

assessments coming faster than they were led to expect. If delay is made it may be too late to get an equal amount of protection elsewhere at any price. In this matter, as in many another case, delay may prove dangerous.

We notice that the Catholic Mutual Benevolent Association, whose headquarters are in Brooklyn, N.Y., with a large membership in Canada, and a total membership of 85,000, is in a state of disruption. Its assessments have grown heavier, annually, for some time past, and its Canadian members have resolved to separate from the parent body. By a vote in the Grand Council of Canada, held at Hamilton, last month, of 161 to 8, a separate jurisdiction was resolved upon. This was in marked contrast to the action of the A.O.U.W. at its last grand lodge session in Ottawa, where separation was voted down by 20,285 to 2,660. And now the relief call of \$1.00 per member is being collected for 1892 from the Ontario jurisdiction to help the older American lodges pay their death claims. It is not known as yet how much more than Ontario's \$25,000 will be needed to carry the grand lodges in the States through the year, but it was hoped that the whole of it would not be needed. Ontario had previously been drawn upon for a little over \$75,000, so that by the close of this year a round \$100,000 will have been contributed under the twelve annual relief calls made upon the faithful in this grand lodge jurisdiction. It will not be surprising, therefore, if the question of separation, though voted down at Ottawa, should soon again become a live issue among the Ontario brethren.

BANKING RETURN.

The figures of the Canadian bank statement for August last will be found in condensed form below, and are compared with those of the previous month. The statement bears date 21st September.

CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

LIABILITIES.		
	Aug., 1892.	July, 1892.
Capital authorized..	\$75,958,685	\$75,958,685
Capital paid up....	61,640,390	61,597,484
Reserve Funds	24,772,564	24,756,731
Notes in circulation	32,646,187	32,488,718
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits....	5,409,802	6,277,518
Public deposits on demand.....	64,764,748	66,489,769
Public deposits after notice.....	98,058,015	98,818,676
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured...	155,000	155,000
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.	8,501,908	2,905,610
Due other banks in Canada in daily balances	152,488	163,484
Due other banks in foreign countries	211,765	259,607
Due other banks in Great Britain...	4,631,499	4,920,914
Other liabilities....	228,561	304,877
Total liabilities..	\$209,756,866	\$207,783,253
ASSETS.		
Specie	\$ 6,703,222	\$6,950,818
Dominion notes....	12,457,887	11,787,446
Deposits to secure note circulation..	1,761,259	1,784,910

Notes and cheques of other banks..	7,031,487	6,446,531
Due from other banks in Canada in daily exchanges	240,456	242,624
Deposits made with other banks	4,163,411	3,633,153
Due from other banks in foreign countries	24,609,507	22,272,589
Due from other banks in Great Britain.....	1,323,559	1,890,992
Dominion Government debentures or stock.....	3,328,421	3,102,668
Other securities....	16,836,365	16,645,562
Call loans on bonds and stocks	17,487,343	15,919,932
	\$96,143,518	\$90,627,275
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Govts..	1,086,240	975,063
Current loans and discounts	186,312,886	189,513,321
Loans to other banks secured	156,581	159,572
Overdue debts	2,379,312	2,317,318
Real estate.....	1,105,532	1,094,854
Mortgages on real estate sold	846,409	843,088
Bank premises....	4,583,163	4,570,777
Other assets	1,438,758	1,353,079
Total assets.....	\$294,052,600	\$291,345,285
Average amount of specie held during the month	6,676,021	6,468,411
Av. Dom. notes do..	12,169,775	11,545,058
Loans to directors or their firms....	6,823,246	6,669,218
Greatest amount of notes in circulation during month	33,699,971	33,785,612

REFORM IN ROAD MAKING.

At the present time papers connected with the agricultural interests are devoting a great deal of space to the discussion of reform in road building. The superintendence of the roads by the present statute law is placed in the hands of local road masters—men having no scientific knowledge of their work, and in many cases but very little experience. Themselves farmers of the district, they are unable to control their workmen, i. e., their neighbors, in such a way that the work may be promptly and thoroughly done.

The most serious objections to road reform come from the class who would be most benefited by it. It is calculated that the farmer performing statute labor does in a day's work what a paid laborer would do in half a day, thus showing a direct loss to both employer and employee. The indirect losses to the farmer are still more numerous. By poor roads he suffers in respect of his horses, his wagons, and his marketable produce. In the spring by reason of washouts, in the fall when the deep ruts of the clay are frozen, or in mid-winter when the roads are blocked with snow, the produce must often be taken to the poorest market, and in many cases cannot be disposed of at all.

Everything that injures the farmer tends to injure the merchant also, and when the one fails in his supply of produce, the other cannot provide for his customer. In such a case prices rise, but with a profit only to the few, who, by reason of nearness to the town, or by means of an exceptional road, are able to reach the market. Merchants, too, can testify how frequently the plea of bad roads is put forward by the farmer as an excuse for tardy payment of the store account, and do not wholesalers in turn find the same cause to adversely affect their remittances from country towns? Over smooth roads produce such as eggs, butter, and

especially fruits, would reach the market in a much better condition. For such goods a greater price might be justly demanded, merchant and farmer sharing alike in the profit. It is an established fact that easy access to the store creates a demand for manufactured goods. There is, for instance, North Hastings, which is said to be destitute alike of a railway and good roads. The effect can there be most clearly seen. The farmers of these townships use not a few home-made implements, clothing and articles of a domestic nature. Thus the manufacturer and merchant lose a market, while the farmers themselves must suffer some of the inconveniences of the last century. It may be objected that this is an exceptional case; still the fact remains that trade is affected to a degree in the same manner throughout Ontario.

The mode of reform is simple—a total abolition of the present system of the making and maintenance of roads, with its statute labor and inexperienced pathmasters; and the substitution of direct taxation and scientific road overseers. Our Provincial School of Practical Science, with very little change of curriculum, could produce men having a special education along this line. In a new country such as this the demand for road building and reconstruction would be of long duration. Having supplied Ontario and the older provinces with good roads, these men would then find a field for their labors in the great North-West, and of course a limited number would at all times be required to oversee the maintenance of the roads, after they have been put in proper shape.

But the difficulty, in the change of system, lies not in the trouble of securing means to better our highways, but rather in the objections that come from the farming class. They are deceived by a false economy, namely, that direct taxation would be a greater burden than statute labor. This misconception comes from the conservative spirit of the class. For, as has been previously mentioned, statute labor is worth only fifty cents a day; while farm labor, although variable in value, we believe, at no season of the year, falls so low as this. The journals that have taken this matter in hand have a long and difficult task before them. We would advise business men to give their influence to the movement, if not through regard for the country's development, then through a feeling of self-interest, for it has been shown to what extent the interests of the merchant in this respect suffer with those of the farmer.

HOW HE ACCOUNTED FOR THE DEFICIENCY.

Probably one of the most unique little comedies ever enacted at a meeting of creditors was that witnessed last week in Montreal, when a Notre Dame street clothier called his creditors together to crave their indulgence. Representatives and members of some of the leading dry goods and clothing houses were present, also the clothier, who with hat on back of his head, and a half consumed cigar pointing skyward from the corner of his mouth, proceeded to lay a statement of his affairs before the meeting. He owed about \$11,000, of which \$6,000 to \$7,000 was due to relatives, and he had stock, etc., of something over \$6,000. Being asked to account for having run so far behind, he stated it was due to bad business and other causes. Some of the creditors were curious as to the "other causes," and pressed for an explanation. So our worthy clothier proceeded to elucidate, in a