

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of United Canada, passed in the year 1856. Quebec: Stewart Derbyshire and George Desbarts, 1856.

20 Victoria – Chapter 120

An Act to amend and consolidate the Acts relating to the Commercial Bank of the Midland District, and to change its corporate name to the “Commercial Bank of Canada.” Assented to 1st July, 1856.

Whereas the corporation now called and known as “The Commercial Bank of the Midland District,” was created and constituted by and under the Act of the Legislature of Upper Canada passed in the second year of the Reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, and intituled, *An Act to incorporate certain persons under the style and title of the President, Directors and Company of the Commercial Bank of the Midland District*, which said Act was amended by the Act of the said Legislature passed in the third year of the same Reign and chaptered forty-two, and the Act thereof passed in the fifth year of the same Reign and chaptered forty-five; And whereas the said Acts were again amended and the charter and privileges of the said Corporation were confirmed and extended by the Act of the Legislature of this Province passed in the sixth year of Her Majesty’s Reign, and intituled, *An Act to extend the charter of the Commercial Bank of the Midland District, and to increase its Capital Stock*, which said Act hath since been amended and the privileges of the said Corporation have been farther extended by the Act of the said Legislature passed in the ninth year of Her Majesty’s Reign and chaptered eighty-seven, and by that of the said Legislature passed in the twelfth year of Her Majesty’s Reign and chaptered one hundred and seventy, by which the corporate name of the said Bank was altered to “The Commercial Bank of the Midland District,” and the said Acts were further amended and an increase of the Capital Stock of the said Corporation was authorized by the Act of the said Legislature passed in the eighteenth year of Her Majesty’s Reign, chaptered forty-two; And whereas the said Corporation hath by its Petition prayed, that the provisions of the said several Acts may be consolidated with certain amendments and extensions of the powers and privileges thereby conferred, and that the corporate name of the Bank may be altered as hereinafter mentioned; And whereas it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said Petition: Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows:

- I. So much of the Acts hereinbefore cited or of any of them, as maybe inconsistent with or repugnant to the provisions of this Act, or as makes any provision in any matter provided for by this Act, other than such as is hereby made, shall be and is hereby repealed.
- II. The Corporation hereinbefore mentioned shall hereafter be called and known as the *Commercial Bank of Canada*, which shall be the corporate name thereof, instead of the Commercial Bank of the Midland District, but such change of name shall not be construed to make the said corporation a new corporation, or in any way to affect any right or liability thereof, or any suit, action or proceeding pending at the time when this Act shall come into force, but the name assigned to the said Corporation shall be substituted, as of course, for its former name, in any subsequent record, document or writing in such suit, action, or proceeding.

III. The said Corporation shall by the name hereby assigned to it, and during the time this Act shall remain in force, continue to have all, each and every of the rights, powers and authority in and by the Acts hereinbefore cited, or any of them, conferred upon or vested in it, subject always to the provisions of this Act; and shall continue to have perpetual 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, 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 its 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 five thousand pounds currency, 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

IV. The Capital Stock of the said Bank, (the words "the said Bank" meaning throughout this Act the Corporation aforesaid,) shall be one million of pounds currency, divided into shares of twenty-five pounds currency, or one hundred dollars each; and so many of the said shares as may be unsubscribed for when this Act shall come into force, may be subscribed for either within or out of this Province, in such proportions or numbers, and at such times and places, and under such regulations, and at such rate of premium, to be paid by the subscribers over and above the amount of the shares, as the Directors of the said Bank shall from time to time establish; and the shares so subscribed for shall be paid in by such instalments, and at such times and places as the said Directors shall from time to time appoint, and executors, administrators and curators paying instalments upon shares of deceased shareholders, shall be and are hereby respectively indemnified for paying and are required to pay the same: Provided always, that no share shall be held to be lawfully subscribed for, unless the premium (if any) which shall have been fixed by the Directors, and at least ten per centum on the amount of such share be paid at the time of subscribing: And provided also, that no part of the Capital Stock unsubscribed for at the time when this Act shall come into force, shall be subscribed for after the end of five years from that time; and the whole of the stock subscribed for shall be called in before the thirty-first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one; And provided further, that it shall not be obligatory upon the said Bank to raise the full amount of the Capital Stock hereby allowed, but the number of shares to be thereafter subscribed for, may at any time be limited by a By-law of the said Bank, in such manner as the shareholders shall deem most advantageous for the interests of the Bank.

V. If any person or party, subscribing for shares of the Capital Stock of the said Bank, shall also be willing to pay up at the time of subscribing the full amount of the shares subscribed for, together with such premium thereon as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the Directors of the Bank, and at any time within the period hereinbefore limited for subscribing for such Stock, to admit and receive such subscriptions and full payment, or payment of any number of instalments, together with such premium; and in every case, the premium so received on any Stock subscribed for, shall be carried to the account of the ordinary profits of the said Bank.

VI. If any Shareholder or Shareholders, shall refuse or neglect to pay any instalment upon his, her or their shares of the said Capital Stock, at the time or times required by the Directors as aforesaid,

such Shareholder or Shareholders, shall incur a forfeiture to the use of the said Bank, 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 Bank, (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, with the Vice-President or the Cashier of the said Bank, 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 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 any instalment as aforesaid.

VII. The chief place or seat of business of the said Bank, shall be in the City of Kingston, but it shall and may be lawful for the Directors of the Bank, to open and establish in other Cities, Towns and Places in this Province, Branches or Agencies or offices of discount and deposit of the said Bank, 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, not being repugnant to any law of this Province, to this Act, or to the By-laws of the said Bank.

VIII. For the management of the affairs of the said Bank, there shall continue to be Ten Directors annually elected by the Shareholders of the Capital Stock thereof, at a general meeting of them to be held annually on the twenty-fifth day of June in each year, (except when that day shall be a Sunday or legal holiday, and then on the next day which shall not be a Sunday or legal holiday,) beginning in the month of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven; 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; And at their first meeting after such election the Directors shall choose out of their number a President and a Vice-President, who shall hold their offices respectively during the same period: and in case of a vacancy occurring in the said number of ten Directors, the remaining Directors shall fill the same by election from among the Shareholders, and each 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 ten 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 election from among themselves, and the Director so chosen or elected to be President or Vice-President 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 Directors shall be the holder and proprietor in his own name of not less than ten shares of Capital Stock of the said Bank, wholly paid up, and shall be a natural born or naturalized subject of Her Majesty; And provided also, that it shall be lawful for the Shareholders at any annual general meeting, to pass a By-law directing that five of the Directors in

office at the period of each annual election, shall be re-elected for the next ensuing twelve months.

IX. If at anytime it shall happen that an election of Directors 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 Shareholders to be called for that purpose; and the Directors in office when such failure of election shall take place, shall remain in office until such election shall be made.

X. The Books, Correspondence and Funds of the said Bank, shall at all times be subject to the inspection of the 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 said Bank.

XI. At all meetings of the Directors of the said Bank, not less than five 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 also have a casting vote.

XII. The Shareholders of the said Bank, who at the time this Act shall come into force shall be Directors thereof, shall be and continue to be Directors, thereof until the first election of Directors under this Act, and shall then go out of office; and the said Directors shall, until the first election under this Act, have in all respects the rights, duties and powers assigned to the Directors of the said Bank by this Act, and be governed by its provisions as if elected under it.

XIII. It shall and may be lawful for the Directors of the said Bank 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 no By-law, Rule or Regulation so made by the Directors, shall have force or effect until the same shall, after six weeks public notice, have been confirmed by the Shareholders at an annual general meeting or at a special general meeting called for that purpose; And provided also, that the By-laws of the said Bank in force at the time when this Act shall come into force, in so far as they are not repugnant to this Act, or to Law, shall continue to be the Bylaws thereof, until others shall have been made and enacted and confirmed as provided for by this section.

XIV. The Shareholders may by a By-law appropriate a sum of money for the remuneration of the services of the President and Directors as such, and the President and Directors may annually apportion the same among themselves as they may think fit: No Director shall act as a Private Banker.

XV. The Directors of the said Bank, shall have power to appoint a Cashier, Assistant Cashier and Secretary, and Clerks and servants under them, and such other Officers as shall be necessary for

conducting the business of the Bank, and to allow reasonable compensation for their services respectively, and shall also be capable of exercising such powers 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, Assistant Cashier, Officer, Clerk or Servant of the Bank, to enter upon the duties of his office, the Directors shall require him to give bond, with sureties, to the satisfaction of the Directors, that is to say, every Cashier in a sum not less than five thousand pounds, currency, every Assistant Cashier in the sum of Three Thousand pounds currency, and every other Officer, Clerk or Servant, in such sum of money as the Directors shall consider adequate to the trust to be reposed in him, with condition for good and faithful behaviour.

XVI. It shall be the duty of the Directors to make half yearly dividends of so much of the profits of the said Bank 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 dividends shall not in any manner lessen or impair the Capital Stock of the said Bank.

XVII. The general meetings of the Shareholders of the said Bank to be hold annually as aforesaid in the City of Kingston, for the purpose of electing Directors in the manner hereinbefore provided, shall be general meetings also for all other general purposes touching the affairs and the management of the affairs of the said Bank, and at each of the said annual general meetings, the Directors shall exhibit a full and clear statement of the affairs of the Bank.

XVIII. The number of votes which the Shareholders of the said Bank shall respectively be entitled to give at their meetings, shall be according to the following scale, that is to say: for one share and not more than two, one vote; for every two shares above two and not exceeding ten, one vote, making five votes for ten shares; for every four shares above ten and not exceeding thirty, one vote, making ten votes for every thirty shares; for every six shares above thirty and not exceeding sixty, one vote, making fifteen votes for sixty shares; and for every eight shares above sixty and not exceeding one hundred, one vote, making twenty votes for one hundred shares; and no Shareholder shall be entitled to give a greater number of votes than twenty; 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 Bank which shall have been held for a less period than three calendar months immediately prior to any meeting of the Shareholders, 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: And provided also that no Shareholder who shall not be a natural born or naturalized subject of Her Majesty, or who shall be a subject or citizen of any Foreign Prince or State, shall either in person or by proxy, vote at any meeting whatever of the Shareholders of the said Bank, or shall assist in calling any meeting of the Shareholders; any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

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

XX. Any number not less than twenty of the Shareholders of the said Bank, who together shall be proprietors of at least one thousand shares of the paid up Capital Stock of the said Bank, by themselves or their proxies, or the Directors of the said Bank or any seven of them, shall respectively have power at any time to call a Special General Meeting of the Shareholders of the said Bank, to be held at their usual place of meeting in the City of Kingston, 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 any such case the person or persons whom it shall be so proposed to remove, shall from the day on which the notice shall be first 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.

XXI. The shares of the Capital Stock of the said Bank, shall be held and adjudged to be personal estate, and shall be transmissible accordingly, and shall be assignable and transferable at the chief place of business of the said Bank, or at any of its Branches which the Directors shall appoint for that purpose, and according to such form as the Directors shall from time to time prescribe; 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 Bank, 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 Bank, 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 Bank, 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 share or shares; any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

XXII. Shares in 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 Chief office of the said Bank in the City

of Kingston; 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. Provided always, that at no time shall more than one half of the whole Capital Stock be registered in the book to be kept for that purpose in the United Kingdom.

XXIII. If the interest in any share in the said Bank become transmitted in consequence of the death, or bankruptcy, or in-solvency 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, such transmission shall 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 shall distinctly state the manner in which and the party to whom such share shall have been so transmitted, and shall be, by such party, made and signed; and every such declaration shall be, by the party making and signing the same, acknowledged before a Judge or Justice of a Court of Record, or before the Mayor, Provost, or Chief Magistrate of a City, Town, Borough, or other place, or before a Public Notary, where the same shall be made and signed; and every such declaration, so signed and acknowledged, shall be left 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, which 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 re-presentative of the British Government in the Country where the declaration shall be made, or shall be made directly before such British Consul or Vice-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.

XXIV. If the transmission of any Share of the said 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 Act of 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 thereupon enter the name of the party entitled under such transmission, in the Register of Shareholders.

XXV. If the transmission of any share or shares in the Capital Stock of the said Bank be by decease of any Shareholder, the production to the Directors, and deposit with them, of any probate of the will of the deceased Shareholder, or of letters of administration of his estate, granted by any Court in this Province having power to grant such probate or letters of administration, or by any prerogative, diocesan or peculiar Court or authority in England, Wales, Ireland, India or any other

British Colony, — or of any testament-testamentary or testa-ment-dative expedite in Scotland, — or if the deceased Shareholder shall have died out of Her Majesty's dominions, the production to and deposit with the Directors of any probate of his will or letters of administration of his property or other document of like import, granted by any Court or authority having the requisite power in such matters, — shall be sufficient justification and authority to the Directors for paying any dividend or transferring or authorizing the transfer of any share, in pursuance of and in conformity to such probate, letters of administration or other such document as aforesaid.

XXVI. The said 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 its Stock 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 stands in the name 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.

XXVII. It shall be the duty of the Directors of the said Bank to invest, as speedily as the debentures hereinafter mentioned can be procured from the Receiver General, and to keep invested at all times, in the debentures of this Province payable within the same, or secured upon 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 in 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 said Bank shall not be bound to invest any, portion of its Capital in debentures under the provisions of this section unless it shall have availed itself of the power to increase its Capital Stock to an amount exceeding five hundred thousand pounds, under this Act, or the said Act passed in the eighteenth year of Her Majesty's Reign, and chaptered forty-two.

XXVIII. The said Bank shall not either directly or indirectly hold any lands or tenements, (save and except such as by the third section of this Act it is specially authorized to acquire and hold) or any ships or other vessels, or any share or shares of the Capital Stock of the said Bank, or of any other Bank in this Province; nor shall the said Bank 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 said Bank, or of any goods, wares or merchandize; nor shall the said Bank 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 a dealer 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 Bank may take and hold mortgages and *hypothèques* ta real estate, and on ships, vessels and other personal property in this Province, by way of additional security for debts contracted to

the Bank in the course of its dealings, and also for such purpose may purchase and take any outstanding mortgages, judgments or other charges upon the real or personal property of any debtor of the said Bank.

XXIX. The aggregate amount of discounts and advances made by the said Bank upon commercial paper or securities bearing the name of any Director of the said Bank, or the name of any copartnership or firm in which any Director of the said Bank shall be a partner, shall not at any one time, exceed one twentieth of the total amount of discounts or advances made by the Bank at the same time.

XXX. The Bank may allow and pay interest not exceeding the legal rate in this Province, upon money deposited in the Bank; and, in discounting promissory notes, bills, or other negotiable securities or paper, may receive or retain the discount thereon at the time of discounting or negotiating the same; And when notes, bills, or other negotiable securities or paper, are *bonâ fide* payable at a place within the Province different from that at which they are discounted, the Bank may also, in addition to the discount, receive or retain an amount not exceeding one half per centum on the amount of every such note, bill or other negotiable security or paper, to defray the expenses of agency and exchange attending the collection of every such note, bill, or other negotiable security or paper; And the Bank may charge any note or bill held by and made payable at the Bank, against the deposit account of the maker or acceptor of such note or bill at the maturity thereof; any law, statute or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

XXXI. The bonds, obligations and bills obligatory or of credit of the said Bank, under its common seal and signed by the President or Vice-President, and countersigned by a Cashier (or Assistant 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 thereon in his, her or their own name or names; and signification of any assignment by indorsement shall not be necessary, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding; and bills or notes of the said Bank, signed by the President, Vice-President, Cashier or other officer appointed by the Directors of the said Bank to sign the same, promising the payment of money to any person or persons, his or their order or to the bearer, though not under the corporate seal of the said Bank, shall be binding and obligatory upon it, in the like manner and with the like force and effect as they would be upon any private person if issued by him in his private or natural capacity, and shall be assignable in like manner as if they were so issued by a private person in his natural capacity; Provided always that nothing in this Act shall be held to debar the Directors of the said Bank from authorizing or deputing from time to time, any Cashier, Assistant Cashier or Officer of the Bank, or any Director other than the President or Vice-President, or any Cashier, Manager or local Director of any branch or office of discount and deposit of the said Bank, to sign the bills or notes of the Corporation intended for general circulation and payable to order or to bearer on demand.

XXXII. And whereas it may be deemed expedient, that the name or names of the person or persons intrusted and authorized by the Bank to sign bank-notes and bills on behalf of the Bank, should be impressed by machinery, in such form as may from time to time be adopted by the Bank, instead of being subscribed in the hand-writing of such person or persons respectively: And whereas doubts might arise respecting the validity of such notes: Be it therefore further declared and enacted, That all bank notes and bills of the Commercial Bank of Canada, whereon the name or names of any person or persons intrusted or authorized to sign such notes or bills on behalf of the Bank, shall or may become impressed by machinery provided for that purpose by or with the authority of the Bank, shall be and be taken to be good and valid, to all intents and purposes as if such notes and bills had been subscribed in the proper hand-writing of the person or persons intrusted and authorized by the Bank to sign the same respectively, and shall be deemed and taken to be bank-notes or bills within the meaning of all laws and statutes whatever; and shall and may be described as bank-notes or bills, in all indictments and civil or criminal proceedings whatsoever; any law, statute or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

XXXIII. The notes or bills of the said Bank made payable to order or to bearer and intended for general circulation, whether the same shall issue from the chief seat or place of business of the said Bank in the City of Kingston, or from any of its branches, shall be payable on demand in specie at the place where they bear date.

XXXIV. Notwithstanding the change hereby made in its Corporate name, it shall be lawful for the said Bank, until notes bearing the Corporate name hereby assigned to it shall be prepared and ready for issue, to issue or re-issue its notes intended for general circulation, although in such notes it may be designated as 'The Commercial Bank of the Midland District,' and any such note, or any other note, bill, bond or other instrument, document or writing whatever, in which the said Bank shall be designated as 'The Commercial Bank of the Midland District,' or as 'The President, Directors and Company of the Commercial Bank of the Midland District,' shall, after this Act shall be in force, have in all respects the same effect, as regards the rights and liabilities of the said Bank or of any other person or party, as if the said Bank had been therein designated as 'The Commercial Bank of Canada.'

XXXV. A suspension by the said Bank, either at its chief place or seat of business in the said City of Kingston, or at any of its branches or offices of discount and deposit at any other place in this Province, of payment on demand in specie of the notes or bills of the said Bank payable there 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 its charter, and of all and every the privileges granted to it by this or any other Act.

XXXVI. The total amount of the bank-notes and bills of the Bank, of all values, in circulation at any one time, shall never exceed the aggregate amount of the paid up capital stock of the Bank, and the gold and silver coin and bullion, and debentures or other securities, reckoned at par, issued or guaranteed by the Government under the authority of the Legislature of this Province, on hand; and of the bank-notes and bills in circulation at any one time, not more than one fifth of the said aggregate amount shall be in bank-notes or bills under the nominal value of one pound currency

each; but no bank-note of bill of the Bank, under the nominal value of five shillings, shall be issued or put in circulation.

XXXVII. The total amount of the debts which the said Bank shall at any one time owe, whether by bond, bill, note or otherwise, shall not exceed three times the aggregate amount of its Capital Stock paid in, and the deposits made in the Bank in specie and Government securities for money; and in case of excess, or in case the total amount of the bills or notes of the said Bank payable to order, or to bearer on demand and intended for general circulation shall at any time exceed the amount hereinbefore limited, the said Bank shall forfeit its charter and all the privilege granted to it by this or any other Act, and the Directors under whose administration the excess shall happen, shall be liable jointly and severally for the same in their private capacity, as well to the Shareholders as to the holders of the bonds, bills and notes of the said Bank, and an action or actions in tin's 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 Jaw, but such action or actions shall not exempt the said Bank or its 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 the Bank, his protest against the same, and do within eight days thereafter publish such protest in at least two Newspapers published in the City of Kingston, 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: provided always, that such publication shall not exonerate any Director from his liability as a shareholder.

XXXVIII. In the event of the property and assets of the said Bank becoming insufficient to liquidate the liabilities and engagements or debts thereof, the Shareholders of its stock, 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 respective shares, that is to say, the liability and responsibility of each Shareholder to the creditors of the said Bank, shall be limited to a sum of money equal in amount to his stock therein, over and above any instalment or instalments which may be unpaid on such stock, for which he shall also remain liable and shall pay up: Provided always, that nothing in this section contained shall be construed to alter or diminish the additional liabilities of the Directors of the said Bank hereinbefore mentioned and declared.

XXXIX. Besides the detailed statement of the affairs of the said Bank hereinbefore required to be laid before the Shareholders thereof, at their annual general meeting, the Directors shall make up and publish on the first Monday in each and every month, statements of the Assets and Liabilities of the said Bank, in the form of the Schedule A., hereunto annexed, shewing under the heads specified in the said form, the average amount of the notes of the said Bank in circulation, and other liabilities, at the termination of the month 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 be the duty of the Directors to submit to the Governor of this Province, if required, a copy of such monthly statements, and, if by him required to verify all or any part of the

said statements, the said Directors shall verily the same by the production of the weekly or monthly balance sheets from which the said statements 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 reasonable information respecting the state and proceedings of the said Bank, and of the several branches and offices of discount and deposit thereof, as such Governor of this Province, may reasonably see fit to call for: Provided always, that the weekly or monthly balance sheets, 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 weekly or monthly balance sheets, 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 said Bank.

XL. It shall not be lawful for the said Bank, at any time whatever, directly or indirectly, to advance or lend to or for the use of 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 granted to it by this or any other Act, shall cease and determine.

XLI. The several public notices by this Act required to be given, shall be given by advertisement, in one or more of the Newspapers published in the City of Kingston, and in the *Canada Gazette*, or such other Gazette as shall be generally known and accredited as the Official Gazette for the publication of official documents and notices emanating from the Civil Government of this Province, if any such Gazette be then published.

XLII. If any Cashier, Assistant Cashier, Manager, Clerk or Servant of the said Bank, shall secrete, embezzle or abscond with, any Bond, Obligation, Bill Obligatory or of Credit, or other Bill or Note, or any Security for money, or any moneys or effects, intrusted to him as such Cashier, Assistant Cashier, Manager, Clerk or Servant, whether the same belong to the said Bank, 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 Bank, the Cashier, Assistant Cashier, Manager, Clerk or Servant, so offending, and being thereof convicted in due form of Law, shall be deemed guilty of felony.

XLIII. Every person convicted of felony under this Act shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labor in the Provincial Penitentiary, for any term not less than two years, or by imprisonment in any other Gaol or place of confinement for any less term than two years, in the discretion of the Court before which he shall be convicted.

XLIV. It shall and may be lawful to and for any Justice of the Peace, on complaint made before him, upon the oath of one credible person, that there is just cause to suspect that any one or more person or persons is or are or hath, or have been concerned in making or counterfeiting any false bills of exchange, promissory notes, undertakings or orders of the said Bank, or hath in his possession any plates, presses or other instruments, tools or materials for making or

counterfeiting the same or any part thereof, by warrant under the hand of such Justice, to cause the dwelling house, room, workshop, or 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 plates, 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 or they are hereby authorized and required to seize such false or counterfeit bills of exchange, promissory notes, undertakings or orders, and such plates, 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 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.

XLV. 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.

XLVI. 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, and shall be known as the *Charter of the Commercial Bank of Canada*, and the Interpretation Act shall apply thereto.

XLVII. This Act, and so much of the Acts mentioned in the preamble as is not repealed by this Act, shall be and remain in force until the first day of January, 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.

XLVIII. The foregoing sections of this Act shall have force and effect upon, from and after the first day of January, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and not before, and the said sections only shall be understood as intended, by the words "this Act," whenever in any of them the time when this Act shall be in force is mentioned.

Schedule A

Referred to in the Thirty-ninth Section of the foregoing Act.

Return of the Average Amount of Liabilities and Assets of the Commercial Bank of Canada, during the period from the first _____ to _____ one thousand eight hundred and

Liabilities.

Promissory Notes in circulation not bearing interest .	£
Bills of Exchange in circulation not bearing interest . .	£
Bill 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,	£
Other Debts due to the Bank, not included under the foregoing heads	£
Total average Assets	£