



ANNO SEPTIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

C A P. LXVI.

An Act to Incorporate certain persons carrying on the Business of Banking in the City of Montreal, under the name of "La Banque du Peuple."

9th December, 1843.—Presented for Her Majesty's Assent, and reserved "for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon."

23d May, 1844.—Assented by Her Majesty, in Privy Council.

27th June, 1844.—The Royal Assent signified by the Proclamation of His Excellency SIR CHARLES THEOPHILUS METCALFE, Governor General.

WHEREAS Louis Michel Viger, Jacob DeWitt, John Donegani, Pierre Beaubien, Augustin Tulloch, Hosea Ballow Smith, Romuald Trudeau, Pierre Jodoin, all of Montreal, in the district of Montreal, Esquires,—Alexis Sauvageau, of Laprairie, in the district of Montreal, Esquire,—Thimothé Franchère, of St. Mathias, in the district of Montreal, Esquire,—Joseph Frederick Allard, of Chambly, in the District of Montreal, Esquire, and Alexis Edouard Montmarquet, of Carillon, in the district of Montreal, Esquire, by their humble petition in this behalf, have represented that they have for many years carried on the Business of Banking at the City of Montreal, under the name or firm of Viger, DeWitt and Company, under and by virtue of certain articles of copartnership entered into between them : And whereas the establishment of their said Bank, conducted according to the principles of their said copartnership has been attended with the most beneficial results to trade and agriculture : And whereas it is expedient,

Preamble.

pedient, for the better effecting the purposes of their said copartnership, that the said above named persons should be incorporated and empowered to carry on the said Business of Banking, under regulations and provisions as nearly corresponding (as may be) with the terms of their said copartnership: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the said Louis Michel Viger, Jacob DeWitt, John Donegani, Pierre Beaubien, Augustin Tulloch, Hosea Ballow Smith, Romuald Trudeau, Pierre Jodoin, Alexis Sauvageau, Thimothé Franchère, Joseph Frederick Allard, and Alexis Edouard Montmarquet, and their successors, to be named as hereinafter provided, shall be and they are hereby constituted a Body Corporate and Politic, in fact and in name, by and under the name of "La Banque du Peuple," and as such shall, during the continuance of this Act, have succession and a Common Seal, with power to break, renew, change and alter the same at pleasure, and shall be capable of suing and being sued, and of pleading and being impleaded, in all Courts of Law and Equity, in all manner of actions, causes and matters whatsoever; and for the carrying out of the provisions of this Act, prior to the election of the President and Vice-President as hereafter provided, it shall be lawful for the purposes of recovering subscriptions and effecting transfers as hereinafter provided, that they the aforesaid Louis Michel Viger, Jacob DeWitt, John Donegani, Pierre Beaubien, Augustin Tulloch, Hosea Ballow Smith, Romuald Trudeau, Pierre Jodoin, Alexis Sauvageau, Thimothé Franchère, Joseph Frederick Allard, and Alexis Edouard Montmarquet, or any three of them, shall be Commissioners; and for the convenient management of their business, but for no other purpose, shall and may purchase, acquire and hold real or immoveable estates and property, not exceeding the yearly value of two thousand pounds, current money of this Province, and may sell, alienate and dispose of the same, and purchase, acquire and hold others in their stead, not exceeding in the whole the yearly value aforesaid, and shall be capable of receiving partners *in commenda* (*commanditaires*) as hereinafter provided.

Certain persons incorporated by the name of "La Banque du Peuple."

Corporate powers.

The persons incorporated, to have the sole management of the business of the bank, and be jointly and severally liable; but

II. And be it enacted, that the said above named persons, incorporated as aforesaid, and their successors, shall have the sole management of the affairs of the said Bank, so to be carried on by the said Corporation, and shall individually be jointly and severally liable for all the obligations and debts contracted by the said Corporation; and no partners *in commenda* (*commanditaires*) in the said Corporation shall in any case, or under any circumstances, either as regards the said Corporation,

Corporation, or as regards any Member thereof, or any other party or parties, be liable to pay any sum beyond the amount of the Stock for which he shall subscribe; and if the sum which any partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*) has agreed to furnish as Stock, be paid and lost in the business of the said Bank, he shall be exonerated from any other payment, and if any part be unpaid, he shall be liable for that amount and no more, as well to the said Corporation as to the creditors thereof; and no partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*) shall be liable to be called upon by the said Corporation, or its creditors, to refund any dividend he may have received of any net profits fairly made during the solvency of the said Corporation: Provided also, that any person ceasing to be a Member of the said Corporation shall not be liable for any debt contracted by the said Corporation after he shall have so ceased to be a Member of the same, if the public notice hereinafter required in that behalf be given: Provided further, that no person who shall have ceased to be a Member of the said Corporation, shall be individually liable, nor shall the heirs, executors, administrators or assigns of any person who shall have ceased to be a Member of the said Corporation be individually liable for the debts contracted by the said Corporation during the time that any such person shall have been a Member of the said Corporation, unless the action or suit to be brought for the purpose of having such individual liability judicially declared, be instituted within twelve months from the time at which such person shall, from any cause whatever, have ceased to be a Member of the said Corporation.

partners *in commendam*, only to the amount of their shares.

Proviso.

Limitation of actions.

III. And be it enacted, that all the affairs and business of the said Corporation shall be managed by the Members of the said Corporation, or by so many of them as may be authorized to that effect, by a majority of the whole of the Members of the said Corporation, and subject to and in conformity with the regulations and by-laws of the said Corporation, and the said regulations and by-laws to be made as hereinafter provided.

How the business shall be conducted.

IV. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the Corporation hereby constituted, from time to time to make and enact by-laws, rules and regulations (the same not being repugnant to this Act or to the laws of this Province) for the proper management of the affairs of the said Corporation, and from time to time to alter or repeal the same, and others to make and enact in their stead.

Corporation may make by-laws.

V. And be it enacted, that the said Members of the said Corporation, and their successors, shall elect, so soon as the provision of this Act relating to the subscription of the Stock of the said Bank shall have been complied with, a President and Vice-President, who shall hold their appointment until the first Monday

President and Vice-President how elected; and their time of service.

Monday of May following, and shall annually elect thereafter, from out of their number, on the first Monday of the month of May, a President and Vice-President, who shall hold their appointment for the ensuing twelve months; and in the case of a vacancy in the office of President or Vice-President, the Members of the said Corporation for the time being (and their successors) shall fill the same by electing, from and out of their own number, a President or Vice-President to fill the office so vacant; and the President or Vice-President so chosen or elected, shall continue in office until the first Monday of May next following the election of such President or Vice-President.

Mode of voting at meetings of the Corporation.

VI. And be it enacted, that at all meetings of the Members of the said Corporation, each Member of the said Corporation shall have a right to vote; and at the said meetings the President, or in his absence the Vice-President, or in their absence, one of the Members present, to be chosen *pro tempore*, shall preside; and the President, Vice-President, or Member acting as President *pro tempore*, shall not vote except in the case of an equal division of the votes of the other Members present, in which case he shall have a casting vote.

Amount of Capital Stock.

VII. And be it enacted, that the Capital Stock of the said Corporation hereby constituted, including as well the Stock of the said Members of the said Corporation, as the Stock of the said partners *in commendam* (*commanditaires*) shall be the sum of two hundred thousand pounds, currency, divided into sixteen thousand shares, of twelve pounds ten shillings, currency, each, and books of subscription for the Capital Stock by this Act authorized to be subscribed, shall be opened by such persons, at such times and places as to the said Members of the said Corporation or to the majority of them shall seem meet: Provided always, that it shall be lawful for any person, who, whether as a principal partner, (*associé gérant*) or as a partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*) is now or hereafter may be a holder of Stock in the said Banking Copartnership now or heretofore carried on at Montreal aforesaid, under the name and firm of Viger, DeWitt and Company, to transfer his Stock in the last mentioned copartnership to the Corporation created by the present Act; and such Stock, when so transferred, shall to all intents and purposes whatever be regarded and considered as part of the paid up Capital Stock of the Bank incorporated by this Act; and the person so transferring the same shall be entitled to all the same rights, privileges and immunities that he would have been entitled to had he paid up the said shares in Gold or Silver; and such transfer may be made in a book to be kept for that purpose by the Corporation created by this Act, and shall be signed by the party making such transfer, or his, her or their duly authorized attorney or attorneys, and shall be accepted by the President, Vice-President or Cashier of the Corporation created by this Act, and shall be notified to the said Banking Copartnership

Transfer of Stock in a certain Copartnership to the Bank allowed.

Mode of effecting such transfer.

of

of Viger, DeWitt and Company, by leaving a copy of such transfer at the office or counting house of the said Banking Copartnership of Viger, DeWitt and Company, but notice as aforesaid of such transfer shall not be necessary if the said transfer be assented to in the last mentioned book of the said Corporation created by this Act, by a general partner (*associé gérant*) of the said Banking Copartnership of Viger, DeWitt and Company, authorized to that effect, or in the event of the dissolution of the copartnership of Viger, DeWitt and Company, whether by effluxion of time or otherwise, by any persons that may be named for the liquidation of the affairs of the said last mentioned firm; and such transfer may be made according to the form of Schedule A, annexed to this Act.

Form.

VIII. And be it enacted, that each of the Members of the said Corporation shall subscribe and pay as hereinafter required, for at least forty shares of the said Capital Stock, and shall be a holder of the said Capital Stock to that extent so long as he continues a Member of the said Corporation; and it shall and may be lawful for any persons, Her Majesty's subjects or foreigners, to subscribe for so many shares of the said Capital Stock as they may think fit; and that the shares respectively subscribed for, shall be payable in equal instalments, that is to say, ten per centum on the amount of Stock subscribed by any party, shall be deposited at the time of subscribing with the agent appointed to open the books of such Bank, or in some Chartered Bank within the Province, to be called for by the said Members of the said Corporation or a majority of them, as soon as they may deem it expedient, and the remainder shall be payable at such period as the said Members of the said Corporation or a majority of them shall agree upon: Provided no instalment shall exceed ten per centum upon the Capital Stock, or be called for or become payable in less than thirty days after public notice to that effect shall have been given, in two or more of the newspapers published in the City of Montreal, in the English and French languages: and executors, administrators and curators, paying instalments on the shares of deceased Shareholders shall be and they hereby are respectively indemnified for paying the same: Provided always, that one half of the amount of the Capital Stock shall be subscribed for and be actually paid in, before the Bank shall commence business, and that the residue of the said Capital Stock shall be subscribed for within twenty-four months after the Bank shall have commenced business, and that the whole amount of the Capital so subscribed shall be called in and paid within four years from the passing of this Act: Provided always, that nothing in this section contained shall be construed to prevent the transfer of Stock from the Banking Copartnership of Viger, DeWitt and Company, to the Corporation created by this Act as hereinbefore provided, or to interfere with the provisions hereinbefore contained respecting the transfer of the last mentioned Stock.

Each member of the Corporation to hold at least forty shares.

Subscriptions how to be paid in.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Proviso.

IX.

Penalty on shareholders neglecting to pay the instalments when called for.

Proviso. The Corporation may remit such penalty.

Voluntary payments allowed.

Proviso as to the amount of such voluntary payments, &c.

New members of the Corporation may be admitted.

IX. And be it enacted, that if any Shareholder, whether he be a Member of the said Corporation or a partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*), shall refuse or neglect to pay any one or more of the instalments upon his, her or their shares of the said Capital Stock, at the time or times required by public notice as aforesaid, such Shareholder shall incur a forfeiture, to the use of the said Corporation, of a sum of money equal to ten pounds per centum on the amount of such share; and moreover, it shall be lawful for the Members of the said Corporation or a majority of them, (without any formality other than thirty days of public notice of their intention) to sell at public auction the said shares, or so many of the said shares as shall, after deducting the reasonable expenses of the sale of the same, yield a sum of money sufficient to pay the unpaid instalments due on the remainder of the said shares and the amount of forfeitures incurred upon the whole; and the President or Vice President, or Cashier of the said Corporation shall execute the transfer to the purchaser of the shares of Stock so sold, and such transfer, being accepted, shall be as valid and effectual in law as if the same had been executed by the original holder or holders of the shares of Stock thereby transferred: Provided always, that nothing in this section contained, shall be held to debar the Members of the said Corporation or a majority of them, at a general meeting, from remitting either in whole or in part, and conditionally or unconditionally, any forfeiture incurred by the non-payment of instalments as aforesaid: And it shall be lawful for any Shareholder, whether he be a Member of the said Corporation or a partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*), to pay up the whole or any part of the Stock so subscribed for by him: Provided always, that no instalment so to be paid shall be less than ten pounds per centum on the amount of the share or shares to which such instalment shall apply; and any instalment that may be so paid in advance, shall entitle the Stockholder to a share of profits proportioned to the instalments voluntarily paid, in the same manner as if the payment of such instalments had been required by notice under this Act as aforesaid; and the said instalments so voluntarily paid in shall be in all respects regarded in the same light, and treated in the same manner as if the same had been required to be paid in, by public notice under this Act, as aforesaid.

X. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Corporation to add to the number of its Members; provided always that the number of the Members of the said Corporation shall not at any time be less than seven or more than fifteen, and that any person hereafter to be admitted as a Member of the said Corporation, shall be admitted on the same terms and conditions in all respects as the persons above named: and any person or persons hereafter becoming a Member of the said Corporation, as aforesaid, shall be subject in all respects to the same liabilities as the persons above named are subject to as Members of the

the said Corporation, and enjoy all the advantages, privileges and immunities that the persons above named can or may enjoy as Members of the said Corporation as aforesaid: And provided also, that if, from any cause whatever, the number of the Members of the said Corporation be reduced to a less number than seven, the said Corporation shall not be deemed or taken to be thereby dissolved, but it shall be the duty of the remaining Members of the said Corporation, whatever may be their number, within three months, to add to the number of their Members, so as to make up the number required by the foregoing provisions of the Law.

XI. And be it enacted, that any person who now is, or hereafter may be a Member of the said Corporation, shall be liable to be and may be expelled therefrom, if his expulsion be declared necessary and be pronounced by a vote of at least three-fourths of the Members present at a meeting of the Members of the said Corporation, called specially for that purpose: Provided the person proposed to be expelled be notified to appear at least fifteen days previous to the said meeting.

Members may be expelled in certain cases.

Proviso.

XII. And be it enacted, that in case of the death, retirement or expulsion of any one or more of the Members of the said Corporation, the remaining Members of the said Corporation may fill the vacancy or vacancies so caused, by admitting a new Member into the said Corporation in the place and stead of each of the said Members who may have so died, retired or been expelled: Provided always, that no such new Member shall be so admitted into the said Corporation unless the consent of the remaining Members of the said Corporation be testified by a vote of at least three-fourths of the said remaining Members of the said Corporation, at a meeting to be called specially for that purpose.

Vacancies in the Corporation how filled.

Proviso.

XIII. And be it enacted, that when any person, being a Member of the said Corporation, shall, from any cause whatever cease to be a Member of the said Corporation, the Stock belonging to such former Member of the said Corporation shall, during the continuance of this act, continue to form a part of the Capital Stock of the said Corporation; and such retired or expelled Member, and the legal representative or representatives of a deceased Member shall be in all respects subject to all the liabilities, and enjoy all the rights immunities and advantages of a partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*) of the said Corporation, to the extent of the Stock so belonging to him.

Consequences of expulsion as to the stock of the member expelled.

XIV. And be it enacted, that the shares of the Capital Stock of the said Corporation shall be held and adjudged to be personal Estate, and be transmissible accordingly, and shall be assignable and transferable at the Bank, according to the form of Schedule B. annexed to this Act; but no assignment or transfer shall be valid

Stock to be personal property, and transmissible accordingly.

valid and effectual unless it be made and registered in the books so to be kept by the said Corporation for that purpose, nor until the person or persons making the same shall previously discharge all debts and liabilities contracted by him, her or them, and which may be due or owing, or to become due or owing to the said Corporation, and which may exceed in amount the remaining Stock (if any) belonging to such person or persons; and the said Corporation shall have a lien and privilege on the Stock of the said Corporation belonging to any Member thereof, or to any partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*) for the payment of any debts or liabilities due or owing by any such Member of the said Corporation, or partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*) to the said Corporation; and no fractional part or parts of a share, or other than a whole share, shall be assignable or transferable; and when any share or shares of the said Capital Stock shall have been sold under a Writ of Execution, the Sheriff by whom the Writ shall have been executed shall, within thirty days, after the sale, leave with the Cashier of the Corporation an attested copy of the Writ with the certificate of such Sheriff endorsed thereon, certifying to whom the sale has been made, and thereupon (but not until after all debts due by the original holder or holders of the said shares, or any copartnership in which the said holder may be interested, to the Corporation shall have been discharged as aforesaid,) the President or Vice-President, or Cashier of the Corporation shall execute the transfer of the share or shares so sold to the purchaser, and such transfer, being duly accepted, shall be to all intents and purposes, as valid and effectual in Law as if it had been executed by the original holder or holders of the said shares; any Law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided always, that each Member of the said Corporation shall at all times retain in his own name and possession the number of shares of the said Capital Stock of the said Corporation, as are required to make a person eligible to be a Member of the said Corporation, that is to say forty shares.

Lien of the Corporation of stock for debts due to it.

Parts of shares not transferable.
Stock sold under execution.

Proviso.

Division of profits.

XV. And be it enacted, that the profits of the said Corporation shall be divided between all the said holders of the said Stock, whether they be Members of the said Corporation or partners *in commendam* (*commanditaires*) as aforesaid, in proportion to the Stock held by each such Member or partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*); and it shall be the duty of the said Corporation to make half yearly dividends on the first Monday of March and September in each year, of so much of the profits of the said Corporation as to them shall appear advisable; and such dividends shall be payable at such place or places as the said Corporation shall appoint, and of which they shall give fifteen days public notice previously: Provided always, that such dividend shall not, in any manner, lessen or impair the Capital Stock of the said Corporation.

Dividends, where payable.

Proviso.
Stock not to be impaired.

Regular books to be kept, and balanced

XVI. And be it enacted, that regular books of account shall be kept by the said Corporation, and the books so to be kept shall be balanced semi-annually; and before

before the declaration of each and every dividend, statements of the assets and liabilities of the Corporation shall be made, together with an inventory of all the property real and personal belonging to the said Corporation.

half-yearly,
&c.

XVII. And be it enacted, that the said books of account which it shall be the duty of the said Corporation to keep, as aforesaid, and the statement and inventory which it shall be the duty of the said Corporation to prepare semi-annually, as aforesaid, and all vouchers connected therewith, and generally all the deeds, books and papers of the said Corporation, shall, during the last fifteen days of the months of February and August, in each and every year, but at no other period, be open to the examination of a Board of Audit, to be elected as hereinafter provided; the said deeds, books and papers shall not, however, be removed from the office of the said Bank.

Books, &c., to
be open to a
Board of Audit
at certain
times.

XVIII. And be it enacted, that on the first Monday of March, in every year during the continuance of this Act, a general meeting of all the Stockholders of the said Corporation, including as well the Members of the said Corporation as each of the said partners *in commendam* (*commanditaires*), shall be held at the office of Montreal of the said Corporation, of which general meeting one month's notice shall be given in two or more of the newspapers published in the said City of Montreal, in the English and French languages; and at the said meeting a full and clear statement of the affairs of the said Corporation shall be submitted, containing on the one part the amount of Capital Stock paid in, the amount of Notes of the Bank in circulation, the net profits in hand, the balances due to other Banks and Institutions, and the cash deposited in the Bank, distinguishing Deposits bearing interest from those not bearing interest, and on the other part the amount of current Coins and Gold and Silver Bullion in the vaults of the Bank, the value of buildings and other real estate belonging to the Bank, the balances due to the Bank from other Banks and Institutions, and the amount of debts owing to the Bank including and particularising the amounts so owing on Bills of Exchange, Discounted Notes, Mortgages and Hypothecs, and other Securities; thus exhibiting, on the one hand, the liabilities of, or debts due by the Bank, and on the other hand, the assets and resources thereof; and the said statement shall also exhibit the rate and amount of the then last dividend declared, the amount of profits reserved at the time of declaring such dividend, and the amount of debts to the Bank over-due and not paid, with an estimate of the loss which may probably be incurred from the non-payment of such debts.

General meet-
ing of all the
shareholders,
how and when
to be held,
and statements
to be exhibi-
ted at such
meetings.

XIX. And be it enacted, that at the annual general meeting so to take place on the first Monday of March, all the said partners *in commendam* (*commanditaires*) of the said Corporation then present, shall, by vote, elect from among themselves,
three

Election of
the Board of
Audit.

Duties of the Board.

three persons to be a Board of Audit ; and it shall be the duty of the said Board of Audit so elected to look into all the operations of the said Corporation, and to examine the books of account, papers and vouchers of the said Corporation, which books, papers and vouchers shall be accessible to the said Board of Audit as provided for in the seventeenth section of this Act ; and it shall be the duty of the said Board of Audit to make their report thereon at the next general meeting of the said Corporation, to be held on the first Monday of March, as aforesaid ; and each partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*) shall have one vote and no more, and if there be an equal division as to the appointment of any person to be a Member of the said Board of Audit, the partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*) then present, having the largest quantity of Stock in the said Corporation, shall have a casting vote ; and it shall be lawful for any absent partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*) to give their, his or her vote respecting the nomination of the said Board of Audit by proxy, such proxy being also a partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*), and being provided with a written authority from his constituent or constituents, and which authority shall be lodged in the Bank.

Mode of voting.

Proxies.

Certain books, shewing all the partners, to be kept.

XX. And be it enacted, that a book shall be kept by the said Corporation, in which each person who shall be admitted as a partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*) in the said Corporation, shall enter his or her name, addition and residence, the number of shares taken by such person, and the date of the making of such entry, or cause such entry to be made ; and it shall be the duty of the Cashier of the said Corporation to grant to each partner *in commendam* (*commanditaire*) a certificate setting forth the date and particulars of the entry so to be made.

And other books shewing the names of all members of the Corporation.

XXI. And be it enacted, that it shall be the duty of the said Corporation to keep a book, in which shall be entered the name and addition and residence of each of the Members of the said Corporation ; and it shall be the duty of the said Corporation, before commencing the business and operations of the said Bank, to cause an extract from the said last mentioned book, under the signature of the Cashier of the said Corporation and of the President or Vice-President thereof, to be fyled at the office of the Prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench for the District of Montreal, setting forth the name, addition and place of residence of each of the Members of the said Corporation ; and it shall also be the duty of the said Corporation to record in the said last mentioned book all changes in the Members composing the said Corporation, whether occasioned by the death, retirement or expulsion of any of the Members thereof, or by any addition or additions to the number of the Members of the said Corporation ; and in any such change it shall be the duty of the said Corporation to make an entry in the last mentioned book of such change, under the hand of the Cashier of the said Corporation, setting forth the date of such entry and the time when such change took place, and giving the name, addition

dition and residence of the person so dead or expelled, or who may have retired from, or become a Member of the said Corporation; and it shall be lawful for any Member of the said Corporation to retire from the said Corporation on giving one month's notice thereof in writing to the Cashier of the said Corporation, and it shall be the duty of the said Corporation, without delay, to cause an entry to be made in the last mentioned book, setting forth the date of the entry, and the name of the party giving notice, and the date and nature of the said notice, and to grant the party giving such notice an acknowledgement in writing of the receipt of such notice, and after the expiration of thirty days from the giving of notice as aforesaid, (the day on which such notice may be given not to be counted,) the Member of the said Corporation so giving such notice shall cease to be a Member of the said Corporation, and shall not be liable for any debts of any nature or description whatsoever which may be contracted by the said Corporation from and after the time at which he shall so cease to be a Member of the said Corporation; and it shall also be the duty of the Corporation, without any wilful delay, to give notice, under the signature of the Cashier of the said Bank, for a period of one month in two or more of the public newspapers published at the City of Montreal aforesaid, in the English and French languages, of all changes in the Members composing the said Corporation, whether occasioned by the death, retirement or expulsion of any Member, or by the addition of any Member or Members to the number of the Members of the said Corporation.

Members of the Corporation may retire therefrom.

Public notice of change of members to be given.

XXII. And be it enacted, that the said Corporation, or a majority of the Members thereof, or a majority of the Members authorized, according to the provisions of this Act, to manage the affairs of the said Corporation, shall have power to appoint such Cashier, Officers, Clerks and Servants under them as shall be necessary for conducting the business of the said Corporation, and to allow reasonable compensation for their services respectively: Provided always, that before permitting any Cashier, Officer, Clerk or Servant of the Corporation to enter upon the duties of his Office, the said Corporation shall require every such Cashier, Officer, Clerk or Servant to give Bond to the satisfaction of the said Corporation, that is to say: every Cashier, in a sum not less than Four Thousand Pounds, Current money of Canada,—and every other Officer, Clerk or Servant, in such sum of money as the said Corporation consider adequate to the trust reposed, with conditions for good and faithful behaviour; and the compensation so to be allowed to the said Cashier, Officers, Clerks or Servants, as also house rent and all expenses incidental to or consequent upon the business of the said Corporation, shall be deducted each half year from the profits of the said Corporation before the declaration of the semi-annual dividend; and if, in the opinion of the majority of the Members of the said Corporation, it shall be necessary to require any one or more of the Members of the said Corporation to devote a greater portion

Cashier and other officers how to be appointed.

Proviso. Officers to give security.

Members of the Corporation giving more than ordinary atten-

tion to its business may be paid.

of his or their time to the business and affairs of the said Corporation than can be reasonably required from such Member or Members without compensation, it shall be lawful for the said Corporation to compensate such Member or Members for his or their services, by a fixed salary or otherwise, as to the said Corporation or to a majority of the Members thereof may seem expedient.

In what the said Corporation may deal.

XXIII. And be it enacted, that the said Corporation hereby constituted shall not either directly or indirectly hold any lands or tenements (save and except such as by the first section of this Act they are specially authorized to acquire and hold) or any ships or other vessels, or any share or shares of the Capital Stock of the said Corporation, nor shall the said Corporation, either directly or indirectly lend money or make advances upon the security, mortgage or hypothecation (*hypothèque*) of any lands or tenements, or of any ships or other vessels, nor upon the security or pledge of any share or shares of the Capital Stock of the Corporation, or of any goods, wares or merchandize, or deal in the buying, selling or bartering of goods, wares or merchandize, or engage or be engaged in any trade whatsoever except as Dealers in Gold and Silver Bullion, Bills of Exchange, Discounting of Promissory Notes and Negotiable Security, and in such trade generally as legitimately appertains to the Business of Banking: Provided always, that the said Corporation may take and hold mortgages and *hypothèques* on real estate and property in this Province by way of additional security for debts contracted to the Corporation in the course of their dealings.

Proviso.

Obligations and notes of the Corporation, how to be transferable.

XXIV. And be it enacted, that the Bonds, Obligations and Bills Obligatory and of Credit of the said Corporation under the Common Seal, and signed by the President or Vice-President and countersigned by a Cashier thereof, which shall be made payable to any person or persons, shall be assignable by indorsement thereon under the hand or hands of such person or persons, and of his, her, or their assignee or assignees, and so as absolutely to transfer and vest the property thereof in the several assignees successively, and to enable such assignee or assignees to bring and maintain an action or actions thereupon in his, her or their own name or names; and signification of any such assignment by indorsement shall not be necessary, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding; and Bills or Notes of the Corporation, signed by the President or Vice-President, and countersigned by a Cashier thereof, promising the payment of money to any person or persons, his, her or their order, or to the bearer, though not under the Seal of the Corporation, shall be binding and obligatory upon the same in the like manner and with the like force and effect as they would be upon any private person or persons if issued by him, her or them, in his, her or their private or natural capacities, and shall be assignable or negotiable in the like manner as if they were so issued by such private person or persons.

Notes payable to bearer.

XXV.

XXV. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the said Corporation to allow and pay interest (but not exceeding the legal rate of interest in this Province) upon moneys deposited in the Bank ; and also it shall and may be lawful for the said Corporation, in discounting Promissory Notes or other Negotiable Securities, to receive or retain the Discount thereon at the time of the discounting or negotiating the same ; any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Corporation may retain discount at the time of discounting.

XXVI. And be it enacted, that the total amount of the Notes or Bills of the said Corporation being for a less sum than one pound, current money of Canada, each, that shall be or may have been issued and put in circulation, shall not exceed, at any one time, one fifth of the amount of the Capital Stock of the Corporation then paid in : Provided always, that no Notes, under the nominal value of five shillings, shall be issued or put in circulation by the Corporation, nor shall any limitation by the Legislature of the total amount of Notes to be issued, or re-issued by the said Corporation, be held to be an infringement upon the privilege hereby granted.

Total amount of notes of the Corporation for less than £1 each, limited.

XXVII. And be it enacted, that if at any time it shall happen that an election of any Officer or Officers of the said Corporation required to be elected by this Act, shall not be made or take effect on the day fixed by this Act, the said Corporation shall not be deemed or taken to be thereby dissolved, but it shall be lawful at any subsequent time to make such election at a general meeting of the Members of the said Corporation to be duly called for that purpose.

Corporation not to be dissolved by failure to elect.

XXVIII. And be it enacted, that no Member of the said Corporation hereby constituted, shall, directly or indirectly, act as a Private Banker during the time he may so be a Member of the said Corporation : Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall prevent any Member of the said Corporation from holding Stock in any other Chartered Bank.

No member of the Corporation to act as a Banker. Proviso.

XXIX. And be it enacted, that it shall not be lawful for the Corporation hereby constituted, at any time whatever, directly or indirectly, to advance or lend, to or for the use, or on account of any Foreign Prince, Power or State, any sum or sums of money, or any securities for money ; and if such unlawful advance or loan be made, then and from thenceforth the said Corporation shall be dissolved, and all the powers, authorities, rights, privileges and advantages hereby granted, shall cease and determine ; any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Corporation not to lend money to any foreign Prince or State.

XXX. And be it enacted, that a suspension by the said Corporation of payment on demand, in Specie, of the Notes or Bills of the said Corporation payable

Suspension of payment for a

certain time to
forfeit the
charter.

on demand, shall, if the time of suspension extend to sixty days, consecutively or at intervals, within any twelve consecutive months, operate as and be a forfeiture of this Act of Incorporation, and all and every the privileges hereby granted.

Total amount
of liabilities
limited.

XXXI. And be it enacted, that the total amount of the debts which the said Corporation shall at any time owe, whether by Bond, Bill, Note or otherwise, shall not exceed three-times the aggregate amount of the Capital Stock paid in and the Deposits made in the Bank in Specie and Government securities for money; and at no one period, after the passing of this Act, shall the Notes or Bills payable on demand and to bearer, exceed the amount of the actually paid up Capital Stock of the said Corporation, and in case of excess the said Corporation shall forfeit this Act of Incorporation and all the privileges hereby granted.

Officers of the
Bank embez-
zling moneys,
&c., entrusted
to them to be
guilty of felo-
ny.

XXXII. And be it enacted, that if any Officer, Cashier, Manager, Clerk or Servant of the Corporation hereby constituted, shall secrete, embezzle or abscond with any Bond, Obligation, Bill Obligatory or of Credit, or other Bill or Note, or with any security for money or moneys, or effects entrusted to him as such Officer, Cashier, Manager, Clerk or Servant, whether the same belong to the said Corporation, or, belonging to any other person or persons, Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, or Institution or Institutions, be lodged and deposited with the said Corporation, the Officer, Cashier, Manager, Clerk or Servant so offending, and being thereof convicted in due form of Law, shall be deemed guilty of felony.

Persons forg-
ing notes, &c.,
of the Bank,
to be guilty of
felony.

XXXIII. And be it enacted, that if any person or persons shall forge or counterfeit the Common Seal of the Corporation hereby constituted, or shall forge or counterfeit, or alter any Bond, Obligation, Bill Obligatory or of Credit, or any other Bill or Note of the said Corporation, or any indorsement or indorsements thereon, with an intention to defraud the said Corporation, or any person or persons, Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, or Institution or Institutions whomsoever and whatsoever, or shall offer to pass any forged, counterfeit or altered Bond, Obligation, Bill Obligatory or of Credit, or any other Bill or Note of the said Corporation, or indorsement or indorsements thereon, or shall demand the money therein mentioned, knowing the same to be forged, counterfeit or altered, every such person, for every such offence, upon conviction thereof in due form of Law, shall be deemed and adjudged to be guilty of felony.

Persons hav-
ing in their
possession in-
struments for

XXXIV. And be it enacted, that if any person shall engrave, form, make or mend any plate or plates, paper, rolling press or other tool, instrument or material devised, adapted or designed for stamping, forging or making any false or counterfeit

terfeit Bill of Exchange, Promissory Note, Undertaking or Order, or use any chemical process for the purpose of altering any bill or paper or security for money, of the said Corporation, or of any of the Officers or persons engaged in the management of the affairs of the said Corporation, in the name or on the behalf thereof, or shall have in his possession any such plate or plates, engraven in any part, or any such paper, rolling press or other tool, instrument or material, devised, adapted or designed as aforesaid, with the intent to use and employ the same, or to cause or permit the same to be used and employed in forging and making any such false and counterfeit Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Undertakings or Orders, every person so offending shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of felony, and the proof that such plate, paper, rolling press or other tool, instrument or material, as aforesaid, was formed, made, engraved or mended by; or was in the possession of such person for some lawful purpose, shall lie upon him or her.

forging, &c. to be guilty of felony.

XXXV. And be it enacted, that every person convicted of felony under this Act, shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labour in the Provincial Penitentiary for any term not less than seven years, or by imprisonment in any other Gaol or place of confinement for any term not exceeding two years.

Punishment of such felony.

XXXVI. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to and for any one Justice of the Peace, on complaint made before him, upon oath of one credible person, that there is just cause to suspect that one or more person or persons is or are, or hath or have been concerned in making, or in altering, or counterfeiting any such false Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Undertakings or Orders, as aforesaid, by warrant under the hand of such Justice, to cause the dwelling-house, room, workshop, outhouse or other building, yard, garden or other place belonging to such suspected person or persons, or where any such person or persons shall be suspected of carrying on any such making or counterfeiting, to be searched; and if any such false Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Undertakings or Orders, or any such plates, rolling presses, or other tools, instruments or materials, shall be found in the custody or possession of any person or persons whomsoever not having the same by some lawful authority, it shall and may be lawful to and for any person or persons whomsoever discovering the same, to seize, and he and they are hereby authorized and required to seize such false or counterfeit Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Undertakings or Orders, and such plates, rolling presses or other tools, instruments or materials, and to carry the same, forthwith, before a Justice of the Peace of the County or District (or if more convenient, of the adjoining County or District), in which the same shall be seized, who shall cause the same to be secured and produced in evidence against any person or persons who shall or may be prosecuted for any

Power to search for forged notes, &c., or instruments for forging.

The same to be secured and destroyed.

of

of the offences aforesaid, in some Court of Justice, proper for the determination thereof, and the same, after being so produced in evidence, shall by order of the Court be defaced or destroyed, or otherwise disposed of as such Court shall direct.

A certain statement of the affairs of the Corporation to be prepared and laid before the Governor.

XXXVII. And be it enacted, that besides the detailed statement of the affairs of the said Corporation hereinbefore required to be laid before the Shareholders thereof at their annual general meeting, the Corporation shall make up and publish on the first Monday of March and September in every year, statements of the assets and liabilities of the Corporation, in the form of the Schedule C. hereunto annexed, shewing, under the heads specified in the said form, the average of the amount of the Notes of the Corporation in circulation, and other liabilities, at the termination of each month during the period to which the statement shall refer, and the average amount of Specie and other assets, that, at the same times, were available to meet the same: and it shall also be the duty of the Corporation to submit to the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or person administering the Government of this Province, a copy of each of such half yearly statements; and if by him required, to verify all or any part of the said statements, the said Corporation shall verify the same by the production of the balance-sheets, from which the said statements shall have been compiled: and furthermore, the Corporation shall from time to time, when required, furnish to the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or person administering the Government of this Province, such further information respecting the state and proceedings of the Corporation, and of the several Branches and Offices of Discount and Deposit thereof, as such Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or person administering the Government of this Province may reasonably see fit to call for: Provided always, that the balance-sheets and the further information that shall be so produced and given, shall be held by the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government of this Province, as being produced and given in strict confidence that he shall not divulge any part of the contents of the said balance-sheets or of the information that shall be so given: and provided also, that the Corporation shall not, nor shall any thing herein contained be construed to authorize them or any of them to make known the private account or accounts of any person or persons whomsoever having dealings with the Corporation.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Rights of the Crown saved.

XXXVIII. And be it enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall in any manner derogate from or affect, or be construed to derogate from or affect the rights of Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, or of any person or persons, or of any Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, except in so far as the same may be specially derogated from or affected by the provisions of this Act.

XXXIX.

XXXIX. And be it enacted, that this Act shall be held and taken to be a Public Act, and shall be judicially taken notice of, and have the effect of a Public Act without being specially pleaded. Public Act.

XL. And be it enacted, that this Act shall be and remain in force until the first day of June, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and from that time until the end of the then next Session of the Parliament of this Province, and no longer. Duration of this Act.

FORM OF SCHEDULE A.

Referred to in the seventh Section of the foregoing Act.

For value received from
of I (or we)
, do hereby assign and transfer to La Banque du Peuple
shares (on each of which has been paid
of pounds shillings, currency, amounting to the sum
of pounds shillings) in the Capital Stock of the Banking Copart-
nership of Viger, DeWitt and Company, carrying on the Trade and Business of
Bankers, at Montreal, in the District of Montreal.

Witness, my (or our) hand (or hands), at the said Banque du Peuple, this
day of , one thousand eight hundred
and

(Signatures.)

The said Banque du Peuple hereby accept the foregoing assignment of
shares in the Stock of the said Banking Copartnership of Viger, DeWitt and
Company, assigned as above mentioned, at the Banque du Peuple, this
day of one thousand eight hundred and

(Signature.)

The said Viger, DeWitt and Company hereby assent to the above Transfer,
and consider the same duly notified to them.

Montreal,

Montreal, this _____ day of _____, one thousand eight hundred
 and _____ (Signature:)

FORM OF SCHEDULE B.

Referred to in the fourteenth Section of the foregoing Act.

For value received from _____ I (or we);
 of _____, do hereby assign and transfer
 unto the said _____ shares (on each of which has been paid
 _____ pounds shillings, currency, amounting to the sum of
 _____ pounds shillings) in the Capital Stock of La Banque
 du Peuple, subject to the rules and regulations of the said Bank.

Witness, my (or our) hand (or hands) at the said Bank, this
 day of _____, in the year one thousand eight hundred and

(Signatures:)

I (or we) do hereby accept the foregoing assignment of
 shares in the Stock of La Banque du Peuple, assigned to me (or us), as above
 mentioned, at the Bank, this _____ day of _____, one thousand eight
 hundred and _____

(Signature.)

FORM OF SCHEDULE C.

*Referred to in the thirty-seventh section of the foregoing Act.*RETURN of the average amount of LIABILITIES and ASSETS of *La Banque du Peuple*, during the period from 1st to 18 .

LIABILITIES.	MONTH ENDING.					
	30th Sep. 18	31st Oct. 18	30th Nov. 18	31st Dec. 18	31st Jan. 18	28th Feb. 18
Promissory notes in circulation not bearing interest £						
Bills of Exchange in circulation not bearing interest £						
Bills and Notes in circulation bearing interest . . . £						
Balance due to other Banks £						
Cash Deposits, not bearing interest £						
Cash Deposits, bearing interest £						
Total average Liabilities £						
ASSETS.						
Coin and Bullion £						
Landed or other property of the Bank £						
Government Securities £						
Promissory Notes or Bills of other Banks £						
Balances due from other Banks £						
Notes and Bills discounted, or other debts due to the Bank, not included under the foregoing heads £						
Total average Assets £						

CAP. LXVII.

An Act to amend the Act incorporating the Bank of the Niagara District, by providing for the extension of the time limited for the paying up of the Stock of the said Bank.

9th December, 1843.—Presented for Her Majesty's Assent, and reserved "for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon."

23d May, 1844.—Assented by Her Majesty, in Privy Council.

27th June, 1844.—The Royal Assent signified by the Proclamation of His Excellency SIR CHARLES THEOPHILUS METCALFE, Governor General.

WHEREAS the persons incorporated by the Act of the Legislature of his Province, passed in the Session held in the fourth and fifth years of Her Majesty's Preamble.