completion of these arrangements, immediate steps will be taken to distribute amongst the present proprietors the bonus to be paid by the London Bank of Scotland. The addition to your reserved fund to be made by that institution will be 21,945l, raising that fund to 65,835l. The capital of the bank, as now sanctioned by the shareholders, stands at 4,000,000l, in 80,000 shares of 50l each, and the issue will, after the fusion, be as follows:—40,000 shares now held by the Mercantile and Exchange Bank proprietors; 22,000 shares to be distributed amongst the proprietors of the London Bank of Scotland; 15,000 shares to be distributed amongst the proprietors of the bank, after fusion; 3,000 shares left for distribution in furtherance of the business of the bank—80,000 shares. The paid-up capital of the bank will be augmented to 800,000l on the full completion of the issue of these shares, and the assimilation of the calls upon the whole at 10l per share.

|            |  |           |    |    |
|------------|--|-----------|----|----|
| <b>Dr.</b> | <b>LIABILITIES AND ASSETS—June 30, 1864.</b>   |           |    |    |
|            | Capital account:—£10 paid on 20,000 shares of first issue .....                              | £200,000  | 0  | 0  |
|            | £5 paid on 20,000 shares of second issue .....   | 100,000   | 0  | 0  |
|            | £5 paid on 2,107 shares of second issue .....  | 10,535    | 0  | 0  |
|            | £2 10s paid on 273 shares of second issue .....  | 682       | 10 | 0  |
|            |  | 311,217   | 10 | 0  |
|            | Premium of £2 per share, received on second issue of 20,000 shares.....                      | 40,000    | 0  | 0  |
|            | Reserved fund .....  | 3,890     | 11 | 4  |
|            | Amount due on current, deposit, and other accounts .....                                     | 1,236,476 | 7  | 10 |
|            | Profit and loss account .....  | 33,018    | 16 | 0  |
|            |  | 1,624,603 | 5  | 2  |
| <b>Cr.</b> |  |           |    |    |
|            | Cash at head office and branches, at Bank of England, and at call.....                       | 202,631   | 17 | 2  |
|            | Bills of exchange, loans to customers, other securities, &c. ....                            | 1,376,750 | 16 | 4  |
|            | New bank premises, fittings and furniture at Liverpool, London, and Glasgow, stamps, &c..... | 28,874    | 3  | 9  |
|            | Current expenses, bad and doubtful debts, and income tax .....                               | 9,747     | 10 | 9  |
|            | Rebate on bills not due .....  | 6,598     | 17 | 2  |
|            |  | 1,624,603 | 5  | 2  |

**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—Half-Year ending June 30, 1864.**

| Dr.  | £      | s  | d  |
|--|--------|----|----|
| Current expenses—Cost of management and directors' fees at the three establishments, bad and doubtful debts, and income tax..... | £9,747 | 10 | 9  |
| Rebate on bills not due at 6 per cent. ....  | 6,598  | 17 | 2  |
|  | 16,346 | 7  | 11 |
| Dividend, free of income tax, of—11s 4d per share on 20,000 shares of first issue .....  | 11,333 | 6  | 8  |
| At 4d per share on 20,000 shares of second issue .....   | 5,666  | 13 | 4  |
|  | 17,000 | 0  | 0  |
| Transfer to reserved fund account—Premium on 20,000 new shares (as per contra).....  | 40,000 | 0  | 0  |
| Profit and loss—New account .....  | 5      | 19 | 3  |
|  | 73,352 | 7  | 2  |
| Cr.  | £      | s  | d  |
| Amount at credit of profit and loss account, Dec. 31, 1863 .....   | £326   | 11 | 2  |
| Add dividend on 28 forfeited shares .....  | 7      | 0  | 0  |
|  | 338    | 11 | 2  |
| Gross profits to June 30, 1864 .....   | 33,018 | 16 | 0  |
| Premium received on 20,000 new shares .....  | 33,352 | 7  | 2  |
|  | 40,000 | 0  | 0  |
|  | 73,352 | 7  | 2  |
| By.  | £      | s  | d  |
| Balance of preliminary expenses written off.....   | 3,745  | 8  | 8  |
| Balance .....  | 43,890 | 11 | 4  |
|  | 47,636 | 0  | 0  |
| Cr.  | £      | s  | d  |
| Balance, December 31, 1863 .....   | 6,747  | 0  | 0  |
| Transfer from account, profit and loss .....   | 594    | 0  | 0  |
| Premium on 20,000 new shares .....   | 40,000 | 0  | 0  |
| Do. on 28 forfeited shares .....   | 295    | 0  | 0  |
|  | 47,636 | 0  | 0  |

**METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.**

At the fifth ordinary meeting of the proprietors, held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate street, on Tuesday, July 19, 1864, Charles Gilpin, Esq., M.P., in the chair, the following report was unanimously received and adopted:—

The directors beg to present to the shareholders a statement of the accounts of the bank for the half-year ending the 30th June, showing, after the payment of interest on deposit and current accounts, an available profit of 58,016/ 10s 9d. Of this sum, 31,000/ have been received as premium on the new issue of shares, the whole of which, together with 3,000/ from the ordinary profits of the half-year, your directors have added to the reserve fund, which now amounts to 40,000/. Consequent on the satisfactory progress of the bank, the directors have the pleasure to recommend a dividend on the old shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 3s per share (being equal to 7½ per cent. per annum), all free of income tax. After the payment of dividend, bonus, and interest,—the addition to the reserve fund—the current expenses of the half-year,—and writing off to the fullest extent every bad and doubtful debt, and the proportion of preliminary expenses, a balance of 4,789/ 9s 6d remains to be carried forward to the profit and loss new account for the current half-year.

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS—June 30, 1864.**

| Dr.   | £         | s  | d  |
|---|-----------|----|----|
| Capital account—13,000 shares, 20/ paid, 280,000/; 7,000 shares, 5/ paid (May 2) 35,000/.....   | 295,000   | 0  | 0  |
| Reserved fund account.....  | 6,000     | 0  | 0  |
| Amount due by the bank on current, deposit, and other accounts .....  | 1,060,683 | 12 | 4  |
| Surplus profit last half-year, 1,874/ 6s 11d; balance of profit and loss present half-year (after paying interest on current and deposit accounts), 56,142/ 3s 10d..... | 58,016    | 10 | 9  |
|   | 1,419,705 | 3  | 1  |
| Cr.   | £         | s  | d  |
| Investments—Consols, East India debentures, City bonds, &c. ....  | 58,191    | 5  | 0  |
| Bills discounted, loans, &c .....   | 1,192,934 | 16 | 1  |
| Freehold and leasehold property, furniture, bank fittings (head office and branches), and preliminary expenses .....  | 22,559    | 6  | 2  |
| Cash in hand and at call (head office and branches).....  | 116,019   | 15 | 10 |
|   | 1,419,705 | 3  | 1  |

**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—June 30, 1864.**

| Dr.  | £      | s  | d |
|--|--------|----|---|
| Current expenses, including salaries, rent, stationery (head office and branches), directors' remuneration, bad debts, &c.....   | 8,115  | 1  | 3 |
| Amount written off preliminary expense account .....   | 925    | 0  | 0 |
| Payment of dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on 13,000 shares, 7,800/; bonus on ditto at 3s per share, 1,957/; interest at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum on 7,000 new shares, 437/..... | 10,187 | 0  | 0 |
| Reserve fund—Premium on new shares, 31,000/; from half-year's profits, 3,000/.....   | 34,000 | 0  | 0 |
| Balance transferred to profit and loss (new account), including rebate of interest on bills discounted not yet due.....  | 4,789  | 9  | 6 |
|  | 58,016 | 10 | 9 |
| Cr.  | £      | s  | d |
| Balance of profit and loss .....   | 58,016 | 10 | 9 |
|  | 58,016 | 10 | 9 |
| By.  | £      | s  | d |
| Amount from last half-year .....   | 6,000  | 0  | 0 |
| Amount now added .....   | 34,000 | 0  | 0 |
|  | 40,000 | 0  | 0 |

**MIDLAND BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.**

Annexed is the report of the directors presented to the shareholders at the second ordinary general meeting, held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate street, on July 22, 1864:—

Pursuant to the articles of association, the directors have now to lay before the shareholders a statement of accounts, and balance sheet for the half-year ending June 30, 1864, duly certified by the auditors. From the balance sheet it will appear that the gross profits for the half-year, including 1,713/ 16s 2d brought forward from last account, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, have been 11,704/ 8s 3d, and that after deducting interest

paid to customers, &c., rebate of interest on bills discounted and not due, and all the current expenses of the bank, there remains a balance of 3,543/ 11s 8d. The directors recommend that out of this last-mentioned sum there should be 370/ 12s 3d written off preliminary expenses, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum; that 1,459/ 5s 2d should be appropriated to the payment of a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, upon the shares of the company, upon which 15/ per share have been paid; that 1,000/ should be placed to the credit of a reserve fund; and that the balance, 713/ 14s 3d, should be carried forward to profit and loss new account. During the half-year branches were opened at Peterborough, Shrewsbury, and a branch has since been established in the important city of Lincoln, with every prospect of ultimate success. The directors have every reason to be satisfied with the result of the operations of the branches generally, and they believe the shareholders will be of opinion that the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent., free of income tax, and the formation of a reserve fund, out of legitimate banking profits so soon after the establishment of the bank, are facts which justify the anticipation of a large amount of future success.

**BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1864.**

| Dr.   | £        | s  | d |
|---|----------|----|---|
| Capital paid up .....   | 64,374   | 0  | 0 |
| Amount due by the bank on current, deposit, and other accounts .....            | £191,054 | 16 | 4 |
| Drafts on agents outstanding and liabilities on acceptances by the bank.....    | 47,605   | 17 | 6 |
|   | 298,660  | 13 | 1 |
| Profit and loss balance brought from last account .....                         | £1,713   | 16 | 2 |
| Gross profit for the half-year, less provision for bad and doubtful debts ..... | 9,990    | 12 | 1 |
|   | 11,704   | 8  |   |
|   | 314,739  | 2  | 1 |

| Cr.   | £       | s  | d |
|---|---------|----|---|
| Purchase of freehold and copyhold property, and bank fittings at head office and branches .....                     | 9,256   | 11 | 7 |
| Purchase of business at Wolverhampton and also at Hereford.....   | 6,000   | 0  | 0 |
| Cash on hand .....  | 81,970  | 6  | 7 |
| Bills and promissory notes discounted and other advances to customers   | 252,450 | 7  | 0 |
| Preliminary expenses and expenses in establishing branches.....   | 7,412   | 4  | 6 |
| Current expenses, including all salaries, rents, &c., at head office and branches, and directors' remuneration..... | 3,811   | 19 | 9 |
| Interest paid on current and deposit accounts, &c.....  | 3,837   | 18 | 8 |
|   | 314,739 | 2  | 1 |

| Dr.  | £      | s  | d |
|--|--------|----|---|
| Current expenses, as above .....                                     | 3,811  | 19 | 9 |
| Interest paid to customers, &c.....                                  | 3,837  | 18 | 8 |
| Rebate on bills not due carried to new account.....                  | 510    | 18 | 2 |
| Amount written off preliminary expenses.....                         | 370    | 12 | 3 |
| Dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year..... | 1,459  | 5  | 2 |
| Reserve fund .....   | 1,000  | 0  | 0 |
| Balance carried forward.....   | 713    | 14 | 3 |
|  | 11,704 | 8  | 3 |

| Cr.  | £      | s  | d |
|--|--------|----|---|
| Balance brought from last account.....   | 1,713  | 16 | 2 |
| Gross profit for the half-year, less provision for bad and doubtful debts..... | 9,990  | 12 | 1 |
|  | 11,704 | 8  | 3 |

**NATIONAL BANK.**

The following is the report of the directors for the half-year ending June 30, 1864:—

The directors of the National Bank have much pleasure in presenting to the proprietors their report of the state of the Society, made up to June 30, 1864. This statement is the first of a series of half-yearly reports to be issued in accordance with resolutions of the proprietors passed at the special general meetings held on 5th and 6th July. The report of the directors for the year 1863, issued so lately as May 24, and the address from the chair at the last annual general meeting, have placed the proprietors fully in possession of the proceedings of the bank up to that date. The following accounts in the usual form will supply the shareholders with the actual results of the half-year's operations.

**ASSETS AND LIABILITIES—June 30, 1864.**

| ASSETS.  |  | £         | s  | d  |
|--|--|-----------|----|----|
| Gold and silver coin at branches .....   |  | 574,523   | 0  | 0  |
| Cash on hand at the Bank of England, advances on bullion, and at call .....                      |  | 1,365,817 | 9  | 5  |
| Government funds, exchequer bills, exchequer bonds, and debentures                               |  | 225,948   | 17 | 2  |
| Advances on Government stock, and sundry secured loans at short dates and current accounts ..... |  | 1,167,944 | 2  | 10 |
| Bills discounted .....   |  | 3,431,845 | 17 | 3  |
| Bank premises, London and branches .....   |  | 98,556    | 2  | 10 |
|  |  | 6,864,635 | 15 | 6  |

| LIABILITIES.   |  | £         | s  | d  |
|--|--|-----------|----|----|
| Paid-up capital .....  |  | 700,000   | 0  | 0  |
| Notes in circulation .....                                     |  | 1,161,877 | 5  | 0  |
| Due by the bank on deposit receipts, current accounts, &c..... |  | 4,284,016 | 12 | 8  |
| Rest or undivided profits at this date .....                   |  | 718,741   | 17 | 10 |
|  |  | 6,864,635 | 15 | 6  |

| Dr.  | £       | s  | d  |
|--|---------|----|----|
| Half-year's dividend at 8 per cent. per annum on 20,000 shares, 30/ paid ..... | 24,000  | 0  | 0  |
| Extra dividend of 16s per share on ditto .....                                 | 16,000  | 0  | 0  |
| June 30. Balance at credit of profit and loss at this date.....                | 718,741 | 17 | 10 |
|  | 768,741 | 17 | 10 |

| Cr.  | £        | s  | d  |
|--|----------|----|----|
| Balance, being—Rest or undivided profits at December, 1863 .....   | 169,174  | 16 | 10 |
| Net profit for the half-year to June 30, 1864, after writing off all bad, and providing for doubtful debts.....  | £109,725 | 1  | 0  |
| Less rebate of interest on bills not due .....   | 20,161   | 0  | 0  |
|  | 89,567   | 1  | 0  |
| Premium of 25/ per share on 20,000 shares, issued agreeably to resolutions of the 23rd and 24th March, 1864..... | 500,000  | 0  | 0  |
|  | 768,741  | 1  | 10 |

By these accounts the proprietors will observe that in addition to the 500,000/ profit on the issue of new shares, the net ordinary profits of the bank for the half-year to the 30th June amounted to 89,567/ 1s. In estimating the progress of the bank, this sum has to be compared with a profit of 49,067/ 15s 10d, which was the amount earned for the corresponding half-year of 1863. The directors have however declared their ordinary and extraordinary dividends at the same rates as on the last occasion, feeling that, until the new and old shares shall stand paid up to an equal amount, viz., 30/ per share, it will be more equitable to accumulate in the reserve fund the amount of profits realised in excess of the rates of dividends latterly paid. For the half-year ending the 30th June the dividend on the old shares is therefore declared at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, with an extra dividend of 16s per share, making together 2/ per share for the half-year, and the dividend on the new shares is declared in gross at 6s 8d per share, the dividends on both being free of income tax. The increase to the rest or undivided profits (including the premium on new shares) will therefore, after the payment of these dividends, amount on the half-year to 542,900/ 7s 8d. On the 18th instant the directors opened their fourth Metropolitan branch at Pimlico. They have also taken premises at Belfast, and will open in that important town in a few weeks. The next annual general meeting of the bank, conformably to the resolutions of the special general meeting of the 5th and 6th instant, will be held on Tuesday, the 31st January, 1865. The directors hope then to announce to the proprietors an equally satisfactory state of affairs, as there is ample evidence of the growing appreciation by the public and the customers of the bank of the policy whereby this institution has expanded its capital and permanent resources in an equal ratio with its general liabilities, and to an extent proportionate to the business it undertakes to conduct. The dividends and extra dividends, free of income tax, will be payable at the head office, 13 Old Broad street, E.C., and at the several branches of the bank, on and after Monday, the 8th August next.

#### NATIONAL BANK OF LIVERPOOL, LIMITED.

The following report of the directors was submitted to the proprietors at an extraordinary general meeting, held in Liverpool, July 26, 1864:—

The directors of the National Bank of Liverpool, Limited, have great pleasure in presenting to the proprietors their second report on the business of the company, and the balance sheet to June 30, 1864. During the past half-year the business of the bank has been steadily and satisfactorily progressive. Since the 1st January (when the paid-up capital was 110,000/), calls of 40,000/ payable March 1, and of 50,000/ payable June 10, have been made; the average capital of the bank for the half-year ending June 30, is, therefore, computed at 142,000/. The net profit for the same period, after deducting 6,016/ rebate at 5 per cent. on bills current, is 12,920/ 2s 10d, being at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum; to which has further to be added 3,344/ 2s 6d, brought forward from previous account. These give a total of 16,264/ 5s 4d available for distribution, and which the directors have applied as follows:—

|   |        |   |   |
|---|--------|---|---|
| Dividend (free of income tax) of 8s per share on 10,000 old shares.....       | £      | s | d |
| D. dividend (free of income tax) of 1s 6d per share on 10,000 new shares..... | 4,000  | 0 | 0 |
| Being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.....                               | 1,750  | 0 | 0 |
| Reserve fund, increasing it to 55,000/.....                                   | 5,000  | 0 | 0 |
| Profit and loss of current half-year.....                                     | 5,514  | 5 | 4 |
|   | 16,264 | 5 | 4 |

The assets and liabilities of the bank, and the profit and loss account to June 30, are as follows:—

|  |           |    |    |
|--|-----------|----|----|
| ASSETS.  |           |    |    |
| Cash in hand and at bankers.....   | £         | s  | d  |
| Due to the bank on bills discounted, loans to customers, &c.....                           | 102,349   | 11 | 6  |
| Bank premises.....   | 1,091,744 | 18 | 4  |
| Preliminary expenses.....  | 18,823    | 6  | 3  |
|  | 2,100     | 0  | 0  |
|  | 1,209,917 | 16 | 1  |
| LIABILITIES.   |           |    |    |
| Capital paid up.....   | £105,480  |    |    |
| Paid in anticipation of future calls, at 4 per cent interest.....                          | 9,365     | 0  | 0  |
| Reserve fund.....  | 204,845   | 0  | 0  |
| Due by the bank on deposit and current accounts, bills on London, &c.....                  | 50,000    | 0  | 0  |
| Rebate.....  | 932,792   | 10 | 9  |
| Profit and loss.....   | 6,016     | 0  | 0  |
|  | 16,264    | 5  | 4  |
|  | 1,209,917 | 16 | 1  |
| PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.   |           |    |    |
| Balance from last half-year.....   | £         | s  | d  |
| Net profit for half-year ending June 30, 1864.....   | 53,344    | 2  | 10 |
| Premium on 20 new shares, at 5/ per share, not taken up until after December 31, 1863..... | 19,236    | 2  | 10 |
| Less rebates at 5 per cent. on bills current.....  | 6,016     | 0  | 0  |
| Proportion of preliminary expenses.....  | 300       | 0  | 0  |
|  | 6,316     | 0  | 0  |
|  | 12,920    | 2  | 10 |
| Credited to reserve fund per resolution passed last annual meeting...                      | 66,264    | 3  | 4  |
|  | 50,000    | 0  | 0  |
|  | 16,264    | 5  | 4  |

#### NORTHERN BANKING COMPANY.

At the annual general meeting on Sept. 22, the following report was read:—

The year which has now terminated (the 40th of your existence as a company) has been one unusually favourable to bank-

ing. The present rates are highly remunerative, but, should they continue so, they must materially interfere with the profits of ordinary business, particularly that portion of it which is usually transacted on credit. It seems impossible to predict the probabilities of the future, so many matters—political and otherwise—remain in an unsettled state, any one of which may materially affect the state of commerce and the value of money. Hitherto the staple trade of this town and district has been very prosperous. The increased demand for our manufactures has been the means of affording abundant employment to our working classes, and large profits to our merchants. Experience, however, teaches that seasons of unusual prosperity are uniformly followed by serious reverses which require to be guarded against. The directors report that the dividends for the first half of the past year have been paid at the rate of 11 per cent. and for the latter half at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the capital of the company, as increased from profits, being equivalent to 13/ 16s per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital. A bonus of 2/ per share has also been paid; a sum of 12,000/ added to the reserve fund, which now stands at 104,912/ 4s 2d; and a further sum of 5,068/ 7s 6d carried forward to the credit of profit and loss for the present year. Your committee are of opinion that these arrangements evince a due regard to the circumstances above referred to, and that, while affording a large return for the capital of the company, they also provide for the continued prosperity and usefulness of the bank. In so prosperous a state of matters, the directors have felt warranted in giving to the clerks, who have been a year and upwards in their employment, a bonus of 10 per cent. on their salaries, as a recognition of past services, and a stimulus to future attention, a measure which meets the full concurrence of your committee. Mr Valentine, one of your directors, having expressed a desire to be relieved from constant attendance at the office, unless in the absence of others, or in case of a pressure of business; and this arrangement having the concurrence of the other directors, your committee recommend that his salary shall in future be at the rate of 800/ per annum, instead of 1,200/ as heretofore. They further recommend that the salary of Mr James T. Bristow, in consideration of his valuable services, and his unremitting attention to his duties, be increased to 1,250/ per annum. Your committee have only further to congratulate the proprietors on this satisfactory result of their year's business, and again to recommend the interests of the establishment to the consideration of each individual proprietor as far as his opportunities extend.

#### NORTH AND SOUTH WALES BANK.

The following report was presented by the directors to the proprietors, at their twenty-eighth annual meeting, held at Liverpool, July 15, 1864.

The profits of the bank for the year ended 30th ultimo, after deducting interest due to depositors, rebate of interest on bills, salaries, and all other charges and expenses, and making full provision for losses, amounted to, 60,079/ 13s 11d. Deduct two half-yearly dividends at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, paid to proprietors, free of income tax, viz.:—Half-year ended December 1863, 12,500/; half-year ended June 30, 1864, 12,500/; and income tax paid by bank, 1,099/ 2s 4d; together 26,099/ 2s 4d; leaves surplus profits of the year, 33,980/ 11s 7d. Out of this sum the shareholders have been paid a bonus at the rate of 10s per share, amounting to 12,500/; leaving 21,480/ 11s 7d, which the directors have appropriated as follows:—Credit of reserve fund 14,976/ 8s 1d; carried forward to profit and loss account of next year, 6,504 3s 6d. The reserve fund, as per last report, amounted to 85,023/ 11s 11d; by the above addition of 14,976/ 8s 1d, the reserve fund will now amount to 100,000/. It will be seen by the foregoing statement that the profits of the year just ended have considerably exceeded those of any former year. This has arisen partly from the unusually high rate of interest which has prevailed, and partly from a large and continuous increase in the business of the bank, both in Liverpool and the Principality. During the past year the directors have opened three branches of the bank in Liverpool. In taking this step they yielded to representations which had been made to them from time to time, for many years back, by their Welsh connection, which is numerous and influential in the districts where these branches have been opened; and their progress, thus far, has, on the whole, been satisfactory. A branch of the bank has also been opened in the increasing town of Llangollen, a sub-branch at Flint, and another at Corwen. These further additions to the branches of the bank, coupled with a general increase of business at other points, render it expedient, in the opinion of the directors, to increase the capital of the bank. They therefore propose to issue to the existing proprietors, pro rata, 5,000 shares of 10/ each at a premium (to be added to reserve fund) of 10/ per share. This will raise the capital to 300,000/, and the reserve fund to 150,000/. Each proprietor will thus receive one new share for every five shares now held by him, and for any less number than five, an equivalent bonus will be paid him in cash. The first instalment of the new shares (2/ 10s and 2/ 10s premium) will be made payable on 1st August next, and the remaining three instalments of similar amounts, on 1st November.



1st February, and 1st May next. Instalments paid on account of new shares will rank, pro rata, with the rest of the capital in respect of dividends and bonus, and the option will be given to the allottees of the new shares to pay them up in full, at any time prior to 1st May next. The usual deputation of directors, accompanied by the general manager, have visited the whole of the branches, and investigated the accounts, bills, and securities of each, and have to report that the results of their inspection is satisfactory. They have similarly to report of the accounts, bills, and securities at the head office. The directors have again to remind the shareholders generally, that they have it in their power materially to assist the directors and managers in the extension of the business of the bank.

**ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.**

At the half-yearly meeting, held on the 13th inst., the dividend declared was 2l per share, equal to 16 per cent. per annum. The profit for the half-year ended June 30 was 126,000l, against 115,000l for the same period last year. The balance, 25,267l, was carried forward to next half-year.

**ROYAL BANK OF INDIA.**

At the ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this bank held at Bombay, on September 28, 1864; Andrew Grant, Esq., in the chair; the following report was unanimously adopted:—

The directors have much pleasure in submitting to the proprietors a statement of the affairs of the bank made up from its commencement to June 30, 1864. It will be seen that after writing off all the preliminary and current expenses, the net profits of the bank amount to 4,65,760 rs 3p 5a. Of this sum the directors recommend that 2,36,250 rs be applied to the payment of a dividend at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, for the half-year ending June 30, 1864, on the capital called up to that date; that 2,00,000 rs be placed to the credit of the reserve fund, and that the balance 15,537 rs 6p 6a be carried forward to the next half-year. The bank was opened for local business on August 6, 1863, but owing to unavoidable delay in making final arrangements in London the business done between that date and the month of December was limited, and it was not until the bank was enabled to begin dealing in exchange on December 14 that its proper business can be said to have commenced. If this is taken into account, together with the fact that the capital of the bank on which the dividend is payable was only paid up by instalments ranging from the commencement of the bank's existence up to Feb. 4, 1864, the directors feel that they are justified in declaring the dividend for the half-year commencing from the 1st January, 1864, and placing the later calling up of a part of the capital against the small amount of profit they were able to make prior to that date. Of the original capital of 60 lacs, the sum of 52,50,000 rs was called up to June 30, 1864, and the final call of 25 rs per share, amounting to 7,50,000 rs became payable on the 1st July following. At the meetings of proprietors held on June 6 and July 9, the proposal to increase the capital to one crore by the issue of 20,000 new shares of 200 rs each, at par or at such premium as the directors might think fit, was agreed to and confirmed. The directors, availing themselves of the power invested in them, determined upon issuing the new shares at a premium of 20 per cent., or 40 rupees per share. This sum, together with the first call of 50 rupees per share, was payable on the 2nd September instant, but it was at the same time optional with shareholders to pay the premium, and the full amount of the new shares which entitles them to participation in the dividend declared for the current half-year. The amount received on the new issue to this date is 10,43,333 rs 5p 4a, viz., payments in full, 7,44,533 rs 5p 4a, and payments on account of first call, 2,98,800 rs. The premiums received with these payments amount to 3,87,946 rs 10p 8a. The total amount of the premiums receivable on the new issue is 8,00,000 rs, which will, when paid, be carried to the reserve fund; making, with the two lacs proposed to be carried to that account out of profits, a total reserve of 10 lacs. With such a reserve the position of the bank will without doubt be greatly strengthened, not only in Bombay, but wherever its branches may be established. Another advantage, which the early making up of the reserve fund gives the bank, is that whereas by the articles of association no dividend over 10 per cent. is to be declared until the reserve reaches 10 lacs, that restriction is thus removed, and the directors have it in their power to declare a dividend hereafter of over 10 per cent. should it seem desirable to do so. The directors have to report that they have lately appointed Mr Andrew Bogle, formerly of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to be agent of the bank at Melbourne, and that by the mail steamer which left Bombay on the 14th inst., he proceeded thither to establish that agency. They have also to report that their arrangements are now nearly completed for opening branches at the Mauritius, Ceylon, and in China. By these extensions of the company's business, the directors anticipate a large increase in the profits of the bank. In the month of June last, the directors having been requested to do so by several influential shareholders, and deeming it for the interests of the proprietary, initiated measures for obtaining a Royal Charter of

Incorporation. They have now much pleasure in stating that the matter has been taken in hand by parties of influence at home, and they trust that a charter will in due time be obtained. A resolution will be submitted to the meeting confirming the application for the charter, and authorising the directors to take all such steps as they may deem necessary for obtaining it. The directors feel that their thanks and the thanks of the shareholders are due to the manager, the accountant, and the different agents and officers of the bank, for the way in which they have conducted their several duties since the bank commenced business.

**BALANCE SHEET for the period ending June 30, 1864.**

| Dr.  | Rs          | a  | p |
|--|-------------|----|---|
| Proprietors' capital paid up   | 52,50,000   | 0  | 0 |
| Current and fixed deposits, bills payable and other sums due to the public | 2,41,58,728 | 13 | 1 |
| Profit and loss account  | 4,65,760    | 3  | 5 |
|  | 2,99,08,614 | 0  | 6 |
| Cr.  | Rs          | a  | p |
| Cash and bullion on hand and cash at bankers                               | 16,79,194   | 7  | 0 |
| Government securities on hand  | 19,03,300   | 0  | 0 |
| Bills and loans receivable and other accounts                              | 2,62,72,216 | 6  | 8 |
| Dead stock   | 21,094      | 3  | 7 |
| Stamps, stationery, &c., on hand   | 32,808      | 15 | 3 |
|  | 2,99,08,614 | 0  | 6 |

**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.**

| Dr.   | Rs       | a  | p  |
|---|----------|----|----|
| Dividend at 4 1/2 per cent. for the half-year on 52,52,000 rs, being the capital called up to June 30, 1864   | 2,36,250 | 0  | 0  |
| Amount carried to reserve fund  | 2,00,000 | 0  | 0  |
| Income tax on net profits   | 13,972   | 12 | 11 |
| Balance carried to next half-year   | 15,537   | 6  | 6  |
|   | 4,65,760 | 3  | 5  |
| Cr.   | Rs       | a  | p  |
| Profits for the period ending June 30, 1864, after writing off all preliminary expenses, expenses at head office and branches, and including rebates on undue bills | 4,65,760 | 3  | 5  |
|   | 4,65,760 | 3  | 5  |

**SHEFFIELD AND HALAMSHIRE BANK.**

At the twenty-eighth general annual meeting of the shareholders, held in the Cutlers' hall, Sheffield, on Wednesday, July 27, 1864, the following report and statement of accounts was submitted:—

In the twelve months ending June 30 last, the bank has done a larger business than in any preceding year. During the last eight months the rate of interest has been unusually high. These combined circumstances have produced the largest profit the bank has hitherto obtained. After payment of all the expenses of the bank, the earnings are 23,063l 1s 9d. Out of this, 521l 1s 2d have been paid for income tax; and the sum of 863l 10s 4d written off for bad and doubtful debts. The dividends for the two half-years, ending June 30 last, amount to 18,282l 10s. After the deduction of these three amounts there remained the sum of 3,398l 0s 3d, which has been placed to the surplus fund. For the half-year ending December 31 last, the directors paid a dividend after the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. They have declared a dividend after the same rate for the half-year ending June 30 last. This may be received without any deduction for income tax, on or after the 30th inst. Forty-five shares have been issued to customers in the course of the year. These have produced 1,125l additional capital, and 450l for premiums. The sum of 52l 0s 2d has been received from debts previously written off as bad. These two last named amounts have been added to the surplus fund, which is now considerably higher than it has been. The surplus fund last year was 42,805l 13s 10d; added this year premiums on forty-five shares issued, 450l; ditto debts written off as bad and since recovered, 52l 0s 2d; ditto balance of this year's profit, 3,398l 0s 3d—present amount of surplus fund, 46,705l 14s 3d. The directors have diligently scrutinised the balances owing to the bank, and the securities held for the same; and also, as usual, carefully audited the accounts. They have great satisfaction in being able to report to the shareholders that all the affairs of the bank are sound and prosperous.

**GENERAL BALANCE—June 30, 1864.**

| LIABILITIES   |  | £       | s  | d |
|---|--|---------|----|---|
| Paid up capital of 25l per share on 7,313 shares  |  | 182,950 | 0  | 0 |
| Surplus fund  |  | 46,705  | 14 | 3 |
| Due by the bank on current accounts, deposit receipts (including interest to this day), notes in circulation, and interest on bills in the bank |  | 342,034 | 9  | 5 |
| Dividend for the half-year, after the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on paid-up capital of 182,950l   |  | 9,147   | 10 | 8 |
|   |  | 580,837 | 13 | 8 |
| ASSETS  |  | £       | s  | d |
| Cash in the bank, bills discounted, balances owing by customers, and other securities   |  | 575,957 | 13 | 8 |
| Bank premises and furniture   |  | 5,000   | 0  | 0 |
|   |  | 580,837 | 13 | 8 |

**PROFIT AND LOSS—June 30, 1864.**

| Dr.   | £      | s  | d  |
|---|--------|----|----|
| Dividend for the half-year ending December 31, 1863, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, on 182,700l paid-up capital | 9,135  | 0  | 0  |
| Dividend for the half-year ending June 30, 1864, at the same rate, on 182,950l paid-up capital                          | 9,147  | 10 | 8  |
| Income tax  | 621    | 1  | 2  |
| Transfer to bad and doubtful debts account  | 863    | 10 | 4  |
| Balance carried down  | 46,705 | 14 | 3  |
|   | 66,372 | 15 | 3  |
| Cr.   | £      | s  | d  |
| Balance of unappropriated profits, June 30, 1863  | 42,805 | 13 | 10 |
| Amounts of profits, after payment of expenses   | 23,065 | 1  | 9  |
| Premiums received on shares allotted  | 450    | 0  | 0  |
| Debts written off as bad and since recovered  | 52     | 0  | 2  |
|   | 66,372 | 15 | 9  |

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING COMPANY.**

The annual general meeting of the proprietors of this company was held on July 21, at the bank premises, Old Broad street, Edward Divett, Esq., in the chair. Mr Purdy, the manager, read the following report and statement of accounts:—

The affairs of the bank are in a position that enables the court of directors again to congratulate the proprietors. The colony during the past year has not been subject to any great fluctuations, but has maintained a sound and well-regulated trade, combined with the steady development of numerous industrial pursuits. Recent intelligence shows, moreover, that a period of increased prosperity may probably be witnessed. This arises from a great demand from the neighbouring colonies for breadstuffs, which South Australia is almost always able to supply after satisfying its own requirements. Hence there is a great extension of exports in wheat and flour at highly remunerative prices, which is producing a satisfactory effect in all departments of trade. The bank has experienced a corresponding improvement in its affairs, and it may, therefore, be inferred that prospects are encouraging for future business. The court recommend a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, which, if adopted, will be payable half-yearly as heretofore.

**BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1863.**

| LIABILITIES.             |   | £         | s  | d  |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|----|----|
| Dr.                      | Circulation .....                                       | 76,691    | 0  | 0  |
|                          | Deposit and current accounts.....                       | 287,224   | 14 | 1  |
|                          | Debts due to colonial banks and other liabilities ..... | 177,798   | 7  | 3  |
|                          | Bills payable .....                                     | 95,296    | 17 | 3  |
|                          | Capital paid up .....                                   | 500,000   | 0  | 0  |
|                          | Reserve fund.....                                       | £100,000  |    |    |
|                          | Interest on ditto .....                                 | 4,400     |    |    |
|                          | Profit and loss .....                                   | 104,400   | 0  | 0  |
|                          |   | 58,776    | 3  | 3  |
|                          |   | 1,295,187 | 1  | 10 |
| ASSETS.                  |   | £         | s  | d  |
| Cr.                      | Coin and bullion .....                                  | 119,725   | 9  | 1  |
|                          | Bills receivable and securities .....                   | 840,545   | 14 | 7  |
|                          | Debts due from colonial banks and other assets .....    | 217,266   | 5  | 1  |
|                          | Bank premises .....                                     | 19,249    | 13 | 1  |
|                          | Investments for reserved fund .....                     | 104,400   | 0  | 0  |
|                          |   | 1,295,187 | 1  | 10 |
| PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT. |   | £         | s  | d  |
| Dr.                      | Dividend, July, 1863.....                               | £24,696   | 2  | 4  |
|                          | Ditto, January, 1864.....                               | 25,003    | 13 | 0  |
|                          | Balance this year .....                                 | 49,899    | 15 | 4  |
|                          |   | 58,776    | 3  | 3  |
|                          |   | 108,615   | 18 | 7  |
| Cr.                      | Balance last year.....                                  | 52,856    | 0  | 10 |
|                          | Profits from all offices .....                          | 50,759    | 17 | 9  |
|                          |   | 1,03,615  | 18 | 7  |

**STAMFORD, SPALDING, AND BOSTON BANKING COMPANY.**

The following is the report of the directors, presented at the thirty-second annual general meeting of the shareholders, on Thursday, February 11, 1864:—

The profits of the year 1863, after making all necessary deductions, amount to 16,062*l*, which the directors decide to appropriate as on former occasions:—for a dividend of 10 per cent., 8,000*l*; for a bonus of 4*l* per share, 4,000*l*; for addition to the reserved surplus fund, 1,000*l*; leaving a surplus on the year of 3,062*l*, and, adding to this the balance left unappropriated last year, viz., 3,483*l*, there is at present unappropriated the sum of 6,545*l* available for addition to capital, or for any other purpose, as may be determined next year. The reserved surplus fund, with the above increase of 1,000*l*, and with dividends also added during the past year, amounts to 40,110*l* 5*s* 10*d*, and is invested in 42,802*l* 5*s* 11*d* stock in 3 per cent. consols. The progress of the bank has been very satisfactory during the past year.

**ULSTER BANKING COMPANY.**

Subjoined is the report of the committee to the proprietors at their 28th annual general meeting held September 29, 1864:—

The committee have much pleasure in submitting the following statement of the affairs of the bank for the year ending Aug. 31 last:—

|  |         |    |   |
|--|---------|----|---|
| Reserve fund, as declared in September, 1863.....  | £       | s  | d |
| Net profits for the year, after writing off all bad, and making full provision for doubtful debts.....                                     | £39,455 | 12 | 7 |
| Out of which there have been paid, free of income tax, two half-yearly dividends, at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, amounting to..... | £22,008 | 12 | 0 |
| And a bonus, at the rate of 4 per cent., amounting to.....   | 7,336   | 4  | 0 |
| Leaving a surplus of.....  | 10,110  | 16 | 7 |
| Which has been appropriated as follows, viz.:—   |         |    |   |
| To building account.....   | £3,000  | 0  | 0 |
| To undivided profits .....   | 2,718   | 16 | 4 |
|  | 5,718   | 16 | 4 |
|  | 4,392   | 0  | 2 |
| To reserve fund, which now stands at .....   | 100,000 | 0  | 0 |

The high rates for money during the past year, together with an active and increasing business, have produced the above satisfactory result. Your committee and directors have, accordingly, been enabled to declare a larger dividend and bonus than usual, at the same time making the reserved fund to 100,000*l*, and carrying over 2,718*l* 16*s* 5*d* to undivided profits. Under such favourable circumstances, the directors have thought it right to reduce the building account by 3,000*l* instead of 1,000*l* as heretofore. Of this step the committee approve, and they recommend that a bonus of 10 per cent. on their salaries be paid to the managers and clerks of the bank in acknowledgment of their valuable services in contributing to its prosperity. The directors and committee would impress upon their fellow shareholders the advantages that will result from their continuing to co-operate with them in extending the business and connections of the company.

**UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA.**

The half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors in this bank was held at the bank offices, Old Broad street, on July 12, Mr F. G. Dalgety in the chair; when the following report and statement of accounts were read by Mr Saunders, the secretary:—

In laying their annual report and accounts before the proprietors, the directors feel much pleasure in stating the entire satisfaction with which they have carefully reviewed the transactions of the bank in the colonies and at home, and that, notwithstanding increased banking competition, the business has been fully and beneficially sustained. To be enabled unhesitatingly to state this is in itself gratifying evidence that the inspector and officers of the bank in all its departments have devoted themselves to the promotion of the interests confided to their care with a degree of zeal, prudence, and ability which merits the high approbation of the directors. The unusual state of exchanges in India has led to the diversion of funds thither from Australia, principally in gold, of which there has moreover been a somewhat diminished production. These circumstances, combined with deficient harvests and with overstocked markets, have injuriously affected trading operations, and explain the dulness prevailing at latest dates. The export, however, of the great staple of wool and other valuable products has been increasingly profitable, and commercial credit generally has been well sustained. The natural effects of railroad transit and improved internal communication are becoming apparent in the development of important districts: and in this advance of enterprise there is the certain promise of great future progress. It is much to be regretted that a painful check is for the present put on improvements in the still disturbed portion of New Zealand; but in the peaceful provinces the advance of prosperity seems only to require time and prudence, the apparent dangers being those which are found to arise from the reactions attendant upon too rapid growth. The directors have given effect to the arrangements under which the new capital was raised, by increasing the reserve fund, and constituting the other reserves, as shown in the accompanying statement. Of the 10,000 shares, 9,176 have been taken up in London and the colonies, and the remaining 824 have become the property of the bank. These the directors intend to realise by inviting tenders from all proprietors registered on June 30, the tenders to be opened on August 5. The subjoined statement of accounts presents a balance of net profit of 104,313*l* 14*s* 9*d*. The directors have therefore declared a dividend of 2*l* 7*s* 6*d* per share, which, with the dividend declared in January, is equal to 17½ per cent. per annum upon the shares forming the capital of one million; payable in London, free of income tax, on 19th instant, and in the colonies as soon as the inspectors shall fix, after receipt of advices. An allowance of 11*s* 6*d* per share, by way of interest, will be simultaneously payable in London on the new shares, and an equivalent allowance will be made on those issued in the colonies.

**STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES and ASSETS at the Branches on Dec. 31, 1864, and at the London Office to June 30, 1864.**

| LIABILITIES.  |  | £         | s  | d |
|---|--|-----------|----|---|
| Circulation .....   |  | 545,595   | 0  | 0 |
| Deposits .....  |  | 2,601,436 | 16 | 0 |
| Bills payable and other liabilities (including reserve held against doubtful debts) ..... |  | 1,065,111 | 0  | 0 |
| Balance of undivided profit.....  |  | 104,313   | 14 | 9 |
| Reserve fund .....  |  | 250,000   | 0  | 0 |
| Insurance reserve account .....   |  | 45,650    | 0  | 0 |
| Bank premises reserve account .....   |  | 1,000     | 0  | 0 |
| Capital .....   |  | 1,000,000 | 0  | 0 |
| New shares—issued .....   |  | 8,633     |    |   |
| For colonial allotment .....  |  | 643       |    |   |
| Not taken up .....  |  | 824       |    |   |
|   |  | 10,000    |    |   |
|   |  | 5,920,441 | 16 | 9 |
| ASSETS.   |  | £         | s  | d |
| Specie in hand, and cash balances .....   |  | 750,972   | 11 | 0 |
| Bullion .....   |  | 110,099   | 5  | 0 |
| Bank premises and property .....  |  | 100,706   | 8  | 0 |
| Government securities (British and colonial) .....  |  | 95,000    | 0  | 0 |
| Local bills, bills receivable, and other securities.....                                  |  | 4,612,503 | 12 | 0 |
| Installments on new shares in arrear.....   |  | 1,360     | 0  | 0 |
| Reserve fund, invested as per statement .....   |  | 250,000   | 0  | 0 |
|   |  | 5,920,441 | 16 | 9 |

| STATEMENT OF PROFITS.  |          | £  | s  | d |
|--|----------|----|----|---|
| Balance of undivided profits at 30th June, 1863  | 88,871   | 8  | 11 |   |
| Out of which a dividend was declared of  | 80,000   | 0  | 0  |   |
| Leaving a balance of   | 8,871    | 8  | 11 |   |
| Profits of the past year, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts  | £279,771 | 16 | 7  |   |
| <b>Less—</b>   |          |    |    |   |
| Remuneration to the local directors, and salaries and allowances to the colonial staff                                 | £56,426  | 13 | 5  |   |
| General expenses in the colonies, including rent, taxes, stationery, &c.   | 30,338   | 1  | 3  |   |
| Amount applied in reduction of bank premises account   | 2,279    | 16 | 9  |   |
| Remuneration to the board of directors, salaries of London office staff, rent, taxes, stationery, and general expenses | 11,335   | 13 | 9  |   |
| Income tax   | 3,949    | 5  | 7  |   |
|  | 104,329  | 10 | 9  |   |
| Deduct—  | 175,442  | 5  | 10 |   |
| Dividend paid in January   | 80,000   | 0  | 0  |   |
|  | 95,442   | 5  | 10 |   |
| Balance of undivided profits at this date  | 104,313  | 14 | 9  |   |
| <b>RESERVE FUND.</b>   |          |    |    |   |
| New Zealand Imperial 4 per cent. debentures  | 50,000   | 0  | 0  |   |
| Colonial 6 per cent. debentures  | 50,000   | 0  | 0  |   |
|  | 260,000  | 0  | 0  |   |
| <b>NEW SHARES.</b>   |          |    |    |   |
| 6,433 shares issued at 45/   | 383,985  | 0  | 0  |   |
| Applied as follows:—   |          |    |    |   |
| Capital account, 20/ per share   | £213,325 | 0  | 0  |   |
| Reserve fund   | 50,000   | 0  | 0  |   |
| Insurance reserve account  | 75,000   | 0  | 0  |   |
| Bank premises reserve account  | 45,660   | 0  | 0  |   |
|  | 383,985  | 0  | 0  |   |

UNION BANK OF IRELAND.

The ordinary general half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in this bank was held on July 22, at the London Tavern, Mr H. Bruce in the chair. The Secretary (Mr Bull) having read the advertisement calling the meeting, proceeded to read the following report:—

The directors have the satisfaction of submitting to the proprietors their report of the result of the operations of the bank for the half-year ended June 30, 1864. The net profits, after paying current expenses, interest on deposits, and current accounts, and making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to 5,432/ 3s 4d, which added to 4,126/ 11s 9d brought forward from last account, gives a total available balance of 9,558/ 15s 1d. This sum the directors propose to appropriate as follows:—1,500/ to be set aside as the commencement of a reserve fund; 1,000/ to be placed to the credit of preliminary expenses; 5,000/ in payment of a dividend of 10s per share free of income tax (being at the rate of rather more than 4 1/2 per cent. per annum), leaving 2,058/ 15s 1d to be carried to new account. It is gratifying to the directors to be in a position to state that the business at the several branches continues to make steady and satisfactory progress. As intimated in the last report, a branch was opened at Charleville in February last, and the anticipations of the directors regarding its success have been fully realised. The directors feel great pleasure in being able to report that the accounts from all parts of Ireland represent the prospects of the coming harvest as most favourable, the realisation of which, in promoting the general prosperity of the country, cannot fail to prove beneficial to the interests of the bank. The principle that was adopted at the commencement of the bank, of employing in Ireland the deposits of the Irish people, continues to be steadily adhered to by the directors, who feel convinced that while this policy affords most important and material aid to the country, it will secure the confidence and support of all classes.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS—June 30, 1864.

| LIABILITIES.   |         | £  | s | d |
|--|---------|----|---|---|
| Capital  | 220,000 | 0  | 0 |   |
| Deposits and current accounts  | 237,812 | 4  | 8 |   |
| Seven day and other bills, &c.   | 15,516  | 14 | 6 |   |
| Balance of profit and loss   | 9,558   | 15 | 1 |   |
|  | 482,887 | 14 | 1 |   |
| <b>ASSETS.</b>   |         |    |   |   |
| Cash at London bankers, branches, and agents, and loans on interest  | 102,815 | 1  | 6 |   |
| Government and other securities  | 17,526  | 16 | 6 |   |
| Bills discounted, balances due on current accounts, &c.  | 348,758 | 3  | 8 |   |
| Bank premises and furniture, including part purchase money of Dublin new premises  | 6,487   | 9  | 9 |   |
| Preliminary expenses   | 7,298   | 2  | 8 |   |
|  | 482,887 | 14 | 1 |   |
| <b>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.</b>  |         |    |   |   |
| Charges at London and branches, including directors' and auditors' fees, rent, salaries interest paid on deposit and current accounts, &c. | 7,078   | 11 | 1 |   |
| Balance  | 9,558   | 15 | 1 |   |
|  | 16,637  | 6  | 2 |   |
| Balance from last statement  | 4,126   | 11 | 9 |   |
| Gross profit for half-year to June 30, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts  | 12,510  | 14 | 5 |   |
|  | 16,637  | 6  | 2 |   |
| <b>PROPOSED APPROPRIATION.</b>   |         |    |   |   |
| Reserve fund   | 1,500   | 0  | 0 |   |
| To be credited to preliminary expenses account   | 1,000   | 0  | 0 |   |
| Dividend of 10s per share, free of income tax  | 5,000   | 0  | 0 |   |
| Balance carried to new account   | 2,058   | 15 | 1 |   |
|  | 9,558   | 15 | 1 |   |

| Balance of profit and loss account | £     | s  | d |
|------------------------------------|-------|----|---|
|                                    | 2,558 | 15 | 1 |

UNION BANK OF LONDON.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held on the 13th July, at the bank offices, 2 Princes street, Mansion House; P. N. Laurie, Esq., in the chair. Mr Newmarch, the secretary, read the report, which stated:—

The directors have much satisfaction in reporting that the net profits of the bank for the six months ending the 30th June last, after payment of all charges (including the sum of 149,520/ 8s 8d for interest paid and due to customers on their current and deposit accounts), and making ample provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to 154,370/ 18s 10d, which, with 992/ 7s 4d, brought forward from 31st December last, leaves for appropriation the sum of 155,363/ 6s 2d. The directors have declared a dividend for the last six months at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 2 1/2 per cent. on the paid-up capital, being at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, clear of income tax; and after payment of the above, amounting to 78,000/ there will remain a balance of 77,363/ 6s 2d. The directors are now enabled to make a third addition to the paid-up capital of the bank out of profits, and they have, therefore, appropriated 77,000/ to the reserve fund, thereby raised to 187,000/; and out of such amount they have appropriated 120,000/ being 2/ per share to the paid-up capital, which will thus be further increased from 780,000/ to 900,000/, and being, with previous additions, an increase of 300,000/, or 50 per cent., out of profits, to the original paid-up capital of 600,000/. After deducting the dividend and bonus, and 120,000/ added to the paid-up capital, amounting together to 198,000/, there will remain the sum of 67,000/ to the credit of the reserve fund, and an unappropriated balance of 363/ 6s 2d, to be carried forward to a new profit and loss account.

GENERAL BALANCE—Half-Year ending June 30, 1864.

| DR.  | LIABILITIES. | £  | s  | d |
|--|--------------|----|----|---|
| Capital—10/ per share paid up on 60,000 shares   | £600,000     |    |    |   |
| 5/ per share added out of reserved profits   | 180,000      |    |    |   |
|  | 780,000      | 0  | 0  |   |
| Due by the bank on current accounts, deposit receipts (including interest accrued), and other obligations  | 10,518,675   | 6  | 8  |   |
| Reserved fund, invested in consols, as per contra  | 110,000      | 0  | 0  |   |
| Rebate on bills not due  | 45,935       | 5  | 6  |   |
| Balance at credit of profit and loss   | 155,363      | 6  | 2  |   |
|  | 20,607,503   | 18 | 4  |   |
| <b>CR. ASSETS.</b>   |              |    |    |   |
| Cash in the bank   | £721,343     | 19 | 2  |   |
| Cash in Bank of England  | 751,545      | 6  | 9  |   |
| Cash lent at call  | 1,084,000    | 0  | 0  |   |
|  | 2,556,889    | 5  | 11 |   |
| Investments in Government stock, Exchequer bills, debentures, &c.  | 1,156,090    | 4  | 2  |   |
| £118,400 19s 8d consols (taken at 92 1/2) reserved fund  | 110,000      | 0  | 0  |   |
| Bank premises—consisting of freehold buildings in Princes street, Mansion House street, Argyll place, and Fleet street; and lease and fixtures of No. 4 Pall Mall East                           | 108,775      | 4  | 6  |   |
| Loans, bills discounted, &c.   | 14,665,759   | 3  | 10 |   |
|  | 20,607,503   | 18 | 4  |   |
| <b>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.</b>  |              |    |    |   |
| DR.  |              | £  | s  | d |
| Dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum   | 58,900       | 0  | 0  |   |
| Bonus 2 1/2 per cent.  | 19,900       | 0  | 0  |   |
|  | 78,800       | 0  | 0  |   |
| Appropriated to reserve fund   | 77,000       | 0  | 0  |   |
| Balance, being undivided profit carried forward to next half-year  | 363          | 6  | 2  |   |
|  | 155,363      | 6  | 2  |   |
| CR.  |              | £  | s  | d |
| Profit unappropriated on December 31, 1863   | 992          | 7  | 4  |   |
| Amount of net profit of the half-year ending June 30, 1864, after deducting all expenses, and interest paid and due (149,520/ 8s 8d), allowed to customers on their current and deposit accounts | 154,370      | 18 | 10 |   |
|  | 155,363      | 6  | 2  |   |

UNION BANK OF MANCHESTER, LIMITED.

Annexed is the report of the directors of the Union Bank of Manchester, Limited, to the shareholders, at the twenty-eighth annual general meeting, held at the bank, York street, Manchester, on July 27, 1864:—

The directors beg to lay before the shareholders the annual financial statement of the bank, from June 30, 1863, to June 30, 1864:—

| DR.   | BALANCE SHEET for the Year ending June 30, 1864. | £  | s  | d |
|---|--|----|----|---|
| Salaries, bank premises, rent, taxes, stationery, &c., directors' remuneration and income tax | 9,535  | 14 | 5  |   |
| Dividend at 8 per cent., to Dec. 31, 1863   | £12,828  | 0  | 0  |   |
| Dividend at 8 per cent., to June 30, 1864   | 15,054   | 4  | 9  |   |
| Bonus at 2 1/2 per cent. per annum  | 3,263  | 6  | 0  |   |
|   | 29,141   | 10 | 0  |   |
| Rebate of interest on bills on hand, and reserves for bad and doubtful debt                   | 12,847   | 5  | 6  |   |
|   | 61,527   | 9  | 11 |   |
| Reserve fund  | £59,101  | 0  | 0  |   |
| Balance carried forward to credit of profit and loss account                                  | 4,426  | 16 | 1  |   |
|   | 63,527   | 16 | 1  |   |
|   | 113,060  | 6  | 0  |   |
| <b>CR.</b>  |  |    |    |   |
| June 30, 1864.  |  | £  | s  | d |
| Interest and commission to Dec. 31, 1863  | £27,640  | 14 | 6  |   |
| Dividend to June 30, 1864   | 38,196   | 19 | 7  |   |
|   | 65,836   | 14 | 1  |   |
| Bank of England composition   | 1,000  | 0  | 0  |   |
| Transfer fees   | 8  | 7  | 6  |   |
|   | 66,844   | 1  | 7  |   |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Balance at credit of profit and loss account to July 30, 1863 (the date of the last annual general meeting) ..... | 48,912 4 7     |
| Reserve fund .....  | 115,060 6 0    |
| Amount transferred from share account .....   | 259,101 0 0    |
| Amount transferred from share account .....   | 7,899 0 0      |
| Balance at credit of profit and loss account .....  | 67,000 0 0     |
| Capital, reserve fund, and balance at credit of profit and loss .....   | 4,481 16 1     |
| Dr. LIABILITIES—July 1, 1864.   | 71,431 16 1    |
| Deposits not bearing interest .....   | 2 8 4          |
| Deposits bearing interest .....   | 37,021 13 0    |
| Seven days' and other bills .....   | 886,938 0 7    |
| Capital, reserve fund, and balance at credit of profit and loss .....   | 121,814 8 2    |
| Capital, reserve fund, and balance at credit of profit and loss .....   | 1,091,774 1 9  |
| Capital, reserve fund, and balance at credit of profit and loss .....   | 387,278 10 7   |
| Capital, reserve fund, and balance at credit of profit and loss .....   | 1,478,052 11 4 |
| Cr. ASSETS  | 2 8 4          |
| Bills of exchange and cash on hand and at bankers .....   | 625,840 3 11   |
| Loans on stock .....  | 41,912 19 9    |
| Other loans .....   | 578,842 1 5    |
| Other securities .....  | 32,457 7 3     |
| Capital, reserve fund, and balance at credit of profit and loss .....   | 1,478,052 11 4 |

It will be seen, by the accompanying balance sheet, that the result of the operations of the bank during the past year has been very satisfactory; for, after having paid all expenses, together with two dividends, one at 8 per cent. per annum, and the other (including a bonus of 2s per share) at 10 per cent. per annum; and having allowed for rebate of interest on bills not yet due, and made allowance for bad and doubtful debts, the shareholders will observe that there is carried forward to the credit of profit and loss the sum of 4,431/16s 1d. In conformity with the provisions of the deed of settlement, there has been added to the reserve fund, besides the amount of premiums on shares allotted, one-fourth of the net profits for the past financial year. The total amount now at the credit of the reserve fund is 67,000/.

The directors have pleasure in being able to state that the business of the bank continues to increase, and that the alterations in the bank premises having been completed, there is now ample space for the accommodation of the public.

#### WHITEHAVEN JOINT STOCK BANKING COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of this bank was held at the offices in Whitehaven, on the 1st of August; Henry Jefferson, Esq., of Rotherayke, in the chair; when the following report was read and unanimously adopted:—

The directors feel much pleasure in being able to present a statement of accounts showing that the business of the bank continues to make steady and satisfactory progress. The net profits of the bank during the past year, after defraying all current expenses, and making allowance for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to 10,830/9s 1d, and a balance from last year's account of 1,038/14s 1d, making together the sum of 11,869/3s 2d. Out of these profits the directors now declare a dividend of 5 per cent. on the paid-up capital of the bank, and a bonus of 20s per share (free of income tax): the surplus fund remaining as formerly at 15,000/.

The directors beg further to state that they have on this occasion exercised the powers given to them by the deed of constitution, in presenting to the manager, Peter Cameron, Esq., and the clerks of the establishment, the sum of 300/ in token of their appreciation of their steady and persevering exertions for the interest of the bank. After paying this amount and writing off 1,000/ of the bank buildings (which now stand at a nominal value), the directors have carried forward a balance of 1,129/13s 10d to next year's account. Balance from last year's account, 1,038/14s 1d; net profits this year as above, 10,830/9s 1d—11,869/3s 2d. Dividend 15 per cent., 6,356/5s; bonus 20s per share, 2,825/; income tax, 258/4s 4d; gratuity to manager and clerks, 300/; written off the value of bank buildings, 1,000/, making 10,739/9s 4d; leaving a balance to next year's account, 1,129/13s 10d.

#### YORKSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

At the forty-second half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of this company, held at Leeds, on Wednesday, August 3, 1864; James Audus, Esq., in the chair; the following report of the directors was unanimously adopted.

It affords the directors great pleasure to be enabled to report on the continued prosperity of the bank, the profits for the past half-year having been 27,348/18s 4d; an amount in excess of all previous returns, and which it is proposed to distribute as follows, viz.:—In payment of the usual dividend of 1/1s per share (free of income tax) which will require 15,234/9s; in adding 2s 0s 6d per share to the new share fund, which will absorb 11,119/5s 6d; placing the residue, 995/3s 10d, to the credit of the bad and doubtful debt fund. The new share fund, with the amount now recommended to be added thereto, will amount to 37,064/5s, or equal to 6/15s per share on the 5,491 shares comprising that fund. The following is the statement of liabilities and assets as certified by the auditor, Mr Henry Webster Blackburn, public accountant. Liabilities—Shareholders for capital stock, 152,344/10s; unpaid dividends, 151/15s; new share fund, 25,944/19s 6d; deposits and credit balances, 1,176,532/14s 7d; interest on deposit receipts, 7,500/13s 8d; notes in circulation, 118,145/; bad and doubtful debt fund, 4,428/10s 7d; reserved surplus fund, 50,000/; profit and loss

account, 27,348/18s 4d—1,562,397/1s 8d. Assets—Bills, securities, and cash in hand, 523,996/9s; amount invested in consols, 100,000/; amounts advanced on current accounts and in bankers' hands, 914,220/5s 1d; freehold property and furnishings, 23,517/10s 9d; stamps on hand, 662/16s 10d—1,562,397/1s 8d.

#### LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders was held on July 4, at the London Tavern; Mr H. L. Bischoffsheim in the chair:—

The chairman stated, in reply to Mr Bingley, that this was an exceptional meeting, and it was not intended to make half-yearly meetings the rule.

The report was taken as read. It stated that the accounts to the 31st December showed a net profit for the half-year of 15,531/4s 8d, after making due allowance for all bad and doubtful debts. Out of this sum it was proposed to pay a dividend, free of income tax, of 1/1s per share, amounting to 13,650/ (being 6 per cent. on the capital paid up on 31st December, 1863), and to carry forward the balance of 1,881/4s 8d to the credit of the next account. The branches now established were Rio de Janeiro, Pernambuco, and Rio Grande do Sul, in Brazil, and Lisbon and Oporto in Portugal. That at Bahia would commence business on July 1, and there was every reason to believe that the combined operations of these establishments would secure most satisfactory results. The directors had petitioned Parliament for a private bill to authorise the division of the shares, but were unsuccessful, both in their petition and also in a subsequent application to Government to introduce a public bill to the same effect. Mr E. J. Knight having proceeded to Lisbon as manager of that branch, the directors had appointed as secretary Mr John Beaton, late manager of the Oporto branch, and formerly secretary to the Anglo-Portuguese Bank, Limited. Mr John George Goodair, formerly of Rio and Bahia, had been appointed inspector.

Balance sheet, Dec. 31, 1863—Dr.: To capital paid up, 455,000/; to deposits, 1,266,831/5s 8d; to bills payable and other liabilities, 2,022,461/17s; to profit and loss, 66,921/8s 11d; total, 3,811,214/11s 7d. Cr.: By specie and cash on hand and at bankers, 508,141/2s 11d; by bills receivable and other assets, 3,353,073/8s 8d; total, 3,811,214/11s 7d.

Profit and loss account—Dr.: To dividend to 30th June, 11,375/; to transfer to reserve fund, 20,000/; to allowance for bad debts, 6,353/2s 5d; to charges at head office, 3,999/17s 2d; to ditto at Rio and Pernambuco, 7,672/13s 5d; to ditto at Lisbon and Oporto, 2,049/11s 3d—13,662/1s 10d; to balance carried down, 15,531/4s 8d—66,921/8s 11d. Cr.: By net profit to June 30, 13,556/7s 9d; by premium received on 3,000 new shares sold, 19,189/15s; by profit to December 31, after deducting rebate of interest on bills discounted not due, and interest on deposits, 34,155/6s 2d—66,921/8s 11d. By balance brought down, 15,531/4s 8d; by reserve fund brought down, 20,000/.

#### CUMBERLAND UNION BANK.

At the thirty-fifth annual general meeting of the proprietors of this bank, held at Workington, on July 26, the annexed report was read:—

The directors have to report that the books of the bank have been made up to June 30 last, and that they have been carefully audited. The net profits of the bank for the past year, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, and paying the income tax, amount to 19,539/15s 4d. Out of which the directors propose the usual dividend of 7/ per share, 14,000/; to credit bank buildings redemption fund, 500/; and to carry the balance to the guarantee fund, 5,039/15s 4d. The dividend to be payable on Aug. 1, clear of income tax. After these payments the proprietary funds will stand as follows:—Capital, 80,000/; guarantee fund, 40,195/18s 2d; making together, 120,195/18s 2d. The guarantee fund thus augmented to upwards of 40,000/, gives the directors the pleasure of recommending that 20,000/ be taken from it and credited to the proprietors' capital, as a payment of 10/ per share on every share; thus making the shares stand at 50/ paid upon them; the capital at 100,000/, and the guarantee fund at 20,195/18s 2d. Since last annual meeting, Mr Wilkinson, who for 12 years zealously and faithfully filled the responsible office of agent at Penrith branch, has been obliged to resign his situation in consequence of failing health. The directors considered it would be for the interest of the bank, as well as a not unmerited compliment to Mr Wilkinson to appoint him a director, which they accordingly did. This appointment they now ask the proprietors to confirm. In March last the directors received an application for the establishment of a branch of the bank in the town of Appleby. Having fully considered it, they determined to accede to the request, and have every reason to be satisfied with the progress it has made.

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