

S U P P L E M E N T

TO

The Economist.

REPORTS

OF

JOINT STOCK BANKS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

For the HALF-YEAR or for the YEAR ending June 30, 1861.

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BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

STATEMENT of the directors to the proprietors assembled at the half-yearly meeting, held at the office of the corporation, No. 4 Threadneedle street, London, on Monday, 19th August, 1861:—

1. In their last annual report, which exhibited the accounts of the bank for the year ending October, 1860, the directors stated that the present year had commenced under more favourable auspices; that indications of a revival of trade in the Australian colonies, and of a gradual and steady return to confidence were apparent; and it affords them pleasure to be enabled now to report that the accounts since received confirm these anticipations. Commercial affairs were assuming a sounder and more legitimate character; the prosperity of the agricultural and pastoral interests continued undiminished; and a more cheerful feeling prevailed throughout the community.

2. Mr Falconer reached Melbourne early in March, and resumed his duties as superintendent. He reports that he found everything going on well, and the affairs of the bank generally in a satisfactory position. A better understanding also existed among the banks in regard to the purchase of gold; and the allowance of interest on deposits is now confined to those of a fixed character.

3. Under these circumstances, the directors have reason to expect that the transactions of the current year will prove satisfactory.

4. The directors have the pleasure to state that Mr M'Arthur, the assistant superintendent, has arrived in England on leave of absence, and they anticipate much benefit from the opportunity thus afforded them of communicating with him personally on the various matters connected with the interests of the bank.

5. The directors have to announce their intention of declaring the same dividend and bonus as for the half-year in April, being together at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, payable on Tuesday, the 15th October next.

T. WINGATE HENDERSON, Chairman.
London office, 19th August, 1861.

BANK OF BOLTON.

The annual general meeting of this company was held on the 30th of August, and was attended by many gentlemen of standing and

influence in Bolton and the neighbourhood. The chair was occupied by William Cannon, Esq., who has been for many years chairman of the board of directors. The report gave a very favourable account of the progress and prospects of the company; announced a dividend on the paid-up capital at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum free of income tax, and an addition to the guarantee fund of nearly 5,000*l.*, making the reserve equal to 25 per cent. of the paid-up capital. It also announced the appropriation of 1,800*l.* towards the fund for the purchase and rebuilding of the bank premises. The directors are now engaged in arranging plans, &c., for the new building, which is to be commenced immediately. The retiring directors were unanimously re-elected, and cordial votes of thanks were given to the chairman and directors, to Mr Ferguson the manager, and to Mr Horrocks the cashier, and staff.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

REPORT of the directors at the twenty-fifth yearly general meeting, on Tuesday, June 4th, 1861:—

The improvement in the business of the North American colonies, referred to in the reports presented to the proprietors last year, scarcely realised the expectations which the directors then entertained.

This may be accounted for by the time required fully to recover from the very severe depression under which their trade had laboured during the two preceding years; and from the fact that, though the crops of all grain in Canada were the most abundant ever gathered in that colony, a very large proportion of them was not got to market previous to the close of the season, consequently the beneficial effects of the last harvest will tell more upon the business of the present than of the past year.

The annexed statements of account show the position of the bank on 31st December last, and on comparing the business of the first four months of the current year with the same period of 1860, the directors have the pleasure to state that the present year exhibits an important improvement.

The lamentable events occurring in the United States have not hitherto injuriously affected the interests of the bank; but in view of those, and of strengthening the position of the bank, and to enable the managers to take full advantage of any favourable opportunity for the purchase of exchange or otherwise, the directors have added considerably to the amount of specie held at the branches. It will be seen that the sum on hand at 31st December was 301,107*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, against 194,160*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* at 31st December, 1859.

Your directors have made, as they conceive, ample provision for all bad and doubtful debts; they have also deemed it advisable at this time to write off the whole of the preliminary expenses connected with the opening of the branch at Victoria in Vancouver's Island; the above deductions being made, the available net profit for the year amounts to 61,897*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*, out of which they have declared a half-yearly dividend, payable on and after the 5th July next, at the rate of six per cent. per annum, free of income tax.

This will leave the sum of 1,897*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* to be carried to the rest or balance of undivided profit, which, including this addition, amounted on 31st December, 1860, to 125,766*l.* 3*s.*, after providing for the dividend that was paid on the 5th January last.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1860.

	LIABILITIES.	£	s	d
Capital		1,000,000	0	0
Circulation		275,000	14	5
Deposits		528,412	16	5
Bills payable, and other liabilities		505,714	14	0
Reserve to meet bad and doubtful debts		62,445	1	4
Reserve for Christmas dividend		30,000	0	0
Undivided net profit		125,766	3	0
		2,417,021	11	11

ASSETS.		£	s	d
Specie and cash at bankers	.....	301,107	3	3
Bills receivable and other securities	.....	2,065,914	8	9
Bank premises	.....	60,000	0	0
		2,417,021	11	11
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT to December 31, 1860.		£	s	d
Dividends declared as follow:—				
At Midsummer, 1860, payable July, 1860	.....	30,000		
At Christmas, 1860, payable January, 1861	.....	30,000		
		60,000	0	0
Balance in hand, being undivided net profit to December 31, 1860	.....	138,798	3	9
		138,798	3	9
Balance of undivided net profit to December, 1860	.....	138,808	13	11
Net profit for the year 1860, after deduction of all current charges and income tax, and providing for bad and doubtful debts	.....	61,897	0	1
		188,706	3	0

BANK OF EGYPT.

REPORT to be presented to an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be held on Monday, the 5th day of August, 1861:—

In submitting to the shareholders the accounts for the half-year ending 30th June, 1861, the directors have to report that the debt due from the estate of the late Prince El Hami Faika has been reduced to 30,000*l*, inclusive of interest, and this balance is amply secured.

Of the other dependencies mentioned in the last report, a considerable sum has been realised, although with the sacrifice anticipated, which, however, the directors have been able to meet without infringing on the reserve fund. They have, nevertheless, thought it prudent, out of the present half-year's profits, to set aside a further sum to provide for any loss which may be experienced in the settlement of the remainder.

The amount standing to the credit of profit and loss is 12,479*l* 10*s* 4*d*, which enables the directors to recommend the usual dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year, free of income tax, leaving 3,729*l* 10*s* 4*d* to be carried forward to the next account.

The directors cannot close this report without acknowledging the highly honourable conduct and friendly support which has characterised the proceedings of His Highness the Viceroy in all matters connected with the settlement of the late Prince's debt.—By order of the court,
EDWARD CHAMBERLAIN, Secretary.

26 Old Broad street, E.C., London 24th July, 1861.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1861.		£	s	d
LIABILITIES.		£	s	d
Capital paid up	.....	350,000	0	0
Reserve fund, with interest to date	.....	10,991	3	0
Bills payable	.....	177,754	13	7
Current and other accounts	.....	52,887	18	0
Profit and loss (balance as below)	.....	12,479	10	4
		544,111	12	8
ASSETS.		£	s	d
Cash	.....	33,367	8	5
Bills receivable	.....	149,747	9	1
Government securities (Egyptian)	.....	215,077	1	10
Other securities	.....	143,927	17	10
Office furniture	.....	593	15	8
Preliminary expenses	.....	2,000	0	0
		544,111	12	8
PROFIT AND LOSS—June 30, 1861.		£	s	d
Dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year, payable on August 5	.....	8,750	0	0
Balance carried to next account	.....	3,729	10	4
		12,479	10	4
Cr.		£	s	d
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	.....	12,479	10	4
		12,479	10	4

The foregoing accounts have been examined by us, and compared with the books at the office, and the balance statement from the managers in Egypt, and we hereby certify that the said accounts are correct.

GEORGE WILLIAM HORN, } Auditors.
HENRY LLOYD MORGAN, }

London, July 25, 1861.

BANK OF IRELAND.

HALF-YEARLY dividend 5 per cent., free of income tax; real or reserve fund, 1,065,900*l*.

BANK OF LONDON.

The ordinary meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of London took place on the 17th July at the London Tavern: Sir John Shelley, Bart., M.P., occupied the chair. The usual preliminary business having been disposed of, the secretary (Mr Allen) read the 11th report, which was as follows:—

The accounts which the directors have now the satisfaction of submitting to the shareholders show that the result of the operations of the bank for the past half-year has been unusually favourable. It will be seen that the balance of profit and loss account amounts to 37,580*l* 2*s* 6*d*.

After payment of all expenses, making ample provision for bad and doubtful debts, and allowing for rebate of interest on bills discounted not yet due, there remains available the sum of 17,543*l* 13*s* 9*d*.

The directors are therefore enabled to declare a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum free of income tax, and to carry to the reserve fund the sum of 10,000*l*, by which addition that fund is increased to 41,000*l*. The balance, viz., 43*l* 13*s* 9*d*, is transferred to the credit of profit and loss account of the current half-year.

The directors who retire on this occasion are John Griffith Frith, Esq., Alderman Sir Henry Mudgevige, and Robert Porter, Esq., who, being duly qualified, offer themselves for re-election.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS—June 29, 1861.		£	s	d
Capital paid up	.....	304,000	0	0
Reserve fund	.....	31,000	0	0
Amount received under the terms of the Master of the Rolls	.....	4,812	14	6
Amount due by the bank on current, deposit, and other accounts	.....	1,684,129	3	10
Amount carried to credit of "profit and loss" account, 31,269 <i>l</i> 4 <i>s</i> 7 <i>d</i> ; less amount paid to customers for interest on their balances, 13,689 <i>l</i> 2 <i>s</i> 1 <i>d</i>.	.....	37,580	2	6
		2,057,523	1	10
Cr.		£	s	d
Investments, viz.:—In Government securities, India stock, &c.	.....	292,582	0	1
Ditto in freehold premises in Threadneedle street, let as a rental yielding 4 <i>l</i> 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.	.....	1,469,106	3	9
Cash in hand, and at call	.....	238,302	3	10
Preliminary expenses	.....	3,117	4	5
Lease and buildings at Charing cross branch, furniture, &c.	.....	1,614	8	9
		2,057,523	1	10
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Half-year ending June 29, 1861.		£	s	d
Half a year's current expenses at head office and Charing cross branch, bad and doubtful debts, directors' remuneration, &c.	.....	14,454	5	4
Rebate of interest on bills discounted not yet due, carried to profit and loss new account	.....	4,302	3	3
Amount written off—preliminary expense account, 500 <i>l</i> ; ditto ditto, Charing cross lease and buildings, &c., 200 <i>l</i>.	.....	700	0	0
Dividend for the half-year at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum	.....	7,500	0	0
Half-year's interest on the reserve fund at 4 per cent. per annum, 430 <i>l</i> ; amount now added thereto, 9,380 <i>l</i>.	.....	10,000	0	0
Balance carried to profit and loss new account	.....	43	13	3
		37,580	1	10
Cr.		£	s	d
Balance of profit brought from last half-year, 338 <i>l</i> 4 <i>s</i> 1 <i>d</i> ; ditto for current half-year, 37,241 <i>l</i> 16 <i>s</i> 5 <i>d</i>.	.....	37,580	1	10
Dr. RESERVE FUND ACCOUNT.		£	s	d
Balance	.....	41,000	0	0
Cr.	.....	41,000	0	0
Amounts from last half-year	.....	61,000	0	0
Additions brought down	.....	10,000	0	0
		41,000	0	0

The Chairman said it now became his duty to move that the report just read be received and adopted.

Mr Frith seconded the motion for the adoption of the report, and it was put and carried unanimously.

BANK OF MANCHESTER.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1861.		£	s	d
Dr.		£	s	d
Deposits not bearing interest	.....	7,923	0	0
Deposits bearing interest	.....	446,161	4	4
Seven-day and other bills	.....	29,356	8	1
		513,440	13	1
Capital, 43,636 shares, 4 <i>s</i>	.....	3174,544	0	0
Surplus fund	.....	35,146	0	0
Reserve for risk of debts, rebate of interest on bills on hand, and profit and loss account	.....	26,617	7	4
		326,308	7	4
Cr.		£	s	d
Bills of exchange, and cash on hand and at bankers	.....	739,709	8	8
Loans on stock	.....	518,572	15	0
Other loans	.....	480	0	0
Other securities	.....	212,440	6	5
		8,267	5	0
		739,709	8	8

REPORT of the directors to the general meeting of shareholders, 16th July, 1861, for the half-year ending 30th June, 1861:—

The directors of the Bank of Manchester beg to submit, for the information of the shareholders, their semi-annual report and balance sheet to the 30th June last.

The half-year just ended has been characterised by an unusually severe and lengthened pressure. As the spring advanced, the great deficiency of the home harvest was demonstrated; very large importations of foreign grain were necessitated; a steady and continued export of gold followed, producing a rise in the rate of interest scarcely less heavy in its pressure on trade than that experienced in the autumn of 1857. The famine in the North-West Provinces, adding to the depression of the Indian market,—the failures in the Greek trade,—the adoption of a prohibitory tariff in the United States,—the enhanced price of cotton, and the stimulated export of gold to America, consequent upon the unhappy civil strife in that country,—have been causes all adversely affecting the general trade of this district.

Largely sympathising with American interests, your directors, in common with every generous and sensitive mind, have witnessed with deepest regret the deplorable events which week by week have been developed in the United States. These events have severely tested, and thus far have borne out the high character entertained of this part of the bank's business. Their earnest hope that an end may soon be put to a conflict which threatens to become fatal to the commercial, financial, social, political, yes, national prospects of both parties for very many years, will, your directors believe, be shared by every proprietor.

The general business of the bank has steadily and satisfactorily increased, and fresh and gratifying proofs of public confidence continue to be received. But your directors regret to have to state that the bank has not escaped the casualties incident to an adverse state of trade; and that the profits of the half-year have been seriously encroached upon by failures. They cannot too strongly express their reprehension of the conduct of the principal insolvents; nor too earnestly seek to disabuse

the commercial world of the error of supposing that bills of sale given as preferential security are invalid unless registered.

During the half-year, the capital of the bank has been increased to 174,544^l paid up, by the issue of 1,896 shares, at an aggregate premium of 4,648^l. The reserve surplus fund now amounts to 25,148^l, being an increase of more than 5,000^l during the half-year.

The statement of profit and loss will be submitted to the meeting, from which it will be observed that, after paying the dividend recommended by the board, there will remain to the credit of the account a balance of 11,232^l 3s 7d, which, with the sum already reserved for risk of debts, your directors believe will be more than sufficient to meet the probable losses of the half-year.

W. S. STETT, Chairman.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

TWENTY-FIRST report of the board of directors to the half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors, held at the banking house, on Wednesday, 24th day of April, 1861:—

In conformity with the provisions of the deed of settlement, the directors now place before the shareholders the annexed statement of the accounts of the bank for the half-year ended on the 31st ultimo:—The undivided balance of 30th September was 2,561^l 16s 1d; to which is to be added the profits, after deducting rebate on current bills, allowing interest on deposits, paying expenses of management, providing for bad and doubtful debts, and making an allowance in reduction of bank premises and office furniture, 60,274^l 12s 11d; leaving for distribution 62,836^l 9s; which the directors recommend to be appropriated as follows:—To payment of dividend, at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, 56,250^l; increase of reserve fund, 2,017^l 10s 6d; balance carried to present half-year, 4,569^l 18s 6d; total, 62,836^l 9s. With the above addition to reserve fund, and the sum of 5,109^l 17s 9d, which they are happy to say has been recovered from debts previously written off as bad or doubtful, that fund will amount to 212,500^l. The directors have had for some time past under their consideration the propriety of extending the operations of the bank to the important colony of New Zealand, and believing that the time has now arrived for doing so, they have to request the sanction of the shareholders to certain alterations in the clauses 3, 5, and 60 of the deed of settlement, requisite to enable them to accomplish this object, and they do not hesitate to express their opinion that the opening of branches there will add to the position which the bank has already attained, and prove remunerative. Owing to the falling off in the export returns of gold dust from Timbarrua and the Rocky River, the agencies of the bank in those places have been withdrawn, and a fresh agency has been opened at Lambing Flat.

AGGREGATE BALANCE SHEET—March 31, 1861 (including London Branch to December 31, 1860).

Dr.	Bank stock	750,000 0 0	£	s	d
	Notes in circulation	488,814 0 0			
	Bills payable	1,638,909 2 6			
	Deposits and other liabilities	2,787,480 10 6			
	Reserve fund	210,482 9 6			
	Profit and loss	86,478 4 6			
		5,897,173 9 11			

Cr.	Cash and cash balances	1,082,085 7 2	£	s	d
	Bills in hand and in transit to London branch, March 31, 1861	765,585 8 6			
	Government securities	72,510 5 7			
	Notes of other banks	26,681 0 0			
	Bank premises	96,397 12 4			
	Bills discounted and other debts due to the bank	3,900,085 6 1			
	Reserve account	5,384 10 3			
		5,897,173 9 11			

PROFIT AND LOSS—March 31, 1861.

Dr.	March 31, 1861.—Rebate (at current rates) on bills discounted not due at this date	28,641 15 6	£	s	d
	Dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum	56,250 0 0			
	Increase of reserve fund	2,017 10 6			
	Balance carried to profit and loss "new account"	4,569 18 6			
		86,478 4 6			

Cr.	March 31, 1861.—Amount from last account	2,441 16 1	£	s	d
	March 31, 1861.—Balance of current half-year's profits after writing off bad debts	83,036 18 5			
		86,478 4 6			

Dr.	March 31, 1861.—Balance	212,600 0 0	£	s	d
	Cr.				
	March 31, 1861.—Amount from last account	206,372 11 9			
	March 31, 1861.—Recoveries from bad and doubtful debts	5,109 17 9			
	Amount from "profit and loss"	2,017 10 6			
		212,600 0 0			

BELFAST BANK.

Board Room, Belfast, Oct. 11, 1861.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the company took place this day. Robert Barr, Esq., J.P., D.L., was called to the chair. The Chairman read the following report:—

Your board of superintendence, in reporting to the proprietors of the Belfast Banking Company, at their thirty-fourth annual meeting, have much pleasure in congratulating them on the continued prosperity of their bank.

Your board and directors, out of the profits of the year ending 31st July last, have been enabled to declare the usual dividend of 12 per cent., and an extra dividend of 6 per cent., making in all 18 per cent. per annum; and have carried 23,000^l to the credit of their "reserve fund," which now amounts to 179,000^l (invested in Government stock), and 10,000^l to the credit of "profit and loss." The sum now standing to the

credit of this account is 26,971^l 2s 1d, which is quite ample to meet all doubtful debts outstanding, and, from past experience, any bad debts likely to arise for some years to come.

Your board and directors might this year have paid a much larger extra dividend, but they consider that they should not pay more than the rates paid this year, until the "res. fund" shall have amounted to 200,000^l, and they hope to arrive at these figures in a short time.

Your board have to report that lately two branch banks have been opened by the company, viz., at Ballibay and Rathfriland.

They have been often solicited by persons of standing resident in Dublin and elsewhere to open a branch in that city; but they have always declined to do so, on the ground that so long as their present bankers there (the Bank of Ireland) conduct the business of the company satisfactorily, its interests will be better served thus than through the medium of a branch bank.

ROBERT BARR, Chairman.

The report having been read,

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by James Alexander Henderson, Esq., and resolved unanimously:—"That the report be received, adopted, and entered; and that it be printed, and a copy sent to each shareholder."

Moved by Andrew Mulholland, Esq., seconded by James G. Bell, Esq., and resolved unanimously:—"That the cordial thanks of this meeting be offered to the officers of the bank for their valuable services in promoting the interests of the company, and for their steady, prudent, and safe management of its affairs, thus raising the bank to its present high standing."

The Chairman then ordered that seven members be balloted for to serve on the board for the coming year.

The ballot having been taken, the following gentlemen were duly elected:—Robert Barr, Esq., J.P., D.L., Furtysburn; A. Mulholland, Esq., J.P., D.L., Springvale house; Robert Thomson, Esq., J.P., D.L., Castleton; William S. Mitchell, Esq., Ulinda; James Greer Bell, Esq., Tullylish house; James Hamilton, Esq., Belfast; James Carlisle, Esq., Enfield house.

James Hamilton, Esq., moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his proper conduct in the chair, and for the very deep interest he had always manifested in the affairs of the bank.

The vote of thanks having been seconded by Andrew Mulholland, Esq., J.P., D.L., was carried unanimously.

ROBERT BARR, Chairman.

BILSTON BANKING COMPANY.

The directors of this company have declared a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending the 30th June last, and a bonus of 2½ per cent., payable on and after September the 2nd.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND BANK.

At the twenty-fifth annual general meeting, held at the bank on the 5th of August, 1861, Samuel Beale, Esq., M.P., in the chair, the following report was presented:—

The directors have the pleasure to report that

The year's profits, after paying the past year's income tax, and providing for every bad and doubtful debt, amount to	£	s	d
Deduct dividend of 4 per share paid for half-year ending 31st December, 1860	618,500	0	0
The directors recommend a dividend of 4 per share for half-year ending 30th June last, which will amount to	19,200	0	0
	26,400	0	0

Leaving a balance to be carried to the guarantee fund of	£	s	d
	13,711	13	7

The guarantee fund at the last annual meeting amounted to	£	s	d
Add interest to 30th June, 1861	2,468	5	8
Surplus profits as above	13,711	13	7

The present amount of the guarantee fund will then be	£	s	d
The paid-up capital amounts to	200,000		

It was resolved:—1. That the report now read be received and approved, and a copy thereof, together with the proceedings of this day, be sent to each proprietor.

2. That a dividend of 4 per share, for the half-year ending 30th June, be now declared, payable on or after the 1st of September next.

By resolutions of the twenty-second annual general meeting of the company, held on the 3rd day of August, 1858, and confirmed by a special general meeting held on the 4th day of October following, the capital of the bank was ordered to be increased from the sum of 150,000^l to the sum of 200,000^l, by the creation of 1,000 additional shares of 50^l each, and the sum of 15,000^l was transferred from the guarantee fund to the capital account, to be treated as capital paid up in respect of 300 of such shares, and the same 300 shares were ordered to be divided pro rata by way of bonus amongst the then existing shareholders, taking dividend thereon from the 31st day of December, 1858, and the remainder of such additional shares were ordered to be held for the future disposal of the proprietors.

Resolved:—3. That the further sum of 35,000^l be transferred from the guarantee fund to the capital account, and that the same be treated as capital paid up in respect of the remaining 700 of such additional shares; and that 550 of such 700 shares be divided pro rata by way of bonus amongst the existing shareholders, taking dividend thereon from the 31st day of December next; and the remaining 150 shares to be held or disposed of for the benefit of the proprietors in such way as the directors in their discretion shall think fit.

BIRMINGHAM TOWN AND DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY.

The twenty-fifth annual general meeting of the proprietors was held at Dee's Royal Hotel, on the 13th August: Mr Thomas Goodman in the chair. The following report was read:—

The directors of the Birmingham Town and District Bank have called the proprietors together to lay before them the twenty-fifth annual report, showing the success which has resulted from the business of the bank since the last general meeting. The shareholders will be gratified to learn that, notwithstanding the great want of activity in most branches of trade in the time comprised in this report, the profit arising from the business is of a very satisfactory and promising character. The high rate of interest which has prevailed during the last half-year more than compensated for any deficiency in the general business of the town. The accounts have been carefully audited by all the directors, as balanced up to the 29th June last, and found to be correct and well kept. This examination shows that after paying the income tax on last half-year's profit, all expenses incidental to the management of the business, and writing off a sufficient amount to cover bad debts, there remains a net profit on the year of 18,597/ 14s 5d. The directors, therefore, feel fully justified in proposing, in addition to the dividend of 7s 6d per share, a bonus of 2s 6d, making together 10s per share for the half-year, to be paid in September next, both free of income tax. Should this proposal have the sanction of the meeting, the statement of the profit account, with its appropriation, may be thus shown:—Brought forward from June, 1860, 2,201/ 6s 9d; profit from June, 1860, to June, 1861, 18,597/ 14s 5d; total, 21,799/ 1s 2d. Appropriation of the above:—Dividend paid in March last of 7s 6d per share, free of income tax, 6,556/ 2s 6d; ditto ditto for September next, free of income tax, 6,556/ 2s 6d; a bonus of 2s 6d per share, free of income tax, 2,185/ 7s 6d; subscription in January last, to relieve distress in Birmingham, 90/; building fund, as usual, 100/; and to be carried over to next year's account, 6,271/ 8s 8d; total, 21,799/ 1s 2d. The present paid-up capital of the bank is 87,411/ 1s, and there are 517 of the new shares unappropriated. The guarantee fund is 60,000/.

Resolutions regarding and approving the report, and declaring the dividend and bonus therein recommended, were unanimously passed.

Thanks were voted to the directors for their services during the past year, and to Mr Bassett Smith, the manager, for his continued assiduity in conducting the business of the bank.

John Aston, Esq., J. O. Bacchus, Esq., and Mr James Collins, the retiring directors, were re-elected.

BIRMINGHAM BANKING COMPANY.

The directors of this company have issued a circular notifying a dividend of 10s, and a bonus of 5s per share, for the past half-year.

CARLISLE CITY AND DISTRICT BANK.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that the directors have declared a dividend, payable on the 8th of August next, of 11s 6d per share, for the half-year ending 30th June, 1861, being equal to 18/ per cent. per annum. The profits for the half-year, after paying all expenses, amount to 6,674/ 13s 9d, being at the rate of 23/ 0s 4d per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital of 58,000/.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Capital stock (58,000 0 0), Deposits, balance of accounts, and notes in circulation (307,033 13 3), Guarantee fund (19,333 6 8), Auxiliary fund (1,974 5 2), and Net profits for the half-year (6,674 13 9).

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Bank premises, old and new, and at branch (7,107 7 11) and Cash and bills in the bank, advances on securities, &c. (285,908 10 11).

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Property and income tax paid (239 17 4), Dividend to June 30, 1861 (5,220 0 0), and Auxiliary fund for balance (3,423 18 11).

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Balance of auxiliary fund February 12, 1861 (2,200 3 0) and Net profits, June 30, 1861 (6,674 13 9).

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Undivided profits as under: Guarantee fund (19,333 6 8) and Auxiliary fund (3,423 18 11).

CARLISLE AND CUMBERLAND BANK.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET for the Half-year to the 30th June, 1861.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Capital paid up (51,925 0 0), Circulation, deposits, and other liabilities (352,275 19 5), Reserved surplus fund (20,000 0 0), and Contingent fund (1,636 7 6).

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Cash and bills in the bank and other available securities (481,545 9 7) and By profits (5,708 9 3).

CITY BANK.

The half-yearly meeting of the City Bank was held on the 16th July, at the London Tavern: Alderman Sir R. Carden occupied the chair. The usual preliminary business having been gone through, the secretary (Mr C. J. Worth) read the eleventh report of the bank, which was as follows:—

The report now presented to the shareholders exhibits statements of account which show the result of the operations of the bank for the six months ending the 30th of June last. On reference to the abstract of the profit and loss account, it will be found that the gross profit for the half-year, including a small balance of 625/ 6s 4d brought forward from the last account, amounts to 45,034/ 14s 2d; and that, after deducting from this amount the current expenses, bad and doubtful debts, and rebate of interest on bills discounted not yet due, there remains at the disposal of the directors the sum of 32,822/ 0s 5d, which they have dealt with as follows, viz.:—To the payment of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, 9,000/; ditto a bonus of 1s per share, also free of income tax, 4,500/; transfer to the reserved fund (thereby increasing that fund to 40,000/), 7,000/; and the balance amounting to 2,322/ 0s 5d has been carried to the new profit and loss account. The directors who on this occasion retire by rotation, are Mr H. V. East, Mr John Haekblock, and Mr Andrew Lawrie, all of whom offer themselves for re-election. The directors take leave to express their deep regret at the death of their much-esteemed colleague, Mr John Lidgout. This lamentable event having so recently occurred, they have not deemed it expedient to fill up at present the vacancy thus occasioned in the direction. The dividend and bonus will be payable on and after Tuesday, the 23rd instant.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Capital paid up, viz., 5s per share on 6,000 shares (300,000 0 0) and Amount of reserved fund (35,000 0 0).

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Exchange bills and East India bonds (2,418,901 3 8) and Other securities, including bills discounted and loans (2,679,738 8 6).

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Current expenses, including salaries, rent, stationery, directors' remuneration, proportion of building expenses, allowable for bad and doubtful debts, income tax, &c. (14,700 15 7).

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Amount carried to profit and loss new account, being rebate on bills discounted, not yet due (7,561 18 2).

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Dividend account for the payment of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum upon 500,000/ amount of paid-up capital upon 6,000 shares (9,000 0 0).

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Bonus of 1s per share on 6,000 shares (4,500 0 0) and Undivided profit transferred to profit and loss new account (2,322 0 5).

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Surplus profit brought forward from last half-year, 625/ 6s 4d; since added, 44,407/ 8s 10d (45,034 14 2).

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Balance brought down, viz.: Surplus profit brought forward from last half-year, 625/ 6s 4d; since added, 44,407/ 8s 10d (45,034 14 2).

The Chairman said, in moving the adoption of the report, he had little information to furnish to the proprietors beyond that which it contained. He might, however, very properly refer briefly to one item of the current expenses, which might require explanation; for it did appear larger than might be expected: he referred to the item for losses. At the last meeting they thought that they had entirely finished with the affairs of Streetfield Laurence and Co.; they then put down their loss at 17,000/ and believed that that was the total, and they had every reason to believe it was so, for they all knew the ability and clearness with which Mr Commissioner Holroyd gave his judgment, and his decisions were always entitled to the greatest respect. The learned Commissioner decided that in respect of the 5,000/ for which the bank held security they would be able to repay themselves, and therefore they calculated on recovering that 5,000/. There was, however, an appeal, and the Lords Justices had reversed the Commissioner's decision, and said this must go to the assignees. They had just added 5,000/ more to the expenses of the bank than they expected, and made them appear very large. He hoped that the current expenses, however, would annually increase, for it would indicate that their business was progressing, and if it did that they must have additional clerks. The loss of this 5,000/ was never for a moment anticipated; the judgment of Mr Commissioner Holroyd was perfectly clear on the point; he did not express the slightest doubt, but said most distinctly that they had a right to hold the collateral security, and pay themselves the 5,000/ before giving it up. The proprietors, however, had fortunately suffered nothing; they had received their 7 1/2 per cent., and the only disadvantage that had been occasioned to the bank was that for this year the reserve fund was not increased. They were now about to increase it by 7,000/, and he believed he might say that it was highly gratifying to the directors that they were enabled to say, that...

no bank—considering their infant growth—had the prosperity been so great as in the City Bank. It was due to the proprietors that he should say that this was owing, in a considerable measure, to the manner in which many of them had brought accounts to that bank, and he would simply point out that if each would only bring one account it would at once double their business; and this, he thought, they could very easily do. The progress they had made and the general opinion entertained of their power and greatness had sometimes been not a little embarrassing to the directors. They had been called on by the public to proceed as if they were in their manhood, whereas they were only in their infancy. It had, therefore, been a matter of consideration whether they should not increase their capital, to do which he believed they had full power. They had now 600,000l capital, 300,000l of which was paid up; but it had been thought advisable to consider if it could not be increased to a million; that course had not been decided upon, but they had determined to issue 2,000 more shares, that would make an additional nominal capital of 200,000l, and a paid-up capital of 100,000l. They had a gross receipt of 44,000l, that was the earnings of the half-year. These earnings had arisen from a cause which he hoped would not prevail many months longer—that cause was the extreme rate of interest. Though the banks had benefited by this, they could not but see that it must have a detrimental effect on the commercial interests of the country. Though they did not hope this high rate of interest would continue to rule, yet he trusted that what they lost by its diminishing would be more than counterbalanced by what they gained in the shape of increased business, for only four weeks in this year had the Bank rate of discount been down to 5 per cent., and during the remainder of the time it had been at six, seven, and even eight per cent., a state of things that could not fail to be detrimental to a trading country. Another question had arisen from the proprietors. It was said that this was the only bank holding so substantial a position which had not any branches; constant representations were made by proprietors that there should be a branch at the West end. The directors had nothing to say on the matter further than they had no thought of establishing a branch at the West end at present. There was a general feeling that they should leave well alone. And it was perfectly clear that branches had sometimes been disastrous, and there could not be the same strict supervision maintained over them that there could be over the parent establishment. He did not know that he had anything further to add to the observations he had made, but he would gladly answer any questions, and would content himself now with simply moving the adoption of the report.

Mr H. G. Brown wished to know if the bank could appeal from the decision of the Lords Justices.

The Chairman—Certainly, to the House of Lords; but it was thought that it was not advisable to throw good money after bad.

In reply to another shareholder, the Chairman said that they had at present received 1s 6d in the pound from the estate of Streetfield, Laurence, and Co. They expected more, but it was doubtful whether they would get it.

Mr Gilby seconded the motion for the adoption of the report, and said he should like to know at what premium the new shares were to be issued, if the directors had no objection to state.

The Chairman said he should not like at present to state at what premium the shares would be issued, though he might do so about a week before they were issued. It would be so fixed as to confer a mutual benefit on the bank and the proprietors.

The report was then adopted.

CLYDESDALE BANK.

At the annual general meeting of the partners of the Clydesdale Bank, James Lumsden, Esq., Dean of Guild, in the chair, Mr Readman, manager, read the following report by the directors:—

The directors have now to submit to the shareholders, in terms of the contract of copartnership, the annual statement of the affairs of the bank for the year ending 12th June last.

The net profits for the year, after making ample provision for bad and doubtful debts, amount to 85,544l 14s 5d; and the directors unanimously recommend that the same dividend as last year, viz, 7½ per cent., be paid to the shareholders, under deduction of income tax, at the usual periods of 1st August and 3rd February next. This dividend will absorb 60,463l 11s, and leave a balance of 24,991l 4s 5d. Of this sum the directors recommend that 22,386l be added to the reserved surplus fund, and that the balance of 2,605l 4s 5d be carried forward to next year's account.

The affairs of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank are now almost closed, and the valued assets taken over by the Clydesdale Bank have all been collected, excepting a sum of about 4,000l, which is in process of being realised. The deficiency, as referred to in the reports of the last two years, will not exceed the estimated amount of 25,800l, and this sum the directors have set aside from the reserved surplus fund, in terms of the resolution of the general meeting of 13th July, 1859. The mutual discharge is in the hands of the law agents of the two banks, but has not yet been finally adjusted.

Although the profits of last year would have allowed a higher rate of dividend than that now proposed to the meeting, the directors believe that the permanent prosperity of the bank is best promoted by recommending a moderate rate of dividend, and by adding periodically to the reserved surplus fund. As stated in last year's report, this fund amounted at that date to 163,414l; deduct sum now set aside for Edinburgh and Glasgow

Bank deficiency, 25,800l; sum proposed to be added this year, 22,386l; making a total of 160,000l, equivalent to nearly 20 per cent. on the paid-up capital of the bank.

The directors who retire by rotation at this time are James Merry, Esq., M.P., and James Muirhead, Esq.; and the board unanimously recommend that Sir James Anderson and Alexander Hastie, Esq., be elected in their room.

Annexed will be found the usual abstract of the balance sheet, to which the directors beg to refer.—By order of the directors.

Glasgow, July 8, 1861.

GEO. READMAN, Manager.

ABSTRACT OF ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET—June 12, 1861.

LIABILITIES.		£	s	d
Capital of the bank.....	£1,000,000	0	0	0
Deduct unissued stock.....	192,620	0	0	0
Reserve surplus fund.....		207,286	0	0
Circulation.....		137,014	0	0
Deposits.....		407,277	0	0
Acceptances on account of customers against securities held by the bank.....		3,447,473	1	9
Surplus for the year.....		61,785	18	8
		85,544	14	5
		5,007,181	14	8
ASSETS.		£	s	d
Bills discounted at head office and branches.....		2,670,323	14	7
Credit accounts at head office and branches.....		1,017,358	4	10
Bank buildings in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and branches, including property acquired from the Western bank.....		84,337	2	2
Balance due by other banks.....		50,304	4	6
Investments in consols and other securities.....		4704,597	0	1
Gold and silver coin and notes of other banks in hand, and cash balances with London banks.....		571,049	8	6
		1,372,448	8	7
		5,007,181	14	8

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report, and trusted that it would be considered as satisfactory by the shareholders as it had been by the directors. During the past year the many and very sudden fluctuations in the value of money, combined with that depression which for some time had been so severely felt by the mercantile interests of this country, had tended very much to the restriction of business, and had caused a more than usual amount of caution to be necessary in conducting banking operations. Still, it was gratifying to find that the business of the bank steadily increased, and that they were enabled to lay before the shareholders the result which they now did. As in former years, every attention had been bestowed by their directors, and their accounts, both at the head office and at the branches, had been carefully and minutely examined, and a sum ample and sufficient laid aside to meet any bad and doubtful debts. Such being the case, they were still enabled to place at their disposal the sum of 85,544l, which was fully 10 per cent. in excess of last year's profits, prosperous as that year was beyond all preceding years. Two years ago authority was given by the general meeting to the directors to deduct from the rest the amount of the deficiency in the assets of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank. This, at the time, for various reasons, it was not considered advisable to do; but now it had been acted upon, and that sum had been deducted from the rest. The directors, however, satisfied that a large reserved fund was of the utmost importance in placing the bank on a sure footing, and securing that confidence which the public had hitherto placed in it, thought it more for the interest of the bank that a larger sum than usual should this year be placed to the reserved fund. They therefore recommended that 22,386l be added to that fund, making the surplus fund, as stated in the report, 160,000l. In last year's report allusion was made to the change in the premises occupied as the head office. It was satisfactory to state that these premises had been found sufficient and very commodious. They had afforded a greater amount of facility and comfort to their customers in transacting business, while they had enabled the officials of the bank to conduct their respective departments in the most satisfactory manner. Conducted as the affairs of this bank would be, upon the same principles which had in times past actuated the directors in the management of the bank, he had no doubt that the confidence which the public had placed in it would be maintained, and that the prosperity of the Clydesdale Bank would keep pace with the growth and prosperity of Glasgow. He had much pleasure in moving that the report be adopted, that a dividend of 7½ per cent. be declared, payable at the usual terms of August and February next, and that Sir Jas. Anderson and Alex. Hastie, Esq., be elected directors, in the room of Mr Muirhead and Mr Merry, who retired.

Mr Robert Aitken seconded the motion, and expressed his satisfaction that the course recommended in the report as to the dividend was the most prudent they could follow, especially in the circumstances in which they were now placed. They had great cause to be thankful that they had such an excellent manager and such directors, who looked narrowly into everything; and he was satisfied that there had been no desire to make things more pleasant, to use an old railway term, than they should be. They knew the best and the worst of everything, and the best greatly predominated.

Dr M. Hamilton having suggested that in future the dividend should be declared free of income tax, the motion was approved of.

Dr M'Farlane, Edinburgh, in moving a vote of thanks to the directors and the manager, said, that they had all done their duty was clear from the report, and that they retained the confidence of the public to as great an extent as most of the banks in Scotland. This he knew quite well, for he belonged to other banks than

this. The Clydesdale Bank, under such management as they had at present, was sure to prosper, unless something very extraordinary should happen. He did not know a bank that possessed a more faithful manager than Mr Readman.

The Chairman briefly expressed the acknowledgments of the directors and Mr Readman, and the proceedings then terminated.

COLONIAL BANK.

THE forty-seventh half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders in this company was held on the 3rd July, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate street: Mr C. Marryat, the chairman of the board of directors, presided. The Secretary read the following report:—

In accordance with the requisitions of the charter, the directors submit to the proprietors the following statement of the debts and assets of the corporation on the 31st of December, 1860, which comprises the net profit made during the half-year ending at that period, viz:—**Debts.**—Circulation, 265,572/ 12s 6d; deposits, bills payable, and other liabilities, 1,478,443/ 3s 9d; paid-up capital, 500,000/; reserved fund, 80,940/ 17s 9d; net profit, 36,774/ 0s 7d; total, 2,361,730/ 14s 7d. **Assets.**—Specie, 278,965/ 11s 11d; due to the bank in the colonies on bills discounted and purchased, including those past due, 1,238,492/ 1s 1d; due to the bank in the colonies on current accounts, 36,777/ 2s 8d; due to the bank in London on bills remitted, cash at bankers, &c., 803,037/ 1s 9d; bank premises and furniture in London and in the colonies, 4,408/ 9s 2d; total, 2,361,730/ 14s 7d.

The directors have much pleasure in being able again to present to the proprietors such a satisfactory statement, and to add that the latest accounts received from the branches compare favourably with those of the corresponding period of the preceding year. They now, therefore, recommend that out of the net profits reported above, which amounts, after providing for income tax and for all bad and doubtful debts, to 36,774/ 0s 7d, a dividend be made of 5 per cent. for the half-year ending 31st December, 1860, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital of the corporation, which will require 25,000/ leaving 11,774/ 0s 7d to be added to the reserve fund, which will then amount to 98,714/ 18s 4d.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said, as the shareholders had had the accounts in their possession for some days, and as they afforded all the information he could give, it would not be necessary for him to detain them with any lengthened observations. He might, however, say that the progress of the bank was generally satisfactory. They had, of course, experienced losses like other undertakings of a similar character, but, such as they had been, they were amply provided for.

Mr Mocatta would like to be informed whether the bank was likely to be injuriously affected by the disruption in America.

The Chairman said no doubt injurious effects would be produced in a variety of ways if the war went on; but, directly, the bank was not likely to be affected, inasmuch as the directors had already stopped direct communication with New York to avoid anything of the kind.

In reply to a question from a shareholder, The Chairman said he thought it unadvisable to state publicly the extent of their losses, or in what direction they had been sustained.

Mr Hines said he had been a shareholder from the first, and had great confidence in the board; but he put it to them whether they ought not to divide a tiber more of the earnings than they proposed to do. He had anxiously watched the reserve fund, which he thought was being increased more rapidly than necessary. He should like a small increase to the dividend, and believed another 2,500/ might be devoted to that purpose. The reserve fund would then be 90,000/, and next year the goal of 100,000/ could be reached. The increase in the dividend would enhance the value of the shares, which at present were quoted at 37, 38, and 39,—certainly below what they ought to be. With a dividend of 10 per cent. they ought to be quoted at 40. He threw the subject out as a suggestion, but would not press it to disturb the unanimity of the meeting.

Mr C. Cave, a director, said that his hon. friend knew the value of a large reserve as well as any man in private business, and therefore he was somewhat surprised that he should not also wish for it in his corporate capacity. The directors felt that the reserve fund should amount to 100,000/, not only as a defence against any sudden calamity, but to maintain the regularity of the dividend. When they arrived at the happy goal of 100,000/, they would then increase the dividend in the shape of a bonus, but not even then to the full extent of their earnings, for it would still be necessary to put by something to meet the great responsibility of their vastly increasing business.

Mr Scott said that whilst he should like an increase of dividend, he hoped that prudence would never be lost sight of.

The report was then adopted, and a dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year declared.

CUMBERLAND UNION BANK.

REPORT of the directors to the proprietors, at their thirty-second annual general meeting, held at the Green Dragon Hotel, Workington, on Tuesday, the 30th July, 1861:—

The directors have to report that the books of the bank have been made up to the 30th June last, and that they have been carefully audited. After writing off to the debit of profit and loss account 335/ 19s 11d,

the amount of two bad debts incurred at the branches, setting aside 868/ 10s, towards the new buildings at Maryport and Penrith branches, and making provision for doubtful debts,

The net profit for the year amounts to	14,992	13	0
From which deduct 1 year's interest on guarantee fund at 5 per cent.	1,277	9	8
And income tax for the past year	356	13	0
	1,784	0	0

Thus leaving 17,179 15 8 as the amount of disposable profit for the year, out of which the directors recommend the usual dividend of 5/ per share. They have also the satisfaction to recommend this year a bonus of 2/ per share.

These payments will absorb 14,000/ leaving 3,179/ 15s 4d to be carried to the guarantee fund, which with that addition and the year's interest, 1,277/ 9s, as already stated, will then amount to 30,000/ thus making the proprietary funds of the bank to stand at 110,000/.

In the spring of this year a favourable opportunity presented itself to the directors to reopen the branch at Carlisle closed some years ago. This was accordingly taken advantage of, and business was recommenced in the county town on 1st May. The progress made in the short time which has elapsed has been very satisfactory and encouraging.

The Maryport branch building commenced about 12 months ago is now nearly complete, and in a few weeks will be ready for occupation. The directors have just entered into contracts for the erection of the new Penrith office upon the site purchased there two years ago.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN CHARTERED BANK.

REPORT of the directors to the proprietors, at the sixteenth ordinary meeting, on Wednesday, the 31st July, 1861:—

The directors have to submit the accompanying statement of the accounts of the bank made up to the 31st March in the colonies, and to the 30th June in London.

Referring to what was said at the last meeting on the subject of a change in the colonial management, the directors have now great satisfaction in informing the proprietors that they have appointed, as manager of one of the branches, Mr John Salmon, a gentleman of banking and mercantile experience, strongly recommended, and who has already sailed for his destination.

Although the profits of the past six months have considerably exceeded those of any previous half-year, yet, owing to the provision made for losses, arising from failures which have occurred since the date of the last report, and a consequent depreciation in the value of securities, the amount available for distribution is reduced to 16,600/ 12s 6d.

The general amelioration of circumstances in Australia, and the increase in the bank's profits for the half-year, seem to justify the hope of a steadily improving future.

The directors recommend the following appropriation of the balance of profit and loss account, viz:—To the payment of a dividend at the rate of six per cent. per annum, free of income tax, on 500,000/, the paid-up capital of the bank, 15,000/; towards the reduction of the amount at debit of preliminary expenses, 500/; bank premises and furniture accounts, 1,000/; leaving 100/ 12s 6d to be added to the reserved fund, which will then amount to 22,587/ 17s 9d.—(Signed)

STEPHEN P. KENNARD, Chairman.

LIABILITIES.		
Paid-up capital	500,000	0
Deposits	611,271	5
Bills payable and other liabilities	84,506	7
Circulation	26,450	0
Reserved Fund	22,487	5
Amount carried to profit and loss account	27,440	15
	1,935,690	15

ASSETS.		
Bills receivable (including the estimated value of those overdue), loans on security, cash at bankers, &c.	1,031,006	0
Specie and bullion	234,978	14
Bank premises and furniture	84,441	5
Preliminary expenses	4,800	1
	1,935,690	15

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		
Current expenses in Melbourne, Sydney, and sub-branches	8,800	0
Current expenses in London, including directors' remuneration and income tax	2,700	10
	10,500	10
Balance	16,000	12
	27,440	15

Amount brought down..... 27,440 15 11

Examined, compared with the books and vouchers, and together with the securities, found correct, 18th July, 1861.

(Signed) JOHN HENRY STRIKEMERS, } Auditors.
PHILIP VANDERVEL, }

The preceding report and statement of accounts for the last half-year ending 30th June, 1861, having been read by the Secretary, it was resolved unanimously—"That the report and balance sheet now read be received and approved; that the dividend for the half-year ending the 30th June last be made, in accordance with the recommendation contained in the report, at the rate of six per cent. per annum (free of income tax), and that it be payable on and after the 5th August."

The proceedings of the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the court of directors. (Extracted from the minutes.)

HENRY MOULES, Secretary.

73 Cornhill, E.C., London, 31st July, 1861.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

THE thirtieth annual general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held in Gloucester, on Wednesday, the 14th of August,

Samuel Baker, Esq., in the chair, when the following report was presented by the directors:—

Your directors have again the satisfaction to report to you a steady improvement in the affairs of this company. The injurious influences of a bad harvest, combined with the lamentable dissensions in America, have seriously affected the agricultural and trading interests of the country, and thereby given cause for much anxiety to your managers. But notwithstanding largely increased demands made upon them for accommodation, they have, by means of the ample capital at your disposal, not only met the requirements with great liberality, but also by care and strict supervision kept down the losses by bad debts to less than the average annual amount. The position of monetary affairs during the past year has tested and fully sanctioned the wisdom of the system you have pursued of accumulating disposable funds out of annual profits. This has fortified your directors against every emergency. The average rate of interest has been favourable for its employment. The profits throughout the year have been large. They may be considered exceptional so far as they depended upon the increased rate of interest. It would, therefore, be unwise to deal with them as an ordinary average. Your directors believe that your interests will be best served by again adding to the capital and guarantee fund, by which means you will increase the power of the bank, and provide sources for future profit. At the date of your last annual report the paid-up capital was 225,000*l*, the guarantee fund 112,500*l*, and the rest (or reserve account) 12,236*l* 11*s* 2*d*. The profits of the year (after payment of the Christmas dividend) have raised the rest to 49,514*l* 15*s* 6*d*, from which we now recommend you to take 30,000*l* to be added to the capital and guarantee fund, in proportion of two-thirds to the capital and one-third to the guarantee fund, and to declare an increased dividend for the half-year, viz., 2*s* 6*d* per share, making, together with the Christmas dividend, 4*s* 6*d* per share, clear of income tax, for the year terminating on the 30th June, 1861. There will then remain an unappropriated balance on the rest account of 764*l* 15*s* 6*d*. Your directors confidently hope that, during the present year, you may add a further sum of 7,500*l* to the capital and guarantee fund, so as to raise them together to the sum of 375,000*l*, or one-half the full authorised capital of the company. They also hope that you will then be enabled to maintain a future dividend of 5*s* per share per annum. It must be gratifying to proprietors to remember that they have attained a state of unquestionable stability, concurrently with a steadily increased dividend. Your directors have always felt that the character and success of the bank demanded that with increasing business there should be increasing capital, and they trust that you will continue this course of prudent policy. The value of your shares depends as much upon sound stability as upon the dividends you may be able to pay. The new branch at Ross has fully answered the expectations of your directors. They have no doubt that a considerable business will be established there. They have also been induced by the invitation of influential friends in the Dean Forest, and with the view of maintaining their interests in that important district, to open a branch at Coleford.

The report having been read, the Chairman announced that a preparatory meeting had been held the previous day, in accordance with the 28th clause of the deed of settlement, for the purpose of receiving and examining the lists for directors; and having produced an abstract of the votes as they were returned that day, showing that the greatest number of votes were given for the following gentlemen, they were accordingly appointed directors for the ensuing year:—Samuel Baker, Samuel Bowly, John Blagden Hale, Nathaniel Hartland, Samuel Jones, William P. Price, James Maurice Shipton, John W. Wilton, Lindsey Winterbotham.

Resolved—1st. That the report of the directors be received and approved, and that the same be printed for distribution amongst the proprietors; and also that a dividend for the half-year of 2*s* 6*d* per share, clear of income tax, be made to the proprietors.

2nd. That the sum of 20,000*l* be transferred from the rest account to the capital account, being at the rate of 1*l* 6*s* 8*d* per share on the 15,000 shares of the company, thereby increasing the paid-up capital to 245,000*l*; and making (with 15*l* per share previously paid) the sum of 161*l* 6*s* 8*d* per share paid up.

3rd. That the sum of 10,000*l* be transferred from the rest account to the guarantee fund, thereby increasing it to 122,500*l*.

4th. That the sum of 1,000*l* be placed at the disposal of the directors, for their services during the current year.

5th. That the best thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby tendered, to the directors and managers of the company.

6th. That the best thanks of this meeting be given to the chairman for his able and impartial conduct in the chair.

The meeting then separated.

HALIFAX COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY.

At the annual meeting of the shareholders of this company, the directors reported that the net profit of the year amounted to 16,140*l* 17*s* 9*d*, being nearly 16½ per cent. upon the share capital. A dividend of 10 per cent. was declared, in addition to a bonus of 8*s* per share, making an entire dividend of 14 per cent. for the year, and leaving a balance of 1,439*l* 17*s* 9*d* to be added to the fund for contingencies. It appears that the net annual profits of this company during the last eight years have averaged more than 14½ per cent., and that there is now a surplus in the reserve and other contingent accounts exceeding one-third of the share capital.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD UNION BANK.

At the annual meeting of this company, a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent., and a bonus at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum,

free of income tax, were declared; the sum of 2,000*l* was added to the surplus fund, and a balance of 2,354*l* 2*s* 6*d* carried forward to next year's account.

IONIAN BANK.

The following is the twentieth yearly report of the directors, submitted to the proprietors on Thursday, 30th May, 1861:—

The directors of the Ionian Bank, in presenting to the proprietors their annual report, have little to communicate beyond what appears from the summary at foot, as the result of the year's transactions.

The return of the rest to an amount exceeding what it was before the pressure of adverse times, has enabled the court to resume the former rate of dividend, viz., six per cent. per annum.

This step was not taken without mature consideration, nor until the directors had assured themselves that the same rate might, according to all reasonable expectation, be steadily continued, together with a due provision for contingencies and addition to the rest.

Since the renewal of the charter the attention of the court has been mainly directed to old dependencies covered by securities, which have unavoidably remained unliquidated.

After a careful examination of these securities, the directors have satisfied themselves that no material loss is to be apprehended in their ultimate realisation; they have, nevertheless, thought it right to make provision for any such contingency, and they have further directed measures to be taken for effecting, as promptly as prudence will permit, the liquidation thereof.

The character of the business transacted during the year 1860, as well as the branches as also at the agencies of the bank, has been satisfactory, and it is gratifying to be able to add that the agitation which occasionally ruffles the surface of the Ionian commonwealth has no sensible effect on the operations of the bank.

The following is an abstract of the profit and loss account for the year:—The balance to the credit of profit and loss on the 1st January, 1860, was 17,087*l* 5*s* 7*d*; the net profit, after deduction of charges and allowance for doubtful debts, is 11,526*l* 19*s* 3*d*; together, 28,614*l* 5*s* 10*d*; from which is to be deducted the amount of two half-yearly dividends paid in 1860, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, 7,500*l*; leaving to the credit of profit and loss on the 1st January, 1861, 21,114*l* 5*s* 10*d*.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

The half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held on the 1st August, at the London Tavern: Mr W. Champion Jones occupied the chair.

After the usual preliminary business, the Chairman called on the secretary to read the report, which was as follows:—Your directors have the pleasure to lay before the proprietors of the bank their report and balance sheet for the six months ended on the 30th June last. These accounts have been examined and signed by the auditors. They show a net profit for the half-year of 44,473*l* 3*s* 3*d*, after payment of interest to customers 47,451*l* 0*s* 5*d*, and of the expenses at the head office and branches, income tax, rebate on bills discounted and net due, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts. Your directors have declared a dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year out of the net profit, as above stated, and carried forward the balance of 19,473*l* 3*s* 3*d*. The dividend will be payable at the head office, or any of the branches, on and after Monday, the 12th instant.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1861.

Dr.	£	s	d
Capital paid up	500,000	0	0
Reserve fund	125,000	0	0
Amount due by the bank for customers' balances, &c. 24,605,968 1 1			
Liabilities on acceptances and endorsements by the bank, circular notes, and letters of credit	304,483	11	6
Profit and loss balance brought from last account	45,738	14	11
Gross profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts	102,121	8	8
	676,198	16	6
Cr.	£	s	d
Cash on hand at head office and branches	658,450	3	8
Cash placed at call and at notice	549,401	4	7
	1,207,851	6	4
Investments, viz.:—			
Government and guaranteed stocks	600,043	14	5
Other stocks and securities	110,600	17	11
	710,643	31	6
Discounted bills, notes, and temporary advances to customers in town and country	4,138,000	15	7
Advances to customers on special securities	371,355	0	0
	4,509,355	15	1
Freehold premises in Lombard street and Nicholas lane, freehold and leasehold property at the branches, with fixtures and fittings	90,007	9	8
Interest paid to customers	47,451	0	5
Salaries and all other expenses at head office and branches, including income tax on profits and salaries	55,205	11	10
	6,764,198	16	8

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	s	d
Interest paid to customers	47,451	0	5
Expenses as above	55,205	11	10
Rebate on bills not due, carried to new account	18,630	8	1
Dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year	30,000	0	0
Balance carried forward	19,473	3	5
	165,859	9	7
Cr.	£	s	d
Balance brought forward from last account	3,738	14	11
Gross profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts	102,121	8	8
	165,859	9	7

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said the directors had hoped to have held the present meeting in the hall of the new bank in Lombard street; but the greater general convenience of assembling at the London Tavern until the new premises were completed had led them to forego a wish, the accomplishment of which, if practicable, would no doubt have

been gratifying to all parties. He believed that with the result of the business of the six months ending the 30th of June, as shown in the accounts, they would have no reason to feel disappointed. The rate of interest in banking concerns for the past six months had been generally high, and had been so far in favour of banking profits, of which, he was happy to say, a very fair share had fallen to the lot of the London and County. Otherwise, their business had not been specially effected by any particular commercial or international event. The disruption of the North American Union had not in any degree come home to their interests, and therefore all they had to say on that theme was to express the general sympathy which that event had everywhere occasioned. They were affected rather by matters of a domestic character, as, for instance, the last two harvests. The condition in which the crops had been got in last year had pressed severely upon the agriculturists, and in those districts where the bank had branches they had been called upon, as they expected to be, to afford assistance to those of their agricultural customers whose position and standing fairly entitled them to it. The directors felt it to be fairly within the sphere of the institution to grant, as they desired to do, assistance to the farmers in those districts who were known to them as having long been customers of the bank. Nor had they any reason to regret having afforded such aid. Most of the accounts so opened had been already entirely paid off, and the present prospects of the forthcoming harvest, he was happy to say, left every reason to believe that the whole of the advances still outstanding would be liquidated in a short time. The legal proceedings in which the bank was engaged had not undergone any material alteration since the last meeting. The pending litigation in reference to the Chandos mortgage, would, he believe, come on for hearing before the next meeting in February, and he hoped the shareholders would accept the assurances of the board that they saw no reason to qualify the expectations they had on previous occasions stated as to the ultimate result, inasmuch as they were entitled, by the opinion of the solicitors of the company, and of every authority to which they had access, to believe that the final decision would be in harmony with those which, in the suits they had been engaged in, had happily preceded it. He would now turn to the balance sheet, to point out the amount to which the balance had augmented during the six months, and to show how much each head had increased the amount for the accumulation of capital which had come into their possession in the course of the six months. Beginning on the debtor side, the capital paid up remained as it was, namely, 500,000*l.* The reserve fund had been augmented by the vote of the last meeting by 15,000*l.* The increase on customers' balances in the six months was 136,351*l.*, a sum which would have been three or four times multiplied, probably, if the last harvest had been more favourable. The next item, liabilities on acceptances and endorsements, was a new one, and represented a connection which the directors hoped to see in a state of further progression in the next and every succeeding six months. These acceptances were given by the bank on the security of banks in India and the Cape of Good Hope, whose London agency was executed by the London and County on commission. The increase in salaries throughout the establishment (which salaries were revised every year in January and February) amounted, together with income tax, the rent of premises in Threadneedle street, and other charges of a like nature, to 5,006*l.*; and these several sums, less the item of deduction he had mentioned, would be found to equalise the amount of additional capital received for working during the half-year. In the profit and loss account there were two items which called for special attention—one the dividend of 5 per cent., the other the balance of 19,473*l.* carried over. The directors had fixed the dividend at 5 per cent. after mature consideration, and begged to remind the shareholders that this was but an instalment of what might turn out to be the profits of the year. It was not intended at this, the half-yearly meeting, finally to conclude anything, and the board considered that the division they recommended was all that the circumstances of the moment required. The only other point he would refer to was one that always afforded the best indication of the progress they were making in popular favour, that was the increase in the number of accounts; and he was happy to inform them, that during the six months the addition to the number of current and deposit accounts had been no less than 1,860. He begged to conclude by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, and the confirmation of the dividend.

Mr Nicol, M.P., seconded the motion.

Mr Harrison, one of the auditors, testified to the correctness of the accounts, the admirable manner in which the books were kept, and the facilities afforded by the directors to the auditors. The system of check in the country branches was satisfactory. The current accounts at the branches had fallen off, but that was to be expected, in consequence of the bad harvest. With regard to the Chancery suit referred to, he had no doubt they would be successful.

In reply to questions, the Chairman stated that the 1,800 new accounts was the balance, after deducting those which had been withdrawn.

Mr Nicol added that the total loss on the estate of Smith, Sinclair, and Co., the whole liabilities of which to the bank on bills under discount were something under 10,000*l.*, was not more than 500*l.* or 600*l.*

The resolution was carried unanimously.

LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK.

The half-yearly meeting of the directors of this bank was held on the 18th July, at their establishment in Princes street, Bank: Mr P. W. Flower occupied the chair.

The secretary (Mr Kennedy) having read the notice convening the meeting, read the 48th report, which was as follows:—The annexed accounts, which the directors have the pleasure of submitting to the shareholders, show that the bank has realised during the past half-year a net profit of 84,006*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, which is appropriated as follows, viz.:—37,500*l.* to the usual dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum; 37,500*l.* a bonus of 12*s.* 6*d.* per share; and 9,006*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* to the augmentation of the guarantee fund. The decline in the market value of Government and Indian securities since the 31st December having reduced the value of these held by the bank on the 29th of June to the extent of 17,673*l.*, that sum is carried to the debit of the guarantee fund, which fund, being credited with six months' interest, and the undivided profit stated above, now amounts to 198,438*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* It will be satisfactory to the shareholders to learn that the sum reserved from the profits of last year has proved ample to cover the loss sustained by the failures in the leather trade, and that some portion of it will probably be recovered on the final liquidation of the bankrupt estates. The directors have to announce that the bank has been deprived of the valuable services of one of its few remaining original directors and founders, by the resignation of their friend Ambrose Moore, Esq.; and they desire, at the same time, to record their high appreciation of their late colleague's talents, and of his unremitting attention, during so many years, to the affairs of the bank. The retirement of this gentleman, induced by considerations of health, will make it necessary to call an early general meeting to fill up the vacant seat at the board. The dividend and bonus, free from income tax, will be payable on and after Friday, the 25th inst.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS—June 29, 1861.

Dr.	£	s	d
Capital paid up, viz., 60,000 shares at 10 <i>l.</i> each	600,000	0	0
Amount due by the bank	11,425,057	8	7
Amount of the guarantee fund, Dec. 31, 1860, 288,202 <i>l.</i> 11 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i> six months' interest on ditto, at 3 <i>l.</i> per cent. per annum, 5,023 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> —897,225 <i>l.</i> 9 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i> ; less, decrease since the valuation on Dec. 31, 1860, in the market value of Government and East Indian securities held by the bank, 17,873 <i>l.</i>	280,481	9	11
Amount carried to profit and loss account	181,719	15	3
	12,068,295	18	9
Cr.	£	s	d
Exchequer bills, Indian debentures, and Government stock	1,142,840	8	1
Cash, loan, bills discounted, and other securities	11,125,043	9	5
Building, furniture, &c. in Princes street, 31, 32 <i>l.</i> ; ditto, ditto, in Pall Mall, 7,000 <i>l.</i>	38,328	0	0
	12,306,208	18	9
Dr.	£	s	d
Current expenses, proportion of building expenses, directors' remuneration, income tax, &c.	27,115	18	5
Amount carried to profit and loss new account, being rebate of interest on bills discounted not yet due	40,697	1	0
Dividend account for the payment of half-year's dividend, at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, upon 600,000 <i>l.</i> amount of paid-up capital upon 60,000 shares	37,500	0	0
Ditto for the payment of a bonus of 12 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per share	37,500	0	0
Amount carried to guarantee fund	0,076	15	10
	151,719	18	5
Cr.	£	s	d
Balance brought down	181,719	15	3

The Chairman said he had now to declare a dividend after the rate of 12½ per centum per annum upon 600,000*l.*, the amount of the paid-up capital upon 60,000 shares, and a bonus of 12*s.* 6*d.* per share, payable on and after Friday, the 26th instant. He had also to move that the report be received, printed, and circulated amongst the shareholders.

Mr Henry Lee seconded the motion, and it was put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman said this concluded the business. He had no further remark to make, except it was to congratulate the meeting on the success of the bank during the past year.

Mr Corney said he presumed that the silence of the shareholders indicated that they had no complaints to make; he certainly had none, and he thought they would be doing an injustice to the directors if they did not return to them a vote of thanks for the way in which they managed the affairs of the bank. He had his fears on the last occasion of their meeting that their calculations would not meet all the demands of the leather trade losses. They were now happily relieved of that anxiety, and found that they had rightly estimated the amount of the loss, and that they would probably have a small balance in their favour. He begged to move that the best thanks of the shareholders be returned to the chairman and the board of directors for their constant attention to the business of the bank, and the ability they had displayed in conducting its operations so successfully.

The resolution was put, seconded, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman said, on the part of himself and his brother directors, he begged to return their best thanks for the expression and approval of the management of the business of the bank. He could not promise them that the endeavours of the directors should be greater in the future than they had been in the past, but he might confidently say that there should never be less. The proprietors went from that room with his confident assurance.

that the bank was never more prosperous than it was at the present time.

Mr Carney then moved a vote of thanks to the manager of the bank.

The resolution was seconded and carried unanimously. Mr Hewett, the manager, said he had to thank them for the kind manner in which they had passed the resolution. He was much pleased with the position of the affairs of the bank, and it was exceedingly gratifying to him to receive this mark of approbation for the small share he had in bringing them to the present state.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.

The half-yearly meeting of the proprietors was held on the 17th of July, at the bank in Lothbury: Alderman Salomons, M.P., in the chair.

The following report was read by the secretary (Mr Fairland):—

The directors have to report that after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, paying the income tax, and setting apart 2,000*l* towards the buildings of the bank, the net profits of the last half-year amount to 131,591*l* 16*s* 4*d*. This sum added to 10,941*l* 8*s* 5*d* remaining from the profits of the preceding half-year, will amount to 142,533*l* 4*s* 9*d*. From this sum, interest on the surplus fund at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum (5,253*l* 2*s* 6*d*) has been added to such fund, which now amounts to 215,378*l* 2*s* 6*d*.

The directors now declare a dividend to the shareholders at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and by way of further dividend out of the profits, a bonus of 7 per cent. on the paid-up capital.

After these payments are made, there will remain 37,280*l* 2*s* 3*d*, and the directors recommend that 20,000*l* be added to the rest or surplus fund, and the remaining 17,280*l* 2*s* 3*d* carried to the profit and loss account for the current half-year.

The vacancies in the direction occasioned by the deaths of the late Henry Bosanquet, Esq., and William Haigh, Esq., have been filled up by the nomination of Alexander Gillespie, Esq., and Charles Freeman, Esq., subject to confirmation at the next annual meeting of proprietors.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1861.

	£	s	d
Dr.			
Proprietors for paid-up capital	1,000,000	0	0
Amount due by the bank on deposits, circular notes, &c.	14,821,650	16	4
Rest or surplus fund	210,125	0	0
Balance of profit and loss account, Dec. 31, 1860	10,941	8	5
Net profits of the past half-year	131,591	16	0
	16,174,309	1	1
Cr.			
Government stock, Exchequer bills, and India bonds	2,165,704	19	0
Other securities, including bills discounted, loans to customers, &c.	12,687,004	6	11
Cash in hand	1,321,599	15	2
	16,174,309	1	1
	£	s	d
Dr.			
Total expenditure of the seven establishments, including rent, taxes, salaries, stationery, &c.	87,831	16	3
Amount set apart towards the building of the bank	2,000	0	0
Amount added to rest or surplus fund by interest thereon at 5 per cent. per annum	5,253	2	0
Payment of the dividend now declared, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, for the last half-year on the paid-up capital of 1,000,000 <i>l</i>	50,000	0	0
Bonus of 7 per cent. on the capital	70,000	0	0
Balance of profit and loss account	37,280	2	3
	182,165	1	0
Cr.			
Balance of profit and loss account, Dec. 31, 1860	10,941	8	5
Gross profits of the last half-year, after paying the income tax, and making provisions for all bad and doubtful debts	171,239	13	7
	182,165	1	0
Dr.			
Rest or Surplus Fund.			
Present amount	215,378	2	6
Cr.			
Amount on Jan. 1, 1861	210,125	0	0
Interest on ditto at 5 per cent. per annum	5,253	2	6
	215,378	2	6

The dividend and bonus (without deduction of income tax) will be in course of payment on Monday, 22nd instant.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, in moving the adoption of the report, I will make but a very few observations. Indeed, the figures speak for themselves. We have had a most successful half-year. Our deposits, which are the source of our prosperity, have increased considerably, and that augmentation is mainly in the deposits at interest. Certainly our deposits in the aggregate have been increased by the transfer of a portion—a considerable portion—of the business of the Commercial Bank. The deposits you will see by the report—and those are deposits at interest—and our guarantee account, including the moderate sum that we have out upon circular notes, amount to the large sum of 14,800,000*l*, nearly 3,000,000*l* in excess of this time last year, and about 2,300,000*l* over the account shown when we had the pleasure of meeting you in January last. And besides that, which I am sure you will be gratified to hear, the losses for the half-year are below the average, and are very inconsiderable. Our net profits for the half-year amount to 131,000*l*, and we have in hand besides about 11,000*l*, the balance carried to profit and loss at the January meeting. We, therefore, declare to you a dividend and bonus together, which will be at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, being 10 per cent. for the half-year. In other words, in fact, paying you out of the net profits of the half-year one-fifth of your paid-up capital. Of course 20,000*l* is a large sum to recommend to be added to the

reserve or surplus fund, but I am sure you will all approve of it. That will carry forward a sum of about 17,000*l* as balance of profit and loss for the current half-year. I may say, further, that all this has been accomplished without any effort on our part. Our desire always has been, and our desire always will be, not to force our business in any way, but to employ those large assets intrusted to us on the best security; and I cannot give you a better proof of the true conservative spirit that prevails on our part than this, that, notwithstanding the high rate of money, we thought it desirable that we should increase our funded security, seeing the large amount of deposits that we had in hand; and you will find on reference to the report that our permanent investments show an increase for the last half-year of half a million. That is, that on the 31st of December last our cash in hand and Government securities represented a sum of three millions and a half sterling. The chief incident of the half-year, and no doubt you will expect some information from us upon it, has been the transfer of the business of the Commercial Bank to ourselves. You are aware that when our aid was solicited it was promptly given, and I believe the result of that aid was that the state of alarm which any great commercial establishment being in difficulties is calculated to produce in the commercial world, and amongst the public at large, was entirely got rid of. The effect of our interference was, that while a large portion of the accounts have come to us, the proprietors of that establishment have been saved from depression, while all the customers of the bank were not under one moment's apprehension. I believe I may fairly take some credit for the board of directors for the promptitude and decision with which the application was received, and the success with which it has been carried out. I may further say for ourselves—and it is perhaps something to say on behalf of the establishment for whom we interfered—that we should not have interfered if we had not, on a cursory examination by our chief executive officers, found the bank in such a state that we might safely take it. It required considerable advances on our part, which we were quite ready to give, provided we should not in the smallest degree compromise the interests of our establishment. I have no doubt that in future half-years you will have the advantage of an increase of business from that source, because we have met all the demands on that board, and we have satisfied their utmost liabilities; and I think in all our transactions with the board itself we have acted with the utmost consideration. We took a great number of the staff of that establishment, and our establishment has felt in that proceeding that some of our rules with respect to age had to be relaxed, by which the condition of some of our own officers was improved, while the business, as well as the general prosperity of the establishment, was thus interested in the proceeding. We have besides given fairly and liberally to those other officers of that establishment who were, by this unlooked-for misfortune, thrown on to the world. I think it is but fair to say that we acted towards the Commercial Bank with every consideration at that time. No doubt we shall profit by the accession of business that we shall receive, and I don't not that in future years we shall find that it is considerable. But the present half-year does not show any profit derived from the transfer of the business of the Commercial Bank to ourselves. Now let me say one word with regard to the transfer of that business. Of course we are ready to receive any business that may come to us—our doors are open for that purpose—but we do not wish in any way to increase the business of the establishment by the misfortune or distress of our neighbours. We are interested, in common with everybody, in seeing the commercial, the trading, and the banking world of this country, and this city particularly, prosperous and doing well. We do not desire to see fewer establishments, but to see them all flourish. Now, having called your attention to this point, I will go to the other parts of the report. I must, of course, speak with great regret of the loss of two excellent directors, most useful and honourable men, who were taken from us in the course of the last half-year. I allude to Mr Bosanquet and Mr Haigh. Mr Bosanquet, although belonging to the legal profession, was from the earliest period a director, and joined this establishment even before it was licked into shape, or assumed any form whatever that was presentable to the public, and he was up to the last a most earnest, useful, and honourable individual; most welcome to the board, and on all occasions most earnest to promote the success of the bank. And I may say of Mr Haigh, also, that he was an old director. He came to us after the bank was formed, and was many years with us, and I may say of him, as I said of Mr Bosanquet, that he was a most zealous, active, and useful man, and I deeply regret the loss of two colleagues with whom for so many years I was associated. The board have temporarily, under the provisions of the deed, filled up the vacancies by the nomination of two gentlemen who, I trust, hereafter will be found most useful directors of this establishment. One of them is Mr Gillespie, of the firm of Gillespie, Moffat, and Co., an old firm. He is a gentleman of a great deal of experience. The other gentleman is Mr Freeman, of the firm of Freeman, Ashton, and Co., largely connected with the China and East India trade. These gentlemen will be a most useful addition to this side of the

table. Of course they will come before you in the ordinary way at the annual meeting for confirmation. I do not know that I have any further observations to make in reference to our actual business. I can only repeat to you that it has been our good fortune to go through the last half-year with a comparatively small amount of loss, and I think I may say, considering the large amount of commercial transactions which we represent, and the small number of commercial failures during the last half-year that have taken place, that there is something to be said for the general commercial morality of the kingdom. I have only, in conclusion, to say, that if any proprietor should require any further illustration of the report, I shall be most happy to afford any information in my power. With these few remarks, I beg to move that the report be received and adopted, and circulated amongst the proprietors.

The resolution was unanimously carried.
Sir C. Burrell, M.P., moved a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors, and the meeting separated.

LONDON AND SOUTH AFRICAN BANK.

SIR,—In accordance with the instructions of the court of directors, I have the pleasure to hand you a financial statement of the accounts of this bank made up to the 30th June. I beg at the same time to inform you that since the date of the public announcement to the shareholders that the necessary certificate had been obtained from the Government to enable the directors to commence business, the manager and a staff of officers for the Cape Town branch left England in the month of May, and the manager for the Port Elizabeth branch in the month of June. The managers will be aided in the discharge of their duties by gentlemen of position and character, resident in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, who have been specially selected by the directors for that purpose. The directors have much pleasure in stating that their advice for the colony continue to be of a most encouraging character as regards the future prospects of this bank; and they still retain the opinion already expressed of their confidence in the successful result of this undertaking.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
J. A. MERRINGTON, Secretary.

10 King William street, E.C.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.—June 30, 1861.

Dr.		£	s	d
Capital, 20,000 shares at 20s each	400,000	0	0	0
Whereof 10s on each share has been called and paid	200,000	0	0	0
	200,000	0	0	0
Cr.		£	s	d
Loans on security and deposits	172,850	0	0	0
Cash in hand and at branches	24,668	7	3	
Expenses incurred on obtaining Royal Charter and other preliminary expenses, to Dec. 31, 1859	2,729	8	11	
Expenses incurred subsequent thereto, including office furniture, a moiety of the annual remuneration of the directors, prescribed by the deed of settlement, advertisements, printing, passage money of agents, salaries, to June 30, 1861, &c.	3,844	2	3	
	7,577	11	2	
Deduct interest received on capital	4,886	18	5	
	2,691	13	0	
	200,000	0	0	0

LONDON CHARTERED BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

REPORT of the court of directors, presented at the ninth ordinary general meeting of the proprietors, held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate street, on Friday, the 7th June, 1861:—

1. The present being the period appointed by the charter of incorporation and deed of settlement for the yearly meeting of the company, the directors now place before the proprietors their ninth annual report, accompanied by the accounts, duly audited, showing the state of the bank's affairs in the 31st December, 1860.
2. Although failures of some magnitude have, during the past year, occurred in the colonies, the directors are gratified to be able to report to the proprietors, that no losses of any importance have been sustained by the bank, and that the year's operations may be viewed as satisfactory. The vigilance and caution exercised by the inspector, Mr Bramwell, aided by the other executive officers of the corporation, have in great part contributed to produce this gratifying result, and merit the acknowledgments of the proprietors.
3. Adhering to the policy of strengthening the reserve fund, which has already had the approval of the shareholders, the directors propose out of the half-year's profits to add the sum of 10,000l to that fund, which will then amount to 45,000l. To the colonial building fund, the directors propose making the usual half-yearly addition of 1,500l, which will then amount to 6,000l, which the directors recommend should be appropriated as stated in the next paragraph.
4. The bank's premises at Sydney having participated in the general depreciation which has affected house property in that city, the directors considered that a revaluation of this asset of the bank was expedient, with a view to its being placed at its actual market value in the books of the corporation. Acting on the result of that valuation, the board now propose to write off the sum of 3,000l from the cost of this property, debiting the amount so written off to the "colonial building fund," which it will be in the recollection of the proprietors was created in order to meet contingencies of the character now under consideration. The balance standing at the credit of the above fund will be applied in reduction of the cost of the other freehold properties held by the corporation in the colonies.
5. The latest advices from the colonies extend to the 25th March from Melbourne, and to the 23rd March from Sydney, and represent the position of the bank's affairs as satisfactory.

6. The accounts appended to this report are made up to the 31st December last, from which it appears that after the usual deductions, and also after making allowance for bad and doubtful debts to the full amount recommended by the inspector, there remains to the credit of profit and loss the sum of 43,848l 4s 10d, out of which the directors recommend that a dividend be declared for the half-year of 3s per cent, free of income tax; and that a sum of 10,000l be placed to the reserve fund; also that a sum of 1,500l be placed to the colonial building fund; leaving to be carried to next account a balance of 7,348l 4s 10d.

7. The directors and auditors now go out of office, but being eligible for re-election they offer themselves accordingly.—By order of the court,
JAMES STRACHAN, Secretary.

BALANCE SHEET.—December 31, 1860.

LIABILITIES.		£	s	d
Notes in circulation	179,218	5	0	
Bills payable and other liabilities	21,973	15	9	
Deposits	659,577	7	0	
Total due to the public	1,060,768	7	0	
Capital paid up	270,000	0	0	
Reserve fund	25,000	0	0	
Colonial building fund	4,500	0	0	
Profit and loss	43,848	4	10	
	763,348	4	10	
	2,144,117	13	7	
ASSETS.		£	s	d
Coin and bullion	259,601	18	4	
Balance due by other banks	13,277	9	4	
	272,878	7	8	
Bills receivable and other securities	1,427,316	8	2	
Freehold, leasehold, and other property of the corporation	87,230	8	2	
Open policies	1,414	11	6	
Stamps	288	15	10	
	2,144,117	13	7	
FRUIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		£	s	d
Dividends, viz.:—Twelfth dividend—3s per cent for half-year ending Dec. 31, 1859, paid July 1, 1860	24,500	0	0	
Thirteenth dividend—3s per cent for half-year ending June 30, 1860, paid Jan. 1, 1861	24,500	0	0	
Reserve fund—at Dec. 31, 1859	25,000	0	0	
June 30, 1860	10,000	0	0	
	15,000	0	0	
Colonial building fund—at Dec. 31, 1859	1,500	0	0	
June 30, 1860	1,500	0	0	
	3,000	0	0	
Balance carried down	43,848	4	10	
	110,848	4	10	
Balance at Dec. 31, 1859, per last statement	88,661	19	8	
Balance of profits in London and in the colonies for the year ending Dec. 31, 1860, after deducting current expenses and making provision for bad and doubtful debts	72,186	5	7	
	110,848	4	10	
Balance brought down	43,848	4	10	

Examined and found correct, 24th May, 1861.

(Signed) THOMAS CHAPMAN, } Auditors.
 JOHN GURNEY HOARE, }
(Signed) D. DUNBAR, Chairman, }
 JAMES FRASER, } Directors.
 P. D. HADLOW, }
 T. DYER EDWARDS, }

LIVERPOOL COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

At the twenty-eighth annual general meeting of the Liverpool Commercial Banking Company, Limited, held in pursuance of the provisions of the deed of settlement, at the Clarendon Rooms, South John street, Liverpool, 9th March, 1861, Kenneth Dowie Esq., in the chair, it was unanimously resolved—"That the report of the directors, as now read, be received and adopted." "That Thomas Bonch, Esq., and James Fletcher, Esq., be re-elected directors." It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Thomas F. Bennett, Esq., and carried unanimously—"I have the present is a suitable time to commence a fund to be called 'The Bank's Provident Fund,' the object of which shall be to make occasional payments and to grant annuities to the clerks and other officers and servants of the bank, under the rank of deputy-manager, at periods of long sickness, or on being otherwise disabled, and extending to widows and children of deceased clerks and other officers and servants, and to near connections or relatives who may be dependent on such clerks and other officers and servants, being at the time of their death in the service of the bank. That, as a commencement of such fund, there shall be placed to the credit of 'The Bank's Provident Fund,' on the 30th June next, the sum of one thousand pounds, and at every 31st December following the sum of one hundred pounds, so long as the same shall be annually voted. That voluntary contributions to the said fund shall be received from the clerks and other officers and servants of the bank, and from any other source that the directors shall approve of. That interest at the rate of five per cent. shall be credited to the fund, on the amount in hand annually on the 31st December. That the whole control and disposal of 'The Bank's Provident Fund' shall be in the hands of the directors for the time being, joined with the manager, as a representative of the clerks and other officers and servants of the bank." The Chairman having left the chair, it was unanimously resolved—"That the cordial thanks of the meeting be given to the chairman for his able conduct in the chair."

WILLIAM DALGLISH, Manager.

REPORT.

The directors, in again meeting the proprietors, are gratified that they are able to report to them the continued and increased prosperity of the bank's business.

The net profits for the year ending Dec. 31. last, after payment of income tax and all expenses of management, as well as providing for all bad and doubtful debts, were.....	44,059 1 7
Add balance at credit of profit and loss account, 1859.....	269 19 8
Remaining to be disposed of.....	44,328 1 4
Out of this sum two half-yearly dividends of 4 per cent. each have been made on the paid capital of 320,400 <i>l</i> amounting to.....	6,408 0 0
Likewise a bonus of 2s per share on 32,640 shares, amounting to.....	3,169 0 0
Showing a surplus of.....	10,018 1 4
Which has been carried to the reserved surplus fund, making it.....	136,018 1 4
The following is an abstract of the affairs of the bank, as they stood on the 31st day of December, 1860:—	
Dr. £ s d	
Capital subscribed, 32,640 shares of 20 <i>l</i> each, 10 <i>l</i> paid.....	£326,400 0 0
Reserved surplus fund.....	136,018 1 4
Deposits bearing interest, including current accounts.....	458,966 18 7
Ditto not bearing interest.....	26,883 18 8
Seven-day and other bills.....	264,318 5 11
	749,588 5 2
	1,206,796 3 6
Cr. £ s d	
Bills of exchange.....	£372,214 0 0
Less rediscounted.....	390,746 19 6
	81,467 0 4
Cash on hand and at bankers.....	148,120 18 1
	769,687 18 7
Loans in account, with and without security.....	347,637 2 6
Bank's premises and freehold property.....	100,000 0 0
Other securities.....	2,673 1 5
	470,310 3 11
	1,209,786 2 6

The directors having carried out the alterations in the deed of settlement, caused by the change of the share from ten to twenty pounds, proceeded under the powers given them at the last annual general meeting, which were confirmed at a special general meeting held 9th June last, to register the bank under the Joint Stock Banking Companies Acts 1857 and 1858. The registrar's certificate of incorporation and limited liability is dated 15th August, 1860; the first schedule of assets and liabilities as required by the act was exhibited in the bank on the 18th of August, and next on the 1st February, 1861, and such schedule will in future be exhibited half-yearly.

It is in a high degree pleasing to the directors to be enabled to state, as they confidently do, that the principle of "limited liability" adopted by the bank has so far fully justified their hopes. The general business of the bank has never been better; no branch of it has suffered; on the contrary, new and valuable accounts are added, bringing an increase of business, while some substantial and valuable proprietors who objected to hold shares under "unlimited liability" have joined the bank as shareholders; the number of proprietors is increased, and the price of the bank's shares shows that they are considerably enhanced in public estimation.

The directors thinking it proper that a new valuation should be obtained of the bank's premises and freehold property, employed two professional gentlemen of character and ability for this purpose, and have obtained from them a careful and joint report upon and valuation of the whole, which gives a result in value of 123,360*l*; but although this is most satisfactory to the directors, they do not raise the value of the property in the bank's books over 100,000*l*, at which it now stands.

The directors early in this year, looking to the extending business of the bank, determined to increase the capital to 350,000*l*. To carry out this, they have issued 2,360 shares at a premium of 5*l* per share; this small issue, while it adds 35,400*l* to the working capital, gives an increase in the current year to the reserved surplus fund of 11,800*l*, and thus the paid capital and surplus fund are brought up to half a million of pounds sterling.

KENNETH DOWIE, Chairman.

LIVERPOOL UNION BANK.

Report of the directors to the shareholders, at their twenty-sixth annual meeting, held on Wednesday, the 6th February, 1861:—

The directors have much pleasure in laying before the proprietors the results of the operations of the bank during the past year, feeling assured that they will meet with their cordial approval.

By the second resolution at the last general annual meeting, it was left optional with the directors to continue the dividend of six per cent. per annum only, till they should have accumulated a reserve surplus fund of 150,000*l*, with authority, however, to add to such dividend by bonus, or otherwise, if it seemed expedient for them to do so.

On mature consideration the directors deemed it advisable to raise the dividend to seven per cent., as the profits of the year enabled them, after providing amply for all bad and doubtful debts, to place a large sum to the credit of the reserved surplus fund, whilst the prospects of the bank are such as to warrant the conviction that this dividend can be maintained without interfering with their policy of progressively accumulating the reserved surplus fund until it is raised to 150,000*l*.

The paid-up capital of the bank is 450,000*l* and the number of proprietors 170.

On Dec. 31, 1859, the reserved surplus fund was.....	£ s d
To which add net profits for the year 1860, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts.....	42,825 15 8
	54,165 4 7
Deduct dividend of three per cent.	£13,500 0 0
— Dividend of four per cent.	18,000 0 0
— Income tax.....	1,712 9 3
	33,212 9 3
Leaves the present reserved surplus fund.....	20,952 15 10

The directors retiring are Joseph Robinson, Esq., and George Glen, Esq., whose places will have to be supplied by the shareholders.

The directors beg to express their reliance upon the continued co-operation of the shareholders in the furtherance of the interests of the bank.
J. ASPINALL TURNER, Chairman.

LINCOLN AND LINDSEY BANKING COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.
Sir,—The meetings of this company are annual, and there is no change to report in its affairs since the last statement in your paper, with the exception of 1,600*l* addition of interest to the guarantee fund, which is now 38,600*l*, invested in Bank stock. Besides this, there are unincumbered bank houses at Lincoln, Louth, Gainsborough, Horncastle, and Sleaford.—Yours, faithfully,
W. T. PAGE, Manager.
Lincoln, Oct. 19, 1861.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND.

On Thursday, May 9, the twenty-eighth annual general meeting of shareholders was held at the head office, Bishopsgate street, when, upon the proposition of the Right Hon. Lord Ernest Bruce, M.P., seconded by Mr Henry Paul, M.P., Mr Laurie occupied the chair.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the Chairman said he did not think he should have any difficulty in obtaining the proprietors' approval of the report which he was about to read. Never was the National Provincial Bank of England in a greater state of prosperity than at the present time, nor never did it enjoy—and he thought he could say, without boast, never did it deserve—a greater amount of confidence and support on the part of its customers and the public at large. It would be in the remembrance of proprietors, for it was a fact far too agreeable to be erased from their recollection, that at their last annual meeting the board were able, out of the undivided profits, to add 20 per cent. upon the paid-up capital. Since then the affairs of the bank had been progressing most satisfactorily and successfully, and upon the present occasion the board were able to come to the proprietors with profits amounting to the whole of the paid-up capital to 20 per cent., out of which they would be enabled to pay the usual amount of dividend of 8 per cent., and also a bonus of 10 per cent. He was sure such a position could not but be satisfactory to all who were in any way connected with that bank. As to the future, it did not become him to be a prophet; their income must of course depend upon many circumstances—upon foreign and domestic politics, and also upon the seasons of the year; but he could confidently express his belief, and also that of his colleagues, that the National Provincial Bank of England was as firmly established as England itself, of which it was a permanent and beneficial institution. Although it might appear, taking one year, that their affairs were stationary, yet it would be found, taking many years together, that their affairs were going on steadily, and substantially progressing. It would be recollected at their last annual meeting one of the proprietors, after passing a well-merited eulogium upon his honourable friend at his right—Mr Robertson, their general manager—expressed a wish that some substantial mark of their appreciation of his valuable services might be conferred upon him. That opinion was received with general approbation on the part of the proprietors, when a pledge was given from the chair that the subject should have the due consideration of the board. He felt assured that he need not enlarge for one moment upon the valuable services of their general manager, who had been connected with the bank for twenty-seven years. Mr Robertson came to them, not then unknown in the banking world of Scotland—that classical land, if he might so call it, of joint stock banking: twenty-seven years was no small period in the life of a man—indeed, he believed, with the exception of a few months, the whole term of the existence of this institution. The National Provincial Bank of England was not then, as it is now, a great institution, covering the whole kingdom with its branches; and, therefore, Mr Robertson had much important work to perform. In the first place, he had to organise an efficient staff of officials; and what was a still more difficult task, he had to get rid of a defective system which had been highly detrimental to their interests, and which, indeed, might have become fatal even to the existence of the institution. It might be said of their general manager with reference to this institution what had been once said of a great architect, whose epitaph was placed in a splendid edifice he had himself erected—“If you want a monument for his fame, look around you.” The existence, the position, and the prosperity of the National Provincial Bank of England was the greatest possible proof which could be desired of the great merits and achievements of their general manager. The recommendation which the board were prepared to submit, with reference to the acknowledgement which they asked proprietors to bestow upon Mr Robertson, was, he knew, totally inadequate to the value of the services rendered; but he was sure Mr Robertson would value that testimony, not so much for its amount, but as conveying the approbation of those whose good opinion he so much valued. This institution was much indebted to Mr Robertson for the organisation of the general staff, which was a body of gentlemen of whom they might well be proud; for industry, for zeal, and for honesty, they stood unexceptionable. Sometimes looking over their correspondence he had

been quite struck, not only with the neatness and precision with which they expressed their opinions, but even with the elegance with which their sentences were formed. The best possible spirit reigned amongst them, and all their affairs were conducted with the greatest possible harmony, the only contention, he believed, being to see who could best discharge his duty, and best promote the interest of the institution. Considering the great success of the present year, the board had presented them with a bonus of 10 per cent. upon their incomes. Since last year they had had to mourn the death of one of their colleagues—Major Moore. He brought to bear upon the board a long knowledge of mankind, and considerable shrewdness in business, and there was but one feeling with the board, of regret at his loss. With regard to the vacancy thus occasioned, a candidate had presented himself in the person of Mr George Hanbury, who was a gentleman of well-known commercial family. He then read the following report:—

In the discharge of their annual duty, the directors have now the pleasure to present their twenty-eight report to the proprietors, embodying the results of the operations of the company for the year 1860.

Since last meeting, the directors, in consequence of the failure of the private bank of Messrs Ledgard and Co., of Poole and Ringwood, have opened a branch at the latter place, under the management of Mr Chapple, who conducted Messrs Ledgard's business at Ringwood for a long period previous to their stoppage. The directors are happy to state that the branch thus opened at Ringwood has met with the general support of the customers of Messrs Ledgard's bank. The event just referred to has led us also to a considerable accession of business at the company's branch at Poole.

During the past year a succession of circumstances of a political and financial character caused considerable fluctuations in the money market. In January the rate of interest was 2½ per cent., but owing to a renewal of the export of silver to the East and some internal monetary disturbance, the rate gradually advanced, until in April it reached 5 per cent. A reaction, however, shortly afterwards occurred, and in May the rate stood at 4 per cent., at which point it remained until September, when a foreign demand for gold, and the certainty of a deficient harvest, once more enhanced the value of money. In November the rate stood at 6 per cent., but a reduction to 5 per cent. again took place before the close of the year.

Notwithstanding the checks given to commerce by the uncertainty as to the future course of the money market, the war in the South of Italy and in China, and the social disruption in America, the year 1860, although not without reverses in some branches of trade, may be characterized as one of considerable commercial prosperity. Owing to the activity in trade, and the comparatively high rates of interest just adverted to, the directors are happy to state that the business of the company for the past year was both large and profitable, of which the statement of accounts that they have now the pleasure to submit to the meeting will, they hope, be considered as affording gratifying evidence.

1860—Jan. 17. Rest or undivided profits at Dec. 31, 1859, as exhibited at the annual meeting in May, 1860	£	s	d
Less bonus declared and paid in cash in 1860, out of this amount	243,000	0	0
Ditto added to share capital	130,000	0	0
	162,000	0	0
Reserve fund set apart in Government securities	108,015	3	7
Dec. 31. Net profits of 1860, after making allowance for bad and doubtful debts, and paying a bonus of 10 per cent. to officers	141,860	0	0
Making	244,815	3	7
Deduct dividend on company's stock for June, 1860	£34,000	0	0
Ditto December, 1860, paid January, 1861	28,900	0	0
	52,900	0	0
Leaving	192,015	3	7

Out of the profits of last year the directors propose to declare, in addition to the half-yearly dividend paid to the proprietors above stated, a bonus of 10 per cent., making the division of profit in 1860 in all 18 per cent. upon the whole of the paid-up capital of the company, free of income tax.

After deduction of the bonus and the two half-yearly dividends, there will remain the sum of 17,000*l.* to be added to the reserve fund, which will then stand at 120,015*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*

With a view to a more equal distribution of the profits of the bank half-yearly, it is the intention of the directors to pay a bonus in future in January, along with the half-yearly dividend, when the state of the bank's affairs justifies them in doing so.

Appreciating the zeal and intelligence of the officers of the company, the directors have awarded them a bonus of 10 per cent. upon their salaries for last year. And in accordance with the wishes expressed at the last annual general meeting of the proprietors, and in consideration of the very prosperous condition of the company's affairs, the directors have, by a unanimous resolution, presented Mr Daniel Robertson, the general manager, with the sum of 2,500*l.* as a special acknowledgment of his long and valuable services.

NORTH OF SCOTLAND BANKING COMPANY.

Report by the directors to the shareholders, at the twenty-fifth annual general meeting, held in the banking house, on Friday, the 1st November, 1861; agreed to at a meeting of the Board, held on 11th October, 1861:—

The time has again arrived when the directors have to fulfil the duty of making their annual report to the shareholders.

The free business profits of the year ending 30th September last, including a balance of 647*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* brought from the previous year, amount to 36,492*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*, after making ample provision for all bad and doubtful debts incurred during the year, former bad debts having been all duly provided for.

These profits the directors have resolved to allocate in the following manner—namely, 20,000*l.* in payment of a dividend of ten per cent., half of which was paid in May last, the remaining half to be paid on 1st November ensuing; a bonus of three per cent., equal to 6,000*l.* to be paid along with the latter half of the dividend, making a return for the year on the capital of the company of thirteen per cent., free of income tax; to place 7,033*l.* 1*s.* to the reserved fund; 1,250*l.* to the banking houses' account; and 500*l.* to account cost of bank notes. After these appropriations, a balance of 679*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* will remain to be carried to next year's account.

The interest of the reserved fund for last year was 2,936*l.* 10*s.* which will be added to the fund, along with the allocation from the profits, and the reserved fund will thus be increased from 80,000*l.* to 90,000*l.* There is very little change on the contingent account.

Last year the cost of banking houses was reduced to 4,000*l.* but 250*l.* were afterwards added, being the balance of price of the Montrose property; so this account, by the appropriation of 1,250*l.* from the profits, will now stand at 3,000*l.* To this will have to be added the price of the new buildings at Keith, which are finished, but the accounts are not all settled.

As mentioned last year, the whole capital of the bank, as well as the reserved fund, is invested in Government and Bank of England stocks.

Annexed is a statement of the assets and liabilities, and of the appropriation of the profits:—

LIABILITIES.		£	s	d
Paid capital	.....	300,000	0	0
Reserved fund—Invested, per contra	.....	80,000	0	0
Dividends accrued	.....	1,196	19	0
		78,996	19	0
Notes in circulation	.....	191,823	0	0
Lodged with the bank an accounts current and deposit receipts with interest added	.....	1,478,905	4	11
		1,954,625	3	11
Surplus	.....	35,492	15	10
		1,990,127	19	9
ASSETS.		£	s	d
Government and other first-class securities, gold and silver coin, and balances due by, and notes of, other banks	.....	407,564	15	1
Investment of reserved fund—£62,700 stock in the 3 per cent. consols, and £10,000 stock of the Bank of England	.....	80,000	0	0
		487,564	15	1
Bills of exchange, local and country bills, cash credits, and other securities	.....	1,488,343	8	8
Banking houses at Aberdeen, Aboyne, Auchinclos, Banff, Elgin, Huntly, Inverury, Keith, Montrose, and Stonehaven—cost upwards of £27,000, reduced last year to	.....	£4,000	0	0
Add for balance of price of property at Montrose	.....	250	0	0
		4,250	0	0
Dividend, paid last year	.....	10,000	0	0
		1,990,127	19	9
APPROPRIATION OF SURPLUS.		£	s	d
Dividend on paid-up capital—For half-year ending 31st March last—5 per cent. paid in May	.....	10,000	0	0
For half-year ending 30th September last—5 per cent. payable 1st November	.....	10,000	0	0
Bonus, 3 per cent. payable ditto	.....	6,000	0	0
Reserved fund (which will now amount to 90,000)	.....	7,033	1	0
Banking houses	.....	1,250	0	0
Bank note cost account	.....	500	0	0
Balance to profit and loss in new account	.....	679	14	10
		35,492	15	10
Surplus as above	.....	35,492	15	10

NORTH AND SOUTH WALES BANK.

Report by the directors to the proprietors, at their twenty-fifth annual meeting, held at the Clarendon Rooms, Liverpool, 16th August, 1861:—

"In submitting to the proprietors the twenty-fifth annual report, the directors have pleasure in stating that, during the financial year ended 30th June last, the business of the bank, both in Liverpool and at the branches, has continued to increase. There has been an active demand for capital throughout the year, and the bank has consequently been enabled fully to employ its funds at the high average rate of interest which has prevailed. These circumstances, coupled with the absence of losses of any moment, have contributed, with other causes, to produce the largest amount of profit ever realised by the bank in any one year.

The profits of the bank for the year ended 30th June last, after deducting interest due to depositors, rebate of interest on bills, salaries, and all other charges and expenses, and making provision for losses, amounted to

Deduct dividend at 6 per cent. per annum, on shares held by proprietors, including those held by the bank, viz:—	£	s	d
Half-year ended Dec. 31, 1860	26,483	10	0
— June 30, 1861	6,463	10	0
Income tax paid by bank	588	13	6
	33,468	13	6

Surplus profits of the year	£	s	d
This amount, in accordance with the report of last year, the directors have passed to the credit of "restoration of capital fund," the amount of which, as per last report, was	17,001	13	7
The restoration fund, therefore, will now amount to	42,115	10	11

The reserve fund remains at the amount stated in last report, viz. 32,317*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.* It will appear, from the statement given above, that the rate of profit for the twelve months has been a little over 23 per cent., of which 8 per cent. has been divided amongst the proprietors, and 15 per cent. carried to the restoration of capital fund.

The sum required to restore the shares from 7*l.* 10*s.* to 10*l.* each, is 59,862*l.* 10*s.* and it will be seen that the restoration of capital fund is now short of this amount only 11,746*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*

There would not appear to be any reasonable doubt, therefore, that the directors will be able to announce at the next annual

meeting, that they are in a position to restore the shares of the bank to their original amount of 10l each, without touching the reserve fund, which they are especially desirous to leave intact, considering the moderate amount to which it is at present restricted by the deed of settlement.

The accounts and bills at the head office and branches have, as usual, been carefully examined by the directors, and the securities taken at their present value. The branches have this year again been visited by a deputation of directors, accompanied by the general manager, and the accounts, bills, and securities of each branch investigated on the spot; and the directors have to report that they found matters at the branches highly satisfactory. They have to report in like favourable terms of the accounts, &c., at head office."

The general manager having read the preceding report, the Chairman moved that it be adopted, printed, and circulated amongst the proprietors, which was seconded by Mr Robert Roberts, tea merchant, and carried unanimously.

The motions after-mentioned were then made and carried unanimously:—

Moved by Mr William Whaley, and seconded by Mr John H. Greene—That Mr Stephen Watson and Mr Edward Thompson be re-elected directors of this bank.

Moved by Mr James Cobban, and seconded by Mr George Haworth—That the sum of 1,050l be placed at the disposal of the directors, as a remuneration for their services during the ensuing year.

Moved by Mr Richard Bryans, and seconded by Mr R. W. Pritchard—That the thanks of the meeting be tendered to Mr Rae, the general manager, Mr Beck, and the other officers of the bank at Liverpool, and at the branches, for their valuable services and attention to the affairs of the bank.

Moved by Mr Richard Nicholson, and seconded by Mr Charles Kingcome—That the thanks of this meeting be given to the chairman and board of directors for their zealous attention to the interests of the bank.

JOHN RAVENSCROFT, Chairman.

The chairman having vacated the chair, on the motion of Mr William Jones, a vote of thanks to the chairman was carried unanimously.—Extracted from the minutes,

GEORGE RAE, General Manager.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

TENTH annual report of the court of directors to the proprietors:—

The general statement of affairs, and balance sheet for the year 1860, now submitted for the information of the proprietors, show the net profit of the corporation for that period to amount to 214,757l 13s 8d, after defraying current expenses and providing for all bad and doubtful debts.

The dividend and bonus for the half-year ending 30th June, 1860, already paid (dividend 5 per cent. and bonus 2 per cent.), have absorbed 98,200l of this amount, leaving 126,557l 13s 8d available for present distribution. This sum it is now proposed to appropriate to the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year ending 31st December, 1860, and a bonus of 4 per cent., which together will require 113,400l, and leave a balance of 13,157l 13s 8d to be carried forward to the credit of the next year's account.

The present dividend and bonus, equal together to 9 per cent., or 2l 5s per share, will be payable here, free of income tax, on and after the 1st May, making, with the previous payment, a distribution of profit for the year 1860 equal to 16 per cent. on the capital of the corporation.—(Signed) H. G. GOSDON, Chairman.

GENERAL STATEMENT AND BALANCE SHEET for the Half-year ending Dec. 31, 1860.

LIABILITIES		£	s	d
Promissory notes in circulation not bearing interest.....		740,000	13	6
Bills of exchange in circulation not bearing interest.....		3,953,768	7	6
Balance due to other banks.....		3,612	15	5
Cash deposited not bearing interest.....		1,998,768	7	7
Cash deposited bearing interest.....		4,408,114	14	10
Total due to the public.....		10,998,767	17	10
Capital paid up.....	£1,200,000	0	0	0
Reserved surplus fund.....	282,000	0	0	0
Insurance fund.....	50,000	0	0	0
Dividends remaining unpaid.....	10,213	15	0	0
Balance of profit and loss after defraying all current charges.....	23,537	13	8	
Due to shareholders.....		1,695,770	8	8
		12,697,538	6	6
ASSETS		£	s	d
Coin and bullion.....		2,522,512	13	11
Balances due from other banks.....		1,468,109	7	2
Promissory notes or bills of other banks.....		124,631	0	4
		4,115,253	1	5
Government securities.....		808,488	19	8
Landed or other property of the corporation.....		178,870	12	4
Debts secured by landed or other property.....		21,892	14	4
Notes and bills discounted or other debts due to the corporation, not included under the foregoing heads and exclusive of all debts abandoned as bad.....		7,582,032	18	9
		12,697,538	6	6

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	£	s	d
Amount paid as dividend and bonus for the half-year ending June 30, 1860.....	88,200	0	0
Balance.....	126,557	13	8
	214,757	13	8
Amount of net profit for the year ending Dec. 31, 1860, after defraying current charges and providing for all bad and doubtful debts.....	214,757	13	8
	214,757	13	8

OTTOMAN BANK.

The following report was presented to the extraordinary meeting of shareholders held on Wednesday, the 4th of September, 1861:—

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the accounts of the bank for the half-year ending the 30th June, 1861, duly examined and certified to by the auditors. After making the necessary reductions for expenses of management, and provision for bad and doubtful debts, these accounts show a net profit for the half-year of 20,104 5s 8d, to which has to be added the sum of 5,836l 2s 3d carried forward from the 31st December, 1860, making 25,940l 7s 11d. From this sum, however, there has to be deducted the 250l subscribed to the Galatz Inundation Fund, as sanctioned by the shareholders at their meeting last March, leaving a sum of 25,690l 7s 11d to be dealt with on the present occasion. The shareholders will have been prepared to learn that the general business of the bank has, during the past half-year, been of a restricted character. In the Danubian Principalities, however, it has considerably extended itself, under the able management of Mr A. L. Powell, the local director, with good profit and promise for the future. The negotiations in which the directors have been engaged for the settlement of the bank's claim upon the Turkish Government have not hitherto resulted in any definite arrangement, but the financial reforms which have attended the accession of the Sultan, lead to the hope that no considerable time can elapse without an adjustment in accordance with the distinct pledges of the Government. In the place of the late Mr F. De P. Falconnet, the directors have appointed as local director at Constantinople, Mr Gilbertson, the secretary of the bank, in whose ability they have the utmost confidence. They have also recommended to the contractors of the loan of 1858, his appointment as one of the Syndics of that loan.

The directors recommend that a sum of 3,000l be added to the reserve fund, bringing it up to 71,196l 12s 9d; that a dividend shall be paid at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, as usual, and that the balance then remaining of 1,894l 12s be carried forward to next account.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS—June 30, 1861.

LIABILITIES		£	s	d
Capital all paid up.....		500,000	0	0
Reserve fund.....		68,196	12	9
Bills of exchange and amounts due by the bank and its branches on deposits and current accounts.....		317,254	17	3
Profit and loss.....		25,690	7	11
		912,241	17	11
ASSETS		£	s	d
Cash in hand in London and at the branches.....		68,632	4	4
Consols, India 5 per cent. stock, and money at call.....		68,108	12	9
Loans and other securities.....		207,940	1	2
Bills of exchange and promissory notes.....		269,930	9	9
Balances due to the bank on current accounts.....		308,641	5	11
Leasehold premises, furniture, &c., in London and at the branches.....		5,981	4	1
		912,241	17	11

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, June 30, 1861.

	£	s	d
1861. Dr. Paid dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, as resolved at the meeting of shareholders this date.....	30,000	0	0
Amount carried to reserve fund, as resolved at ditto ditto.....	5,000	0	0
Paid income tax on profits.....	910	1	9
Balance.....	5,836	2	3
	31,746	4	0
1861. Cr. Jan. 1. Balance brought forward from last account, Dec. 31, 1860.....	31,746	4	0
March 27. Balance brought forward.....	5,836	2	3
Deduct donation to Galatz Inundation Fund, as resolved at meeting of shareholders.....	250	0	0
	5,586	2	3
June 30. Profits to this date for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, general charges of the establishment, including rent, direction, salaries, office expenses, &c., &c.....	30,104	5	8
	25,690	7	11

PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND.

The thirty-sixth annual general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held at the offices in Old Broad street, on 16th May, 1861: Sir Minto Farquhar, M.P., presided.

The first business was the re-election of three directors, retiring by rotation, all of whom were unanimously reappointed; a fourth director, who would have gone out by rotation, had died since the last meeting, viz., Mr Henry Alexander, and, in mentioning the fact, the Chairman paid a high compliment to the efficiency and worth of his deceased colleague.

Mr Henry R. Alexander, who was the only candidate, was then proposed, seconded, and unanimously elected to the vacant office. Mr Hewat, the secretary, read the following report:—

The directors report that since the last annual meeting two new branches have been established—one at Clogheen, in the southern division of the county of Tipperary, which was opened on Nov. 1, 1860; and the other at Newcastle, in the county of Limerick, opened on March 25 in the present year, making the total number of the bank's branches at this date forty-four. It is satisfactory to the directors to be enabled to state that the affairs of the bank continue to prosper, and that the business of the past year has been attended with peculiarly favourable results. The ordinary rate of profit has been more than maintained, and no loss of any importance has been incurred. The year was marked by unusual fluctuations in the value of money and by several heavy failures in some important branches of trade in England, but the general business of the country has been active, and has apparently enjoyed a fair share of prosperity. The harvest of 1860 was, however, a deficient one, and being the second unfavourable season in succession, it has no doubt, in some degree, tended to check the growing prosperity of the agricultural

classes in Ireland. The prospects of the present year are now more favourable, and the directors sincerely hope that these may be realised. The following statement, to which the attention of the meeting is requested, exhibits the result of the bank's operations for the year ending on 30th March last:—The accounts submitted at the yearly general meeting in May, 1860, showed the amount of rest or undivided profits at 31st March, 1860, to be 240,304/ 12s 8d; out of which there has been paid to the proprietors the amount of two ordinary and extraordinary dividends, as follows:—At Midsummer, 1860, ordinary dividend of 4 per cent., 21,600/; extraordinary dividend of 5 per cent., 32,400/; together 54,000/. At Christmas, 1860, ordinary dividend of 4 per cent., 21,600/; extraordinary dividend of 6 per cent., 32,400/—54,000/; together, 108,000/; leaving a balance of 132,304/ 12s 8d, to which has since been added the amount of net profits for the year ending on the 30th, being the last Saturday of March, 1861, after deducting property tax and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, 119,388/ 15s 9d; making the rest or amount of undivided profits at 30th March, 1861, 251,693/ 6s 5d. It affords the directors much pleasure to present so satisfactory a statement of the profits of the past year, which enables them to make an addition to the rest, and to continue the same rate of dividend as in the last four years; and they have now, in conclusion, to intimate that it is their intention to pay in July next an extraordinary dividend of 30s on each 100/ share, and 12s on each 10/ share of the capital stock of the bank, in addition to the ordinary dividend of 4 per cent., making the amount to be then paid 27 10s on each 100/ share, and 11 on each 10/ share, for the half-year ending at Midsummer next; and they propose also, as heretofore, to pay the property tax for the proprietors.

The Chairman—I think, gentlemen, you will agree with me that the report, though short, is pithy and satisfactory, and as it really contains all that the directors have to say, there is no reason why I should detain you with any remarks of my own in moving its adoption. It is very gratifying to the directors to be able to assure the proprietors that the bank continues to enjoy the confidence of the public in Ireland, and that it never at any time was in a more prosperous condition, or was ever held in higher estimation. It is very pleasing to us to receive, as we do, the most conclusive assurances on this point from the customers and connections of the bank at all its branches. The Provincial Bank of Ireland has now been established six-and-thirty years, during which period it has continued to progress steadily and with certainty, until it has arrived at the sound and good position it now holds. It is exceedingly satisfactory to the directors to state that this is the fifth occasion on which they have felt justified in declaring a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, which dividend we pay free of income tax, and I submit that this fact alone is sufficient to prove to the proprietors what the actual state of the bank is. With regard to Ireland as an agricultural country, it has no doubt felt the evil effects of two unfavourable harvests following the one upon the other; but, on the other hand, the high prices which the Irish farmer has obtained for his butter, his cattle, and his corn, must have been some compensation, and enabled him to recoup a considerable portion of the loss arising from the deficiency in the grain crops. I am also glad to believe that the condition of the labouring population has not suffered in consequence of the defective harvest or the high prices, but that throughout the year they have found ample employment. With regard to the trade and commerce of Ireland, it may be said generally to have been in a sound position in the year 1860-61, and one pleasing result of that position to us is, that, as is stated in the report, the bank has suffered no loss of importance during the year. As regards the North of Ireland, I am afraid we must expect that the linen trade will suffer to some extent from the lamentable state of affairs in America; but I will not be a prophet of evil, I would rather hope for the best, and trust that that great country on the other side of the Atlantic, a country so nearly allied to us, and in whose prosperity we have so great an interest, will yet avoid the horrors of a fratricidal war, and that the indirect consequences of such a war to us may be averted. In conclusion, I would beg leave to remind you that we owe much of our prosperity to the ability, the assiduous seal, and the devoted services of the officers of the establishment, both in England and Ireland; and I may mention especially the name of Mr Murray, our chief officer in Ireland, and Mr Hewat, the secretary in England. It is only just, however, that in acknowledging the services of these gentlemen, I should give expression to the feeling of approbation which is felt by the board at the efforts of all the officers, and the great appreciation in which we hold services that have contributed largely to the high position the bank occupies, and to the safe and sound manner in which its business has been conducted. I have now to move that the report be adopted, printed, and circulated.

SHEFFIELD AND HALLAMSHIRE BANK.

REPORT of the directors:—For some time a considerable depression of trade has existed; this has diminished the returns of the bank for the last half-year, although the aggregate amount of business done for the whole year is about the same as that of the one preceding. After payment of all the expenses of the bank, and the income tax, the profit is 20,181/ 13s 2d. This exceeds the profit of the last year by 1,208/ 12s 2d. The amount of bad and doubtful debts is 1,500/. The sum of 193/ 4s 7d has been received from debts previously written off as bad. For the half-year ending 31st December 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 30th June last. This may be received on or after the 30th July. Thirty-five shares have been issued to customers. These have produced 875/ additional capital, and the sum of 250/ for premiums. The latter sum has been added to the surplus fund. The paid-up capital now is 179,225/. The balance of profit remaining, after payment of the dividends, and deduction for bad and doubtful debts, is 790/ 8s 2d. The amount of the surplus fund last year was 43,396/ 10s 2d; balance of profit as before stated, 790/ 8s 2d; premium received on shares issued, 250/; amount received from debts previously written off as bad, 193/ 4s 7d; present amount of surplus fund, 44,630/ 2s 11d.

GENERAL BALANCE OF THE BANK—30th June, 1861.

LIABILITIES.		£	s	d
Paid-up capital of 25/ per share on 7,169 shares.....		179,225	0	0
Surplus fund.....		44,630	2	11
Due by the bank on current accounts, deposit receipts (including interest to this day), notes in circulation, and interest on bills in the bank.....		323,366	1	11
Dividend for the half-year, after the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, on paid-up capital of 179,225/.....		8,961	5	0
		496,182	8	18
ASSETS.				
Cash in the bank, bills discounted, balances owing by customers, and other securities.....		491,187	9	0
Bank premises and furniture.....		5,000	0	0
		496,187	9	0
DE. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—30th June, 1861.				
Dividend for the half-year ending 31st December, 1860, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, on 178,600/ paid-up capital.....		8,930	0	0
Dividends for the half-year ending 30th June, 1861, at the same rate, on 179,225/ paid-up capital.....		8,961	5	0
Transfer to bad and doubtful debts account.....		1,500	0	0
Balance carried down.....		44,630	2	11
		64,021	7	11
CR.				
Balance of unappropriated profits, 30th June, 1860.....		43,396	10	2
Amount of profits, after payment of expenses and income tax.....		20,181	13	2
Premiums received on shares allotted.....		250	0	0
Debts written off as bad, and since recovered.....		193	4	7
		64,021	7	11
Balance of unappropriated profits brought down, being surplus fund ...		44,630	2	11

It was unanimously resolved,—

That the report and statement of the general balance, and profit and loss, which have been read, be approved by this meeting; and that the same be printed, and a copy thereof sent to each shareholder.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the directors for their valuable services; and that the sum of 500/ (free of income tax) be presented to them from the funds of the company.

That the thanks of the meeting be given to the manager, for the able and courteous manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the chairman.

SHEFFIELD AND ROTHERHAM BANK.

REPORT of the directors to the annual general meeting of proprietors, held at the bank, in Sheffield, February 6th, 1861:—

The directors have again the pleasure of meeting the shareholders, and of reporting to them the results of the past year's transactions. The profit and loss account shows a net gain of 27,008/ 0s 8d, after payment of all the usual expenses of management and the income tax. Out of this sum, your directors have written off for losses 2,544/ 13s 6d, and they now declare a dividend of twelve and a half per cent. on the company's paid-up capital. The balance remaining of 4,466/ 19s 8d has been passed to the credit of the reserve fund. For many years the bank has held a number of shares in the company's stock, a portion of which your directors have recently sold, and the profit thereon, amounting to 1,012/ 10s, has also been credited to the reserve fund. This fund, after these additions, and after payment of 700/ to the directors, in accordance with a resolution of the last annual meeting, amounts to 63,472/ 0s 9d. It is with much regret that your directors have to report that one of the clerks of the bank, of whose honesty and integrity not the slightest doubts were entertained, has succeeded in appropriating to his own private purposes a considerable sum of money from the funds of the bank, but a security is held from the Guarantee Society, and a claim has been made upon them for the amount. Mr John Sorby and Mr Thomas Jessop are the retiring directors, and they offer themselves for re-election. It is with great regret that the directors have to announce that in consequence of continued ill health, Mr Brown has expressed a wish to be relieved from the onerous duties that have hitherto devolved upon him as manager. The directors desire to express their very high sense of the services rendered by Mr Brown to the bank during a period of upwards of 27 years, and of the uniform good feeling that has existed between the directors and himself.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1860.

LIABILITIES.		£	s	d
Balances owing by the company, deposits, and notes in circulation...		674,064	7	0
Paid-up capital.....		160,451	0	0
Reserved fund.....		63,472	0	0
Dividend at 12½ per cent.....		20,087	7	6
		918,048	15	3
ASSETS.				
Balances owing to the company, bills, and cash in hand.....		906,921	5	10
Bank premises.....		11,129	9	5
		918,048	15	3

SHROPSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

The twenty-fifth annual report, 16th July, 1861:—
The directors of the Shropshire Banking Company have much pleasure in meeting the proprietors and presenting their annual report. The accounts, which have been duly audited by the auditor, Mr Banks, show the net profits for the year to be 5,367l 15s 6d, to which has to be added 129l 2s 8d, the balance brought forward from last year's statement, making a total of 5,496l 18s 1d. Under these circumstances the directors have now the gratification of recommending a dividend of 5s per share, a sum which they consider the improved state of the bank fully justifies. This will absorb 3,750l; and after adding 1,395l to the guarantee fund, which will then amount to 5,000l, leaves a balance of 251l 18s 1d to be carried to next year's account. Should this recommendation be adopted, the account will then stand as follows:—Net profits for the year ending June, 1861, 5,267l 15s 5d; balance from last year, 129l 2s 8d; total, 5,396l 18s 1d. Dividend, 5s per share, 3,750l; to be carried to guarantee fund, 1,395l; balance to next year's account, 251l 18s 1d; total, 5,396l 18s 1d. The guarantee fund will be as under:—Amount from last year's statement invested in the 3 per cent. consols, 3,500l; interest at 3 per cent., 105l; to be added from this year's profits, 1,395l; total, 5,000l.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING COMPANY.

The twentieth report of the court of directors, presented to the annual general meeting, June 18th, 1861:—

The court of directors have the pleasure to report that the operations of the bank during the past year have been of a satisfactory character. These have been largely aided by the trade of South Australia having continued in a sound condition, and the colony showing in all its material resources a decided progress. The mineral discoveries and the increased quantity of good land recently found available for stock, cannot fail to give an impetus which will attract population, and enlarge commercial relations with England and the adjacent settlements. The company's affairs have been exempted from any casualties which would diminish the returns of profit, and the court have the satisfaction of showing the following as the result of the year's business:—

	£	s	d
Balance as per last statement	41,865	3	4
Annual profits from all offices	47,290	4	9
	89,095	7	1
Dividend, July, 1860	219,742	1	8
Divd, January, 1861	19,794	3	4
Income tax	1,211	19	2
	40,748	4	2
	48,347	2	11

After deducting 4,884l to be added to the reserve fund, according to the regulations of the company, the net profit of the year will amount to 43,513l 2s 11d. The court, therefore, recommend a dividend should be declared of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income tax. The affairs of the bank have been subjected to the closest scrutiny, and every necessary reduction made in the valuation of assets. The condition of the company is shown in the balance sheets, and the accounts, as usual, have undergone examination of the auditors.

	£	s	d
LIABILITIES			
Circulation	98,225	0	0
Deposits and current accounts	292,564	14	2
Debts due to colonial banks and other liabilities	27,898	9	0
Bills payable	107,606	10	0
Capital paid up	400,000	0	0
Reserved fund	81,444	19	9
Profit and loss	48,218	2	11
	1,082,249	6	10
ASSETS			
Coin and bullion	182,090	5	2
Bills receivable and securities	731,998	12	3
Debts due from colonial banks and other assets	69,704	0	5
Bank premises and furniture	18,678	17	3
Investments for reserved fund	80,968	11	9
	1,082,249	6	10

Two new branches have been added to the company's establishment. That at Robe embraces a district rapidly being stocked with sheep and cattle, and that at Wallaroo will supply to the large mining interests now developing themselves facilities needed for monetary transactions.

The court will endeavour to preserve the affairs of the bank in a condition to advance the improvements now manifest in South Australia, and it is their conviction that a large increase of business will result, alike conducive to the substantial prosperity of the bank and that of the colony.—By order of the court,

EDWARD DIVETT, Chairman.
WILLIAM PERDIE, Manager.

54 Old Broad street, London, 14th June, 1861.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

The half-yearly meeting of the proprietors in this bank was held at the bank offices, Old Broad street, on July 15th: Mr J. J. Cummins in the chair.

The proceedings commenced by the secretary reading the advertisement convening the meeting, and the following report of the directors and statement of accounts:—

Although considerable commercial depression still continues in the Australian colonies, the directors have no hesitation in stating that there are

evidences of improvement. Trade seems to be restricted within more legitimate bounds, the exorbitant degree of speculative competition which had existed being evidently checked.

The produce of the goldfields nearly equals that of the year 1859, and the other general and staple interests of the Australian colonies appear to be satisfactory.

Commercial matters in New Zealand have not been very seriously disturbed by the war with a portion of the natives in the northern island. It is confidently hoped that these unfortunate outbreaks may be effectually quelled. The restoration of peace will probably be followed by increased activity in the formation of settlements and the extension of trade and civilisation.

Not much relief has as yet been obtained by the reduction in the allowance of interest, but it is hoped that the evil of the course pursued will lead to its own modification, and that arrangements may be made more in accordance with those adopted by the leading joint stock banks in this country, which have proved satisfactory.

Robert Carter, Esq., and Thomas Young, Esq., are the directors who retire on this occasion, in accordance with the provisions of the deed, and now offer themselves for re-election.

It gives the directors pleasure to bear testimony to the zeal, energy, and ability manifested by the inspector and general manager, in regard to the safe and prudent conduct of the bank's business, and to his firm and impartial adherence to their instructions in making such changes as they believe will prove of great benefit to the bank.

The subjoined statement of accounts presents an amount of profit for the past year of 127,426l 3s 7d to be added to the former balance of 3,540l 2s 4d; from which, deducting income tax and dividend to Christmas last, there remains 64,425l 12s, as the amount of undivided profit. The directors have, therefore, determined to apply the sum of 60,000l as a dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year on the capital of the bank, payable in London, free of income tax, on the 30th July, and in the colonies, with the addition of income tax, as soon as the inspector and general manager shall fix after receipt of advice.

STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES AND ASSETS—At the Branches, December 31, 1860, and at the London office on June 30, 1861.

	£	s	d
LIABILITIES			
Circulation	485,696	0	0
Deposits	2,566,490	0	0
Bills payable and other liabilities (including bills for collection, and reserves held against doubtful dependences)	3,068,244	6	7
Balance of undivided profits	64,425	12	0
Reserve fund	200,000	0	0
Reserve held applicable thereto, in terms of report of January 10, 1859	11,000	0	0
Capital	1,080,000	0	0
	6,306,795	18	7
ASSETS			
Spesie on hand, and cash balances	708,663	7	10
Bullion	40,289	13	8
Bank premises and property	104,574	0	0
Government securities	207,190	19	9
Local bills, bills receivable, and other securities (including bills for collection)	4,857,918	18	8
Reserve fund, invested as per statement	200,000	0	0
	6,306,795	18	7

STATEMENT OF PROFITS.

Balance of undivided profits at June, 1860	78,540	0	0
Out of which a dividend was declared of	70,000	0	0
Leaving a balance of	3,540	2	4
To which are now to be added the profits of the past year, ending at the branches on Dec. 31, 1860, and at the London office on June 30, 1861, viz:—For half-year, as reported in January, 1861, 63,497l 18s 8d; ditto, now reported, 64,929l 4s 11d—127,426l 3s 7d; less income tax paid, 6,649l 18s 11d	127,426	3	7
	131,056	6	8
Deduct dividend paid to proprietors at Christmas, 1860	124,425	12	0
	60,000	0	0
Leaving a balance of undivided profits at this date of	64,425	12	0
RESERVE FUND.			
New Three per Cent.	50,000	0	0
New Zealand Imperial Four per Cent. debentures	150,000	0	0
	200,000	0	0

UNION BANK OF LONDON.

The annual general meeting of proprietors was held on the 10th of July, at the offices, Princes street, Bank: Mr P. Northall Laurie in the chair.

After the usual preliminary proceedings, the following (being the 26th) report was read by the secretary, Mr H. Newmarch:—

In presenting the 26th report on the affairs of the bank, the directors have the pleasure of stating that the net profits of this bank for the six months ending 30th June last, after payment of all charges (including the sum of 107,511l 1s 4d for interest paid and due to customers on their current and deposit accounts), and making due provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to 99,616l 18s 2d, which, with the sum of 30,470l 18s brought forward from the 31st of December last, leaves for appropriation 126,087l 16s 2d. The directors now declare a dividend of 12s per share, clear of income tax, for the six months ending 30th of June last, amounting to the sum of 36,000l, which will leave a balance of 90,087l 16s 2d to be carried forward. In the early part of the year, John Barnes, Esq., tendered his resignation as a director, to the regret of his colleagues, with whom he had been so long associated, and in conformity with the provisions of the deed of settlement, the directors elected William Scholfield, Esq., M.P., a duly qualified proprietor, to fill the vacancy. The following directors retire by rotation, viz., P. N. Laurie, Esq., James Farquhar, Esq., and John Chapman, Esq., who, being eligible, offer themselves, and are recommended by the court for re-election.

The report was unanimously adopted.

UNITY JOINT STOCK MUTUAL BANKING ASSOCIATION.

This report of the bank for the past half-year, which the directors now submit to the shareholders, shows that its business during that period has steadily progressed.

After the payment of current expenses of the chief office and branches, and making provision for bad debts, the available surplus, including the balance of the preceding half-year, is 4,066l 2s 4d.

Out of this amount the directors propose paying a dividend of twelve shillings and sixpence per share, free of income tax, the balance to be carried over to the next half-year.

The retiring director is Benjamin Bower, Esq., who, being qualified, offers himself for re-election.

J. J. Meehl, Chairman.

Chief offices, 10 Cannon street, City, London, July 23, 1861.

BALANCE SHEET.—June 30, 1861.

Dr.	£	s	d
Capital account, as per last report.....	141,015	0	0
Amount due on current and other accounts.....	154,826	2	0
Balance of interest account after payment of interest to customers, and making provision for bad debts.....	24,805	17	5
Balance of profit and loss account, as per last report.....	24,715	11	5
Less dividend of 12s per share paid per resolution of last meeting.....	21,480	10	0
Less Directors' fees voted at last meeting.....	500	0	0
	1,300	10	0
	2,354	1	5
	7,080	18	10
	300,901	1	3
Cr.	£	s	d
Preliminary expenses, as per last report.....	33,648	15	4
Investments in bank premises, including the Brighton branch.....	24,890	3	1
Current expenses from 31st December, 1860, to 29th June, 1861 (including directors' fees for the past half-year, 250s).....	2,939	16	6
Bills discounted, loans to customers, &c.....	306,837	15	3
Cash in hand.....	35,820	12	11
	300,901	1	3
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.—Half-year ending 29th June, 1861.			
Current expenses, from 31st December, 1860, to 29th June, 1861, brought down.....	2,939	16	6
Balance, after making provision for bad debts.....	4,066	2	4
	7,006	18	10
Balance of interest account, after payment of interest on customers' balances.....	4,905	17	5
Balance of profit and loss account, brought down.....	2,254	1	5
	7,080	18	10

We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing balance sheet, and compared the items it comprises with the several books and vouchers relating thereto, and have found the same to be correct.—(Signed) Wm. Gould, } Auditors.
Wm. Hopwood, }

At the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Unity Joint Stock Bank, held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate street, on Friday, the 26th July, 1861, at twelve o'clock, Mr Alderman Meehl in the chair, the Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, with the report and balance sheet, the Chairman moved the adoption of the report, which, after some discussion, was carried unanimously. It was then resolved unanimously that Benjamin Bower, Esq., the retiring director, be re-elected. It was also further resolved unanimously that William Gould and William Hopwood, Esqrs., be re-elected auditors. Thanks were then unanimously voted to the directors, managers, and auditors. (Signed) J. J. MEEHL, Chairman.

UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND.

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT:— It may be in the recollection of the proprietors that, at last general meeting, it was agreed to alter the annual balance of the company's books at Glasgow from 20th to 2nd April, so as to correspond with the balancing at Edinburgh and the branches. This alteration causes a diminution equal to nearly three weeks of the Glasgow profits for the past year. The directors now lay before the proprietors the balance sheets of the company's books as at 2nd ult., showing the net profits from 20th April, 1860, to that date to be 122,998l 17s 1d, after providing, as usual, for all ascertained bad debts, with the exception of the loss by the Messrs Blaikie, of Aberdeen, which, at the last annual meeting, was stated as likely to be from 25,000l to 30,000l. It is now, after investigation, estimated at 30,634l 8s 2d; towards meeting that loss, there was set aside out of last year's profits 12,018l 1s 6d, and it is proposed to take from those of this year 18,616l 6s 8d, thus providing for the whole, without calculating on any dividends from the bankrupts' estates. The directors regret exceedingly this heavy loss. The account was one of those taken over from the Aberdeen Bank (a junction which has been of such material benefit to this company); and although that account latterly caused the directors considerable uneasiness, they never had reason to anticipate that the advances to a firm of such high repute, and large business connection in the district, could have terminated so unfavourably. The directors, nevertheless, have the satisfaction to report the continued general prosperity of the bank; and although, as already stated, the profits of the Glasgow department do not embrace a full year, they are enabled to place at the disposal of

the proprietors a clear profit of 104,382l 10s 5d, out of which they recommend that a dividend of 9 per cent. be declared, free of income tax, payable on 1st June and 2nd December next, leaving a surplus of 14,382l 10s 5d, which amount it is proposed to dispose of as follows, viz., 3,376l for income tax on the dividend, 5,000l to the Perth Bank amalgamation account, and 6,007l 10s 5d to the present year's account: The rest or undivided profit account would thus remain at 200,000l. Resolutions will be tabled at this meeting having for their object the fixing of the capital of the company at one million, being the amount already paid up; the conversion of the shares into stock; and other relative, although minor, alterations on the contract of copartnership.

ABSTRACT STATE OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE BANK.—April 2, 1861.

Liabilities, consisting of—	£	s	d
1. Capital paid up.....	1,000,000	0	0
2. Rest, or undivided profit.....	300,000	0	0
3. Deposits (including balances at credit of banking correspondents) and notes in circulation.....	7,771,382	11	3
4. Profit and loss.....	152,998	17	1
	9,064,380	8	4
Assets, consisting of—	£	s	d
1. Bills of exchange, local and country bills, cash credits, and other advances on security.....	6,926,837	6	9
2. Bank offices in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and branches.....	164,268	15	1
3. Consols and other Government securities.....	2,551,709	5	11
Railway debentures, and other realisable securities.....	171,593	13	4
	1,053,302	19	3
4. Gold and silver coin, notes of other banks, and cash balances in hands of London and country bankers.....	882,006	6	7
	2,604,915	5	3
	6,064,887	8	3

Glasgow, 9th May, 1861.

ULSTER BANKING COMPANY.

At the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the proprietors, held at the bank, Belfast, on Thursday, the 26th of September, 1861, James Heron, Esq., in the chair, the following report of the committee was presented:—

The committee have, in accordance with the deed of copartnership, to furnish their report of the proceedings of the year ending 31st August last, and beg to submit the following statement:—

Reserve fund, as declared in September, 1860.....	71,560	4	2
Net profits of the year, after writing off all bad, and making full provision for doubtful debts.....	251,930	8	2
Out of which there have been paid two half-yearly dividends, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, amounting to.....	18,840	10	0
Leaving a surplus of.....	13,019	18	2
To be appropriated as follows, viz.—To credit of the building fund.....	1,000	0	0
And the residue.....	12,019	18	2
To be added to the reserve fund, which now stands at.....	58,570	4	2

There have been considerable fluctuations in the value of money during the period embraced in the present report; the Bank of England have made no less than fourteen changes in the rate of discount. On the whole, the average rate has been high, and banking profits have been accordingly large. Considering the depression of trade, caused by the unfortunate state of affairs in America, and the unfavourable results of the harvest of 1860, there have been few commercial failures, and the trading community have shown great soundness and strength. The directors, with the approval of your committee, have, since the last general meeting, opened branches in Trim and Longford. They have also decided on opening a branch in Dublin, for which they have taken premises in College Green. The necessary alterations are about to be made, and it is expected that, in a short time, business will be commenced by this company in the metropolis of Ireland. The directors, in pursuance of the policy indicated in the last report, have, during the year, made a further considerable addition to the amount of their public convertible investments, considering it desirable to maintain a reserve of such securities in proportion to the business of the bank. Your committee have again to request that each individual shareholder will exercise his influence in furtherance of the interests of the company.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE BANK.

The directors of this bank have declared a dividend of 5s per share for the half-year, payable on the 2nd of September, free of income tax.

WORCESTER CITY AND COUNTY BANK.

The Manager of the above bank presents his compliments to the Editor of the Economist, and begs to annex some particulars of the Worcester City and County Bank:—

31st December, 1860.—Capital, 50,000l; dividend, 10 per cent.; reserve fund, 15,500l.

30th June, 1861.—Capital, 72,750l; dividend, 10 per cent.; reserve fund, 24,500l.

Worcester, 22nd October, 1861.

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