

C A P . C C I V .

An Act to incorporate the Niagara District Bank.

[Assented to 19th May, 1855.]

WHEREAS the Niagara District Bank, created and constituted by, under and in virtue of an Act of Parliament of this Province, made and passed in the session held in the thirteenth and fourteenth years of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Act to establish freedom of Banking in this Province, and for other purposes relative to Banks and Banking*, have by their Petition prayed on behalf of the said Corporation for an Act of incorporation, extending their powers and privileges and authorizing them to increase their capital stock; And whereas it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said Petition: 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 passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and 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, as follows:

Preamble.

13 & 14 V. c. 21.

I. The Honorable James Morris, the Honorable John Ross, the Honorable John Sandfield McDonald, the Honorable Hamilton H. Killaly, the Honorable William Hamilton Merritt, Thomas Clarke Street, James Benson, John Arnold, J. P. Merritt, Thomas R. Merritt, Nehemiah Merritt, William Matice, Richard Miller, John Brown, Calvin Phelps, and Rolland Macdonald, Esquires, all of this Province, and such other persons as now are shareholders of the capital stock of the said Bank and their assigns, shall be and they are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic in fact and in name, by and under the name, style and title of the Niagara District Bank, 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 and other places, in all manner of actions, causes and matters whatsoever; 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 one 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.

Certain persons incorporated.

Corporate name and general powers.

Real property limited.

II. The capital stock of the said Corporation hereby constituted, shall be the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand pounds

Capital £250,000. in

pounds

shares of £25 each.

Present Capital.

When the remainder must be paid up.

Stock Books may be opened.

Shares to be paid in by instalments.

Proviso: ten per cent. to be paid on subscribing.

Shareholders neglecting to pay instalment, to forfeit ten per cent. on amount of shares.

Shares may be sold to pay instalments.

pounds current money of Canada, divided into ten thousand shares of twenty-five pounds each (the sum of Fifty Thousand Pounds thereof being the subscribed capital stock of the Bank contributed under the free banking Act aforesaid and now in course of payment,) the shares of which said sum of Fifty Thousand Pounds are hereby vested in the present holders or proprietors thereof according to their respective interest in the same; and the remaining Two Hundred Thousand Pounds shall be subscribed for and paid up as follows, that is to say, the sum of Fifty Thousand Pounds within three years from the passing of this Act, a further sum of Fifty Thousand Pounds within four years from the passing of this Act, and the remaining sum of One Hundred Thousand Pounds within five years from the passing of this Act, making in all the said sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds, on pain of forfeiture of the privileges granted by this Act.

III. The books of subscription for the Capital Stock, by the next preceding section of this Act, authorized to be raised as the Capital Stock of the said Corporation, shall be opened by such persons, at such times and places, and under such regulations as to the Directors of the said Corporation shall seem meet; and the shares of Capital Stock thereupon subscribed for, shall be paid in by such instalments and at such times and places as the said Directors shall appoint; and Executors, Administrators and Curators paying instalments upon the shares of deceased Shareholders shall be and they are hereby respectively indemnified for paying the same.

IV. Provided always, that no share or shares shall be held to be lawfully subscribed for, unless a sum equal to ten pounds *per centum*, on the amount subscribed for, be actually paid at the time of subscribing.

V. If any Shareholder or Shareholders shall refuse or neglect to pay any or either of the instalments upon his, her or their shares of the said Capital Stock, at the time or times required by public notice as herein mentioned, such Shareholder or Shareholders 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 shares; and moreover, it shall be lawful for the Directors of the said Corporation (without any previous formality other than thirty days' 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, 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, Vice-President or Cashier of the said Corporation, shall execute the transfer to the purchaser of the 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

holders of the shares of Stock thereby transferred : Provided always, that nothing in this section contained, shall be held to debar the Directors or Shareholders 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.

Proviso : forfeiture may be remitted.

.VI. The chief place or seat of business of the said Corporation shall be in the Town of St. Catherines, in Upper Canada ; but it shall and may be lawful for the Directors of the Corporation to open and establish in other Towns, Cities and places in this Province, branches or offices of discount and deposit of the said Corporation, under such rules and regulations for the good and faithful management of the same as to the said Directors shall, from time to time, seem meet, and shall not be repugnant to any Law of this Province, to this Act, or to the By-laws of the said Corporation.

Chief seat of business to be at St. Catherines.

Branches elsewhere.

VII. Shares of the Capital Stock of the said Bank may be made transferable, and the dividends accruing thereon may be made payable, in the United Kingdom, in like manner as such shares and dividends are respectively transferable and payable at the Bank in the Town of St. Catherines, and to that end the Directors may, from time to time, make such rules and regulations, and prescribe such forms, and appoint such agent or agents as they may deem necessary.

Transfer of Shares in Great Britain.

VIII. If the interest in any share in the said Bank become transmitted in consequence of the death or bankruptcy or insolvency of any shareholder, or in consequence of the marriage of a female shareholder, or by any other lawful means than by a transfer according to the provisions of this Act, the Directors may require such transmission to be authenticated by a declaration in writing, as hereinafter mentioned, or in such other manner as the Directors of the Bank shall require ; and every such declaration or instrument so signed, made and acknowledged, shall be left at the Bank with the Cashier or other Officer or Agent of the Bank, who shall thereupon enter the name of the party entitled under such transmission, in the Register of Shareholders, and until such transmission shall have been so authenticated, no party or person claiming by virtue of any such transmission shall be entitled to receive any share of the profits of the Bank nor to vote in respect of any such share as the holder thereof : Provided always, that every such declaration and instrument as by this and the following section of this Act is required to perfect the transmission of a share of the Bank, and as shall be made in any other country than in this or some other of the British Colonies in North America or in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall be further authenticated by the British Consul or Vice Consul or other the accredited representative of the British Government in the country where the declaration shall be made,

Provision for proving the transmission of shares, otherwise than by regular transfer.

Proviso : as to authentication of such proof.

Proviso : as to further evidence.

or shall be made directly before such British Consul or other accredited representative ; And provided also, that nothing in this Act contained shall be held to debar the Directors, Cashier or other Officer or Agent of the Bank from requiring corroborative evidence of any fact or facts alleged in any such declaration.

If the change of ownership be by marriage of a female Shareholder, or by will, &c.

IX. If the transmission of any share of the Bank be by virtue of the marriage of a female shareholder, the declaration shall contain a copy of the register of such marriage or other particulars of the celebration thereof, and shall declare the identity of the wife with the holder of such share, and if the transmission have taken place by virtue of any testamentary instrument or by intestacy, the probate of the will or the letters of administration or tutorship or curatorship, or an official extract therefrom, shall, together with such declaration, be produced and left with the Cashier or other Officer or Agent of the Bank, who shall then enter the name of the party entitled under such transmission, in the Register of Shareholders.

Mode of obtaining decision of Court of Chancery as to title to shares when the Bank shall entertain reasonable doubt.

X. Whenever the interest in any share or shares of the Capital Stock of the said Niagara District Bank shall be transmitted by the death of any shareholder or otherwise, or whenever the ownership of, or legal right of possession in any such share or shares, shall change by any lawful means other than by transfer according to the provisions of this Act, and the Directors of the said Bank shall entertain reasonable doubts as to the legality of any claim to and upon such share or shares of stock, then and in such case it shall be lawful for the said Bank to make and file, in the Court of Chancery for Upper Canada, a declaration and petition in writing addressed to the Chancellor of the Court, setting forth the facts and the number of shares previously belonging to the party in whose name such shares stand in the Books of the Bank, and praying for an order or judgment adjudicating and awarding the said shares to the party or parties legally entitled to the same, and by which order or judgment the Bank shall be guided and held fully harmless and indemnified and released from all and every other claim for the said shares or arising therefrom : Provided always, that notice of such petition shall be given to the party claiming such shares, who shall, upon the filing of such petition establish his right to the several shares referred to in such petition ; and the delays to plead and all other proceedings in such cases shall be the same as those observed in cases pending before the said Court of Chancery ; Provided also, that the costs and expenses of procuring such order or adjudication shall be paid by the party or parties to whom the said shares shall be declared lawfully to belong, and such shares shall not be transferred until such costs and expenses be paid, saving the recourse of such party against any party contesting his right.

Proviso.

Proviso.

XI. The Bank shall not be bound to see to the execution of any trust; whether express, implied or constructive, to which any of the shares of the Bank may be subject, and the receipt of the party in whose name any such share shall stand in the Books of the Bank, or if it stand in the names of more parties than one, the receipt of one of the parties, shall from time to time be a sufficient discharge to the Bank for any dividend or other sum of money payable in respect of such share, notwithstanding any trust to which such share may then be subject, and whether or not the Bank have had notice of such trust, and the Bank shall not be bound to see to the application of the money paid upon such receipt; any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Bank not bound to see to execution of trust to which Shares may be subject.

XII. For the management of the affairs of the said Corporation, there shall be seven Directors, who shall be annually elected by the Shareholders of the Capital Stock of the Corporation, at a General Meeting of them to be held annually on the second Monday in January, beginning on the second Monday in January, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six; at which meeting the Shareholders shall vote according to the rule or scale of votes hereinafter established; and the Directors elected by a majority of votes given in conformity to such rule or scale, shall be capable of serving as Directors for the ensuing twelve months, or until their successors shall have been elected, and at their first meeting after such election, shall choose out of their number, a President and a Vice-President who shall hold their offices during the same period; and, in case of a vacancy occurring in the said number of seven Directors, the remaining Directors shall fill the same by election from among the Shareholders, and the Director so elected shall be capable of serving as a Director until the next Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders; and if the vacancy occurring in the said number of seven Directors shall also cause the vacancy of the office of President or of Vice-President, the Directors, at their first meeting after their number shall have been completed as aforesaid, shall fill the vacant office by choice or electing from among themselves, and the Director so chosen or elected, shall fill the office to which he shall be so chosen or elected until the next General Annual Meeting of the Shareholders; Provided always, that each of the said Directors shall be the holder and proprietor in his own name, of not less than twenty shares of the Capital Stock of the said Corporation wholly paid up, and shall be a natural-born or naturalized subject of Her Majesty.

Affairs to be managed by Directors to be elected yearly by votes of shareholders.

President and Vice-President.

Vacancies how filled.

Proviso: Qualification of Directors.

XIII. If at any time it shall happen that an election of Directors shall not be made or take effect 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 Shareholders to be called for that purpose.

Election not taking place, Corporation not thereby dissolved.

Books, &c.. of Corporation to be subject to inspection of Directors.

XIV. The books, correspondence and funds of the Corporation, shall at all times be subject to the inspection of Directors; but no Shareholder, not being a Director, shall inspect or be allowed to inspect the account or accounts of any person or persons dealing with the Corporation.

Three Directors to constitute a quorum.

XV. At all meetings of the Directors of the said Corporation, not less than three of them shall constitute a board or quorum for the transaction of business; and at the said meetings the President, or in his absence, the Vice-President, or in their absence, one of the Directors present to be chosen *pro tempore*, shall preside; and the President, Vice-President or President *pro tempore* so presiding, shall vote as a Director, and, if there be an equal division on any question, shall have a casting vote.

Casting vote.

Present Directors continued until others are elected.

XVI. The Shareholders of the Bank, constituted under the Free Banking Act hereinbefore mentioned, who at the time of the passing of this Act, shall be Directors thereof, shall be and continue to be Directors of the Bank hereby constituted until the second Monday in January, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, being the day hereinbefore appointed for the first election of Directors or until their successors are appointed, they shall choose from among themselves a President and Vice-President in the manner hereinbefore provided, and in case of any vacancy occurring before the said day appointed for the first election of Directors, the vacancy shall in like manner be filled up as is hereinbefore provided.

Directors may make By-laws, &c.

XVII. It shall and may be lawful for the Directors of 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: Provided always, that the By-laws, rules or regulations of the Bank, constituted as hereinbefore mentioned, in so far as they are not repugnant to this Act or to law, shall be the By-laws of the Corporation hereby constituted, until others shall have been made and enacted as provided for by this section.

Director not to act as private banker. President may be paid.

XVIII. No Director of the Corporation hereby constituted shall, during the period of his services, act as a private banker; the President or Managing Director only, may be compensated for his services either by an annual vote of a sum of money by the Shareholders at their Annual General Meeting, or by a fixed salary.

Directors may appoint

XIX. The Directors of the said Corporation shall have power to appoint such Cashiers, Officers, Clerks and Servants unde

under them as shall be necessary for conducting the business of the Corporation, and to allow reasonable compensation for their services respectively; and shall also be capable of exercising such power and authority for the well governing and ordering of the affairs of the Corporation as shall be prescribed by the By-laws thereof: Provided always, that before permitting any Cashier, Officer, Clerk or Servant of the Corporation, to enter upon the duties of his office, the Directors shall require every such Cashier, Officer, Clerk or Servant, to give bond, to the satisfaction of the Directors, that is to say: every Cashier, in a sum not less than five thousand pounds current money of Canada, and every other Officer, Clerk or Servant, in such sum of money as the Directors consider adequate to the trust to be reposed, with conditions for good and faithful behaviour.

Cashier and Officers.

Other powers.

Proviso:
They must take security from officers.

XX. It shall be the duty of the Directors to make half yearly dividends of so much of the profits of the Corporation as to them shall appear advisable; and such dividends shall be payable at such place or places as the Directors shall appoint, and of which they shall give public notice thirty days previously: Provided always, that such dividend shall not in any manner lessen or impair the Capital Stock of the Corporation.

Directors to make half yearly dividends.

Proviso.

XXI. A general meeting of the shareholders of the Corporation shall be held in the town of St. Catherines, on the second Monday in the month of January, in every year during the continuance of this Act, for the purpose of electing Directors in the manner hereinbefore provided, and for all other general purposes touching the affairs, and the management of the affairs of the Corporation; and at each of the said annual general meetings, the Directors shall submit a full and clear statement of the affairs of the Corporation, 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 or Institutions, and the amount of debts owing to the Bank, including and particularizing 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 by the Directors, the amount of profits reserved at the time of declaring such dividend, and the amount of debts to the Bank overdue and not paid, with an estimate of the loss which may probably be incurred from the non-payment of such debts.

Annual Meeting of Stockholders for election of Directors.

Statement of affairs to be made.

Its form and contents.

Last Dividends and reserved fund.

Shareholders' ratio of votes in proportion to number of shares.

Proviso : Shares must have been held a certain time.

Proviso as to joint holders.

Officers to have no vote at any election of Directors.

Special meetings may be called by twenty Shareholders.

Notice.

Suspension from office of officer whose removal is the subject of such meeting.

Stock to be deemed personal estate.

XXII. The number of votes which the Shareholders of the said Corporation shall respectively be entitled to give at their meetings, shall be at the rate of one vote for every share; and it shall be lawful for absent Shareholders to give their votes by proxy, such proxy being also a Shareholder, and being provided with a written authority from his constituent or constituents, in such form as shall be established by a By-law, and which authority shall be lodged in the Bank: Provided always, that a share or shares of the Capital Stock of the said Corporation that shall have been held for a less period than three Calendar Months immediately prior to any meeting of the Shareholders, except the first Meeting, shall not entitle the holder or holders to vote at such meeting, either in person or by proxy: Provided also, that where two or more persons are joint holders of shares, it shall be lawful that one only of such joint holders be empowered by Letter of Attorney from the other joint holder or holders or a majority of them, to represent the said shares and vote accordingly.

XXIII. No Cashier, Bank Clerk, or other officer of the Bank shall either vote in person or by proxy at any meeting for the election of Directors, or hold a proxy for that purpose.

XXIV. Any number not less than twenty, of the Shareholders of the said Corporation, who together shall be proprietors of at least five hundred shares of the paid up Capital Stock of the Corporation, by themselves or proxies, or the Directors of the Corporation or any four of them, shall respectively have power at any time to call a special general meeting of the Shareholders of the Corporation, to be held at their usual place of meeting in the town of St. Catherines, upon giving six weeks' previous public notice thereof, and specifying in such notice the object or objects of such meeting; and if the object of any such special general meeting be to consider of the proposed removal of the President or Vice-President, or of a Director or Directors of the Corporation, for mal-administration or other specified and apparently just cause, then and in such case, the person or persons whom it shall be so proposed to remove, shall, from the day on which the notice shall first be published, be suspended from the duties of his or their office or offices, and if it be the President, or Vice-President whose removal shall be proposed as aforesaid, his office shall be filled up by the remaining Directors, (in the manner hereinbefore provided in the case of a vacancy occurring in the office of President or Vice-President,) who shall choose or elect a Director to serve as such President or Vice-President, during the time such suspension shall continue or be undecided upon.

XXV. The shares of the Capital Stock of the said Corporation shall be held and adjudged to be personal estate, and be transmissible

transmissible accordingly; and shall be assignable and transferable at the Bank, according to the form of Schedule A annexed to this Act; but no assignment or transfer shall be valid and effectual unless it be made and registered in a book or books to be kept by the Directors for that purpose; nor until the person or persons making the same shall previously discharge all debts actually due by him, her or them, to the Corporation, which may exceed in amount the remaining stock (if any) belonging to such person or persons; 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 indorsed 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 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.

Assignment,
manner of
effecting.

Parts of shares
not assignable.

Sale of shares
under seizure,
and transfer to
purchaser.

XXVI. 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 Corporation, nor in any other Bank in this Province, nor shall the said Corporation, either directly or indirectly, lend money or make advances upon the security, mortgage or hypothecation of any lands or tenements, 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: nor shall the said Corporation, either directly or indirectly, raise loans of money, or deal in the buying, selling or bartering of Goods, Wares or Merchandize, or engage or be engaged in any trade whatever, except as dealers in gold and silver bullion, bills of exchange, discounting of promissory notes and negotiable securities, and in such trade generally as legitimately appertains to the business of Banking: Provided always; that the said Corporation may purchase, take and hold mortgages and assignments of mortgages and hypothecs on real and personal property in this Province, by way of additional security for debts contracted to the Corporation in the course of their dealings.

In what busi-
ness only the
Bank shall
engage, and
what species
of property it
may hold.

Proviso:
Bank may take
mortgages in
the course of
its business.

XXVII. The aggregate amount of discounts and advances made by the said Corporation upon commercial paper or securities

Amount of
advances on
securities

securities of Directors or Officers limited.

securities bearing the name of any Director or Officer, or the partnership name or firm of any Director of the said Corporation, shall not at any one time exceed one tenth of the total amount of discounts or advances made by the Corporation at the same time.

Corporation may pay interest on deposits in Bank and take discount.

XXVIII. 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 Corporation, in discounting promissory notes or other negotiable securities, to receive or retain the discount thereon, at the time of discounting or negotiating the same; any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Bonds, &c., of Corporation may be assigned by indorsement.

XXIX. The bonds, obligations and bills obligatory and of credit of the said Corporation, under its 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 the 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: Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall be held to debar the Directors of the Corporation from authorizing or deputing from time to time any Cashier or Officer of the Corporation, or any Director other than the President or Vice-President, or any Cashier, Manager or local Director of a Branch or office of discount and deposit of the said Corporation, to sign, the bills or notes of the said Corporation intended for general circulation, and payable to order, or to bearer, on demand.

Proviso: Officers may be deputed to sign Bank notes.

Notes to bear date, and be payable at the place of issue. What shall be deemed Branch Banks.

XXX. The notes or bills of the said Corporation made payable to order, or to bearer, and intended for general circulation, whether the same shall issue from the chief place or seat of business of the Corporation in the Town of St. Catherines, or from any of the branches, shall bear date at the place of issue, and not elsewhere;

elsewhere; and shall be payable on demand in specie at the same place of issue; and each and every office of discount and deposit established or hereafter to be established under the management or direction of a local Board of Directors, shall be considered and held to be a Branch Bank, and subject to the restriction as to the issuing and redemption of notes provided in this Section.

XXXI. A suspension by the said Corporation (either at the chief place or seat of business, or at any of their branches or offices of discount and deposit at other places in this Province,) of payment on demand, in specie, of the notes or bills of the said Corporation payable 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.

Suspension for sixty days, to effect a forfeiture of Charter.

XXXII. 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 at any time be issued or put into circulation by the Corporation, nor shall any further limitation by the Legislature of the total amount of notes to be issued or re-issued by the said Corporation be held to be any infringement upon the privileges hereby granted: Provided further, that the several provisions of an Act passed in the sixteenth year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Act to encourage the issue by the Chartered Banks of this Province, of Notes secured in the manner provided by the General Banking Law*, shall be and are hereby declared to be applicable to this Bank.

Total amount of notes under £1 issued, not to exceed one fifth of Capital Stock paid in.

Proviso: No note to be under five shillings.

Proviso: 16 V. c. 162 apply to this Bank.

XXXIII. 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 Corporation; and in case of excess, the said Corporation shall forfeit this Act of Incorporation and all the privileges hereby granted; and the Directors under whose administration the excess shall happen, shall be liable jointly and severally for the same, in their private capacities, as well to the Shareholders, as to the holders of the bonds, bills and notes of the Corporation; and an action or actions in this behalf may be brought against them, or any of them, and the heirs, executors, administrators or curators of them, or any of them, and be prosecuted to judgment and execution according to

Total liabilities of Bank limited and of its Bank notes.

Penalty for excess and liability of Directors.

to law, but such action or actions shall not exempt the Corporation, or their lands, tenements, goods or chattels from being also liable for such excess: Provided always, that if any Director present at the time of contracting any such excess of debt, do forthwith, or if any Director absent at the time of contracting any such excess of debt, do within twenty-four hours after he shall have obtained a knowledge thereof, enter on the minutes or register of proceedings of the Corporation, his protest against the same, and do, within eight days thereafter publish such protest in at least one newspaper published in the Town of St. Catherines, such Director may thereby, and not otherwise, exonerate and discharge himself, his heirs, executors and administrators or curators from the liability aforesaid; any thing herein contained, or any law to the contrary notwithstanding: And provided always, that such publication shall not exonerate any Director from his liability as a Shareholder.

Proviso:
Directors may
avoid liability
by protest and
publication.

Proviso.

Liability of
Shareholders
defined and
limited.

XXXIV. In the event of the property and assets of the Corporation hereby constituted, becoming insufficient to liquidate the liabilities and engagements or debts thereof, the Shareholders of the Corporation, in their private or natural capacities, shall be liable and responsible for the deficiency, but to no greater extent than to double the amount of their Capital Stock, that is to say, that the liability and responsibility of each Shareholder shall be limited to the amount of his or her share or shares of the said Capital Stock, and a sum of money equal in amount thereto: Provided always, that nothing in this section contained shall be construed to alter or diminish the additional liabilities of the Directors of the Corporation hereinbefore mentioned and declared.

Proviso.

Monthly state-
ments of
affairs of the
Bank to be
made and pub-
lished.

XXXV. 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 Directors shall make up and publish, on the first day of each month, in every year, statements of the assets and liabilities of the Corporation, in the form of the Schedule B 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, and the average amount of specie and other assets which at the same time, were available to meet the same: and it shall also be the duty of the Directors to submit to the Governor of this Province, a copy of each of such monthly statements; and if by him required to verify all or any part of the said statement, the said Directors shall verify the same by the production of the monthly balance-sheet, from which the said statement shall have been compiled; and furthermore, the said Directors shall from time to time, when required, furnish to the said Governor 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

How verified.

Proviso: Gov-
ernor may
require fur-
ther informa-
tion.

such Governor, of this Province, may reasonably see fit to call for: Provided always, that the monthly balance sheet, and the further information that shall be so produced and given, shall be held by the said Governor of this Province, as being produced and given in strict confidence that he shall not divulge any part of the contents of the said monthly balance-sheet, or of the information that shall be so given: And provided also, that the Directors 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 whatever having dealings with the Corporation.

Proviso.

Proviso.

XXXVI. This Act of Incorporation and the privileges hereby granted to the said Company is and are granted upon the express condition that the said Company shall assume and pay and shall be held and bound and liable to pay all and every the notes and bills in circulation and all other the debts and liabilities of the Bank constituted and now existing in the Town of St. Catherines aforesaid, under the Free Banking Act hereinbefore mentioned: and the Corporation by this Act constituted by the name of the Niagara District Bank, shall be and they are hereby empowered and authorized, in their said corporate name, to demand, sue for, recover and receive all the debts remaining due and owing to the aforesaid Bank, in like manner as effectually as if the said debts were contracted with and had become due and owing to the said Corporation hereby constituted; any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Corporation to assume the liabilities of the Bank at St. Catherines under the free Banking Act.

XXXVII. The bonds, obligations, bills obligatory or of credit, and other bills and notes and the securities for money and effects of the Bank hereinbefore mentioned, constituted by the Free Banking Act aforesaid, shall be held, deemed and adjudged to be within the true intent, meaning and provisions of the last six sections of this Act, any thing herein or any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Act to apply to Bonds, &c., of Free Bank aforesaid.

XXXVIII. The said Corporation shall be duly organized and in operation under this Act within twelve months after the passing of the same, to entitle the said Company to the provisions thereof, and the said Bank now existing at St. Catherines, under the provision of the said Free Banking Act shall cease, and all and every its assets, property and effects and rights and interests shall become and be and they are hereby merged and vested in the Corporation by this Act constituted: Provided that in the event of the said organization not having been effected within the time aforesaid, the Bank now existing at St. Catherines shall not lose their privileges obtained under the Free Banking Act.

Bank to be organized within one year, when the said Free Bank shall cease.

Proviso.

One tenth of
paid up Capital
to be in-
vested in De-
bentures of
certain kinds.

Return to be
made.

Proviso.

Duration of
Act.

Public Act.

XXXIX. It shall be the duty of the Directors of the said Bank to keep invested at all times in the Debentures of this Province, payable within the same, or of the Consolidated Municipal Loan Fund, one tenth part of the whole paid up Capital of the said Bank, and to make a Return of the numbers and amount of such Debentures, verified by the oaths and signatures of the President and Chief Cashier or Manager of the said Bank, to the Inspector General, in the month of January of each year, under the penalty of the forfeiture of the Charter of the said Bank, in default of such investment and Return: Provided always, that the Directors shall at no time keep invested in such Debentures a smaller sum than ten thousand pounds.

XL. 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 seventy, and from that time until the end of the then next Session of the Parliament of this Province, and no longer.

XLI. This Act shall be a Public Act.

FORM OF SCHEDULE A

Referred to in the twenty-fifth 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 the Niagara District Bank, 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

(Signature.)

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

(Signature.)

FORM OF SCHEDULE B

Referred to in the thirty-fifth section of the foregoing Act.

Return of the Average Amount of Liabilities and Assets of
the Niagara District Bank during the period from first
to one thousand eight hundred and

LIABILITIES.

Promissory Notes in circulation not bearing interest...	£
Bills of Exchange in circulation not bearing interest...	£
Bills and Notes in circulation bearing interest.....	£
Balances 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,.....	£

C A P . C C V .

An Act to incorporate the Bank of Toronto.

[Assented to 19th May, 1855.]

WHEREAS William Gamble, William P. Howland, John Brunskill, George P. Dickson, W. R. Wadsworth, J. B. Warren, Abraham Reesor, David McDougall, John W. Gamble, Ebenezer Perry, John Proudfoot, Gooderham and Worts, Thomas R. Merritt, Thomas N. Gibbs, George Wright, G. McKay, Thomas Short, A. Farewell, H. Daniels, John L. Ranney, John C. Hyde, Donald Sutherland, Daniel Way, William Helliwell, and others, have by their Petition prayed that they and their legal representatives might be incorporated for the purpose of establishing a Bank in the city of Toronto; And whereas it would be conducive to the general prosperity of that section of the Country and greatly facilitate and promote the agricultural and commercial growth of the said locality; And whereas it is but just that the said persons and others who see fit to associate themselves should be incorporated for the said purpose: 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