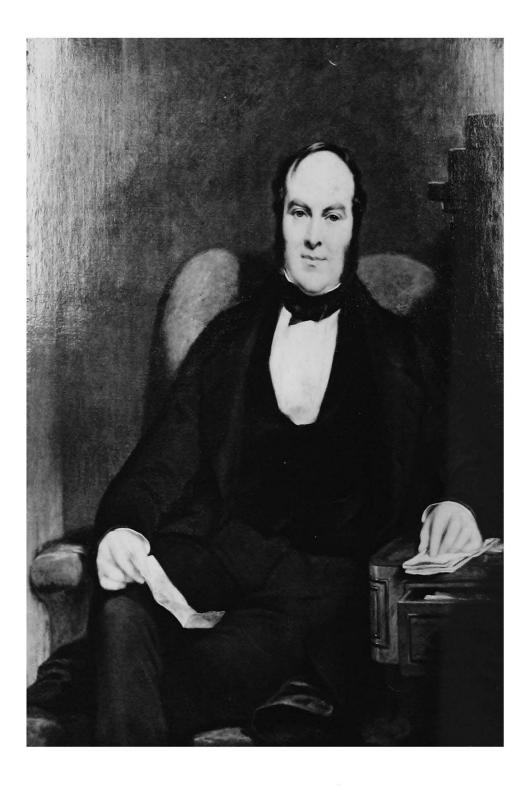
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A HUNDRED YEARS OF JOINT STOCK BANKING



CHARLES GEACH

A HUNDRED YEARS OF JOINT STOCK BANKING · by W. F. Crick and J. E. Wadsworth · with a Foreword by The Right · Honourable Reginald McKenna

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FOREWORD

OR those of us born in the mid-Victorian era the history related in this book serves as a remarkable record of the profound changes brought about in our lifetime. It extends 'over a full century-a century of pronounced growth and development in every branch of economic life. While the population of England and Wales has almost doubled, the process of consolidation in commerce and industry has led to an even more remarkable expansion of individual business units. The old family undertaking and the small-scale commercial and industrial firm have been replaced in great measure by the company organization, and companies have in their furn been fused into large combinations which have developed into corporate entities of vast capital resources and scope of operations. The process has found expression throughout the whole field of our business life. When we compare our past and present organization, the contrast in the size and range of our industrial and commercial units is, next to the general improvement in the standard of living, the most important economic feature of the last seventy years.

In no sphere has the process of consolidation been more marked than in that of finance. The immensity of our economic development has been described by numerous historians, but in the book before us one particular example of this development is dealt with in striking detail. The general transformation has been amazing, but nowhere more complete and successful than in banking, with which this book is concerned. It shows that out of almost chaotic conditions there has been evolved an ordered system, firmly grounded on the habits and confidence of the people, and adapting itself to the needs of a progressive economic life.

Seventy years ago there were more than four hundred commercial banks in England and Wales, and probably none of them outside London had deposits of more than five millions; over two hundred

FOREWORD

varieties of bank notes, of all shapes, colours and designs, were in circulation along with gold coins and five-shilling pieces; cheques were almost unknown to ordinary private people; bank failures were by no means rare; few of the banks outside London published balance sheets, and auditing in the modern sense was practically non-existent. In the City itself, the Royal Exchange was still the venue of London's elementary foreign exchange: market, as well as the scene of lively dealings in commodities, freights and insurance; stock exchange dealings were confined to a relatively short list, mainly of Government and corporation loans, railway securities and bank and insurance company shares; and financial journalism was comparatively undeveloped.

When the work of preparing this book was begun, six years ago, it was not expected that the available material was so plentiful, still less that it contained within itself the data for a sectional study in economic evolution such as the authors have undertaken. In the result they have given us a story which typifies the responsive character of human institutions. Just as, the British constitution has shaped itself to fit the special qualities of the British character, so our business organizations have taken the form demanded by the adventurous exploitation of great resources. For such a process to be maintained an efficient, stable and yet flexible banking system is essential. The authors of this book, by study and presentation of a particular example, have shown how this need has been met. In doing so they have used their material wisely; they have not given us a mere recital of the facts in the life of a growing organism, but have produced a picture of structural evolution and improvement of method. I congratulate them on the presentation of a living history, dealing with a branch of our economic activity which, so far as I know, has been nowhere similarly treated.

R. MCKENNA

June 1935,

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THE CHANNEL ISLANDS BANK.

HE remoteness of the Channel Islands from the mainland of Great Britain has been emphasized by differences in law and custom reaching back through many centuries. Nevertheless, broadly speaking, it may be said that banking development followed a similar course to that of England, for the several private firms in existence early in the nineteenth century all merged into joint stock institutions and eventually became part of the English banking system. In 1858 a bank was established in Jersey under the name of Horman, Anthoine, Ahier, Le Gros and Co., but generally known as the Channel Islands Bank. Although Jersey already boasted several banks, this new institution was successful, and for several years its course was uneventful. In 1873, however, a local banking crisis brought about a change of constitution and membership. As from March 1874 it became a joint stock company with Peter Briard as president, assisted by eight directors.(1) The capital stood at £12,000, and as this was divided into only forty shares (of £300, fully paid up), it is clear that the bank was, in fact, nearer to a private firm than a company, though it had always been described as a " joint stock " institution. Indeed, thirteen years later, in 1887, when the bank was registered with limited liability, there were only eleven shareholders, and seven of them were directors. At that time the subscribed capital was made up of 2,000 shares of £50 each, with £10 paid up, while deposits had risen to £118,000 from £59,000 in 1874.

Four years later a notable acquisition was made by the purchase for $\pounds 5,000$ of the business of the Jersey Old Bank, a long-established private firm of which Charles Godfray was the sole proprietor. In Jersey, as in England, the business of banking arose out of commercial and trading enterprises, and this firm, then just one hundred years old, had been grafted upon the business of a wine and spirit merchant, which was continued side by side with that of banking. Charles Godfray, though accepting office as a director of the Channel Islands Bank, rented back that portion

⁽¹⁾ These were : John Gibaut, George Balleine, Thomas Vibert, Matthew Gallichan, John Simon, junior, Edward Orange, Joshua Brayn and Moses F. Gibaut.

of the premises devoted to the wine business, and continued the trading side of his activities.

The Channel Islands Bank thereafter proceeded on its moderately. prosperous way, paying regular dividends of ten per cent and conducting a steadily increasing business in Jersey. But now the Channel Islands were being drawn into closer contact with the mainland of Great Britain, not only through the export of horticultural products but also by their growing popularity as holiday centres. The London and Southampton Railway had been opened in 1839, but it was not until 1862 that a regular service of cargo steamers was inaugurated from Southampton to Jersey. Thereafter the traffic increased rapidly. Accordingly, some of the large English banks found it desirable to establish direct representation, and naturally sought to do so by taking over established institutions. In 1897 the Midland Bank began negotiations for absorbing the Channel Islands Bank, and these were carried to a successful conclusion in March.⁽¹⁾ Thus the Midland Bank made its solitary southward amalgamation, taking over a business represented by deposits of £311,000.

CHANNEL ISLANDS BANK

EXTRACTS FROM BALANCE SHEET FIGURES

(£000 omitted)								
			Capital paid up	Reserve fund	Deposits	Loans and bills		
1876	•••	•••	12		75	4 4		
1886	•••	•••	20	6	85	50		
1896	•••	•••	20	19	311	IOI		

 $^{\rm (i)}$ The Midland paid £60,000 in cash for the business of the Channel Islands Bank, which was voluntarily liquidated.

APPENDIX B

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF BANKS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ABSORBED INTO THE MIDLAND OR ITS AFFILIATIONS

The route by which absorption took place is indicated in the last column of the table, where for each entry the number is inserted of the bank through which connection was established.

Num- ber	Name	Principal place		umerical eference
	Aberdeen Town and County			
	Bank	••• •••	· S	ee 105
I	Albion Bank	London	1864–1871	72
2	Backhouse, J., and Co	(Thirsk		
	·	branch)	1774–1873	III
3	Bala Banking Company	Bala	1864–1877	
4	Banc y Llong	Aberystwyth	1762-1815	10
5	Bank of Birmingham	Birmingham	1832–1838	II
6	Bank of England	(Portsmouth		
		branch)	1834–1914	72
7	Bank of Westmorland	Kendal	1833–1893	78
8	Barnsley Banking Company	Barnsley	1832–1897	III
9	Bate and Robins	Stourbridge	1770–1851	78
10	Benson and Co	Aberystwyth .	1815–1836	82
II	Birmingham Banking Company	Birmingham	1829-1889	76
	Birmingham and Midland Bank			see 78
12	Borough of Tynemouth Trading			
	Bank	North Shields	1885-1897	III
13	Bradbrook, H	Bethnal Green	?1840-1889	20
14	Bradford Banking Company	Bradford	1827-1910	• 78
15	Britain and Co	Thirsk,	?1810-1835	110
16	Bunney, Bunney and Pepper	Coventry	?1800-1836	30
17	Carlisle City and District Bank-			
•	ing Company	Carlisle	1837–1896	78
18	Carrick and Lee	Brampton	1830-1872	17
19	Cassons and Co	Portmadoc	1847-1875	82
20	Central Bank of London,			
	formerly East London Bank		1863–1891	78
21	Challis and Son	London	1851–1864	I
22	Channel Islands Bank, formerly			
	Horman, Anthoine, Ahier, Le	_		•
	Gros and Co	Jersey	1858–1897	78

LIST OF BANKS ABSORBED INTO THE MIDLAND 447. .

Num- ber	Name		Principal place			lumerical reference
23	Chapman and Co				?1800-1836	
24	City Bank		London	•••	1855-1898	
25	City of Birmingham Bank		Birmingha		1897-1899	•
-0	Clarke, Richardson and Hodg					see gI
26	Coates and Co	•••	Knaresbor	ough	1)
					1804-1835	110
27	Collis, W. B	•••	Stourbridge	e	1762-1770	9
28	Connell, J., and Co	•••	Carlisle	•••	?1825-1836	
29	Cooper, Purton and Sons	•••	Bridgnorth		1817-1889	
-	Cousins, Allen and Co.		•••		•••	see 42
30	Coventry Union Banking Co	om-				
-	pany	•••	Coventry	•••	1836-1889	78
31	Cumberland Union Banking	3			_	
	Company	•••	Workingto	n	1829–1901	III
32	Darlington District Joint St	ock	D		a	
	Banking Company	•••	Darlington	•••	1831–1883	111
	Device and Ca	1	Kington	•••	1808 1808	76
33	Davies and Co	{	Knighton		> 1000 	82
34	Derby Commercial Bank	,	Derby		, 1868–1890	
34 35	Dickinson, Joseph	•••	Alston	•••	1847-1890	•
35 36	Douglas, Smalley and Co.	•••	Holywell		1047-1090 e 1822-1839	-
37	Dresser, Joseph, and Co.	••••	Thirsk	-	?1820-1835	110
37 38	Duignan and Son	•••	Walsall		?1840-1864	
39	Dundee Commercial Bank		Dundee	•••	1825-1838	40
39	East London Bank	•••		••••	1025-1050	see 20
40	Eastern Bank of Scotland	•••	Dundee		 1838–1863	113
41	Edinburgh and Glasgow Ba		Dunace	•••	1030-1003	115
4-		ind,	•			
	Leith Bank		Edinburgh	•••	1838-1858	113
42 [.]	Exchange and Discount Ba	nk,	0			•
-	formerly J. J. Cousins, th	nen				
	Cousins, Allen & Co	•••	Leeds	•••	1862–1890	78
43	Farrer, Williamson and Co.	•••	Ripon	•••	718 –1838	III
44	Fishers and Co., formerly					
	Joseph Wilkes and Co.	•••	Ashby-de-l			
	The bar and Chall		Zouch	•••	1780–1835	67
45	Fletcher and Stubbs	•••	Borough-	-		
16	Forston Charles and Same				1813-1833	III
46	Forster, Charles, and Sons Frankland and Wilkinson.	•••	vv arsan	pre	1793–1848	II
47	formerly Thomas Peirson		Whitby	••••	1778–1845	111
48	Galton and James		Birmingha		1804-1829	III
40	Carton and Jamos	•••	~~		+004-10 <i>2</i> 9	**

448	LIST OF BANKS ABSORBE	D INTO THE	MIDLAND	
Num- ber	Name	Principal place		imerical
49	Gee, Thomas, and Co	Boston	1788-1874	70
50	Gibbins and Lovell	Birmingham	1825-1829	11
51	Glasgow Joint Stock Bank	Glasgow	1840-1844	41
52	Godfray, Major and Godfray	Jersey	1797-1891	22
53	Gordon and Co in	Belfast	1808-1827	112
54	Greenock Union Bank	Greenock,	1840-1844	113
55	Greenway, Smith and Greenway	Warwick	1791-1887	IOI
56	Harding and Co	Bridlington	1802-1878	III
57	Hardy and Co	Grantham	1819-1895	67
58	Head, Charles, and Co	Hexham	?1830-1865	31
59	Head, J. M., and Co	Carlisle	1804-1865	31
- e	Horman, Anthoine, Ahier, Le Gros and Co	·••• ···		see 22
60	Huddersfield Banking Company	Huddersfield	1827-1897	78
61	Hull Banking Company	Hull	1833-1894	III
62	Imperial Bank	London	1862-1893	72
63	Jones, William, and Son	Bilston	1824-1864	101
64	Lacy, Hartland, Woodbridge		1044-1004	101
04	and Co., formerly Pocklington and Lacy	London	1809-1891	, 78
65	Leamington Priors and Warwick-	Leamington		7-
J	shire Banking Company	Spa	1835-1889	78
66	Leeds and County Bank	Leeds	1862-1890	78
67	Leicestershire Banking Company		1820-1900	78
68	Leith Banking Company	(Carlisle		1-
00	Letti Danking Company	branch).	1792-1837	17
69	Leyland and Bullins	Liverpool	1807-1901	82
70	Lincoln and Lindsey Banking	Literpoor in	1007 1901	
70	Company	Lincoln	1833–1913	78
7I	Little and Woodcock	Coventry	1762-1865	,- 11
/-	London and Midland Bank)	_/01 100J	
	London City and Midland Bank	' ·	2	see 78
	London Joint City and Midland Bank	Š,	•	•
72	London Joint Stock Bank	London	1836–1918	78
73	Manchester Joint Stock Bank, formerly Robertson, Fraser		¢.	•
	and Co	Manchester	1863–1892	78
74	Mercantile Bank	London	1861-1862	75
75	Metropolitan and Provincial Bank			-
,5	later Royal Exchange Bank	London	1861–1889	76

LIST OF BANKS ABSORBED INTO THE MIDLAND 449

Num- ber	Name	Principal place		umerical reference
76	Metropolitan and Birmingham Bank, later Metropolitan, Birmingham and South Wales Bank, later Metropolitan Bank		- 00	. 0
77	(of England and Wales) Middleton, Cradock and	London	1889-1914	
78	Middleton Midland Bank	Loughborough	1 1790–1878 1836–	67
79	Miller and Co	Leicester	?1814-1835	67
	Moss and Co			see 83
80	National Bank of Wales	Cardiff	1879–1893	76
81	Nichols, Baker and Crane	Bewdley	1782-1862	78
82	North and South Wales Bank	Liverpool	1836-1908	
83	North-Western Bank, formerly	-	0)	•
Ŭ	Moss and Co	Liverpool	1807–1897	78
84	Nottingham Joint Stock Bank	Nottingham	1865-1905	78
85	Oldham Joint Stock Bank	Oldham	1880-1898	- 78
86	Parker, Shore and Co	Sheffield	1774–1843	97
	Peirson, Thomas	•••		see 47
87	Perfect and Co	Leeds	?1809-1834	IIO
•	Pocklington and Lacy			see 64
88	Pontefract and Goole Joint		-0606-	•
0.	Stock Bank	Pontefract	1861-1862	66
89	Preston Banking Company	Preston	1844–1894	78
90	Pugh, Jones and Co	Pwllheli	1848-1891	80
91	Richardson, Holt and Co. formerly Clarke, Richardson			
	and Hodgson	Whitby	1786–1843	III
92	Rimingtons and Younges	Sheffield	1816–1843	98
	Robertson, Fraser and Co	••• •••	•••	see 73
93	Rochdale Joint Stock Bank, for- merly Rochdale Commercial			
	Loan and Discount Company	Rochdale	1861-1882	85
	Royal Exchange Bank	••• •••		see 75
94	Sanderson, Joseph	Cockermouth	?1829-1837	17
95	Sankey, R., and Co	Denbigh	1790-1836	82
96	Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank	Sheffield	1836-1913	78
97	Sheffield Union Banking		39-3	7-
	Company	Sheffield	1843–1901	78
98	Sheffield and Retford Bank	(Retford branch)	1839-1846	07
99	South Wales Union Bank.	branch)	1039-1040	97
77	formerly Swansea Bank	Swansea	1873-1892	76
				RE

450 LIST OF BANKS ABSORBED INTO THE MIDLAND

 106 Union Bank of Bi 107 Wakefield, Crewda Wilkes, Joseph, and 108 Williams and Son 109 Wright and Co 110 Yorkshire Banking 	Stock Bank idderminster ny and Ford Bank, formerly	Bilston Stourbridg Belfast Stratford- Avon	 ont-	1838-1842 1864-1889 1834-1880 1809-1827 1810-1834	41 11, 11 see 99 112
 102 Stourbridge and K Banking Compa Swansea Bank 103 Tennent and Co. 104 Tomes, Chattaway 105 Town and County I Aberdeen Town Bank 106 Union Bank of Bi 107 Wakefield, Crewdd Wilkes, Joseph, an 108 Williams and Son 109 Wright and Co 110 Yorkshire Banking 	idderminster ny ' y and Ford Bank, formerly	Stourbridg Belfast Stratford- Avon	e on-	1834-1880 1809-1827	II see 99
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109 Wright and Co 110 Yorkshire Bankin		•••			see 44
110 Yorkshire Banki	••• •••	Dolgelley	•••	1803–1873	82
110 Yorkshire Bankin formerly Yorks	••• •••	London -	••••	1759–1840	72
	hire District			_	
Banking Compa		Leeds	•••	1834–1901	78
III York City and Co	inty Bank	York	•••	1830–1909	72

AFFILIATIONS OF MIDLAND BANK

	Name		Principal place		Date of establish- ment	Date of affiliation with Midland
II2	Belfast Banking Company	•••	Belfast		1827	1917
í11 3	The Clydesdale Bank	•••	Glasgow		1838	1920
114	North of Scotland Bank	•••	Aberdeen	•••	18 <u>3</u> 6	1924

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