

Financial and Statistical.

We would invite the attention of our readers to the announcement in our advertising columns by Mr. J. C. Mackintosh, the well known banker and broker of Halifax, who offers to investors a portion of the 8 per cent. new preference stock of the Nova Scotia Steel & Forge Company, limited. Nearly one half of this stock is announced as already taken by the present stockholders of the company. Being preferred stock and a first claim upon the company these eight per cent. shares will doubtless be speedily taken.

Under the direction of Prof. Robertson at Perth, Ont., a mammoth cheese has been made as one of Canada's contributions to the World's Fair at Chicago. The cheese is 6 feet high, 9 feet in diameter, and weighs 22,000 pounds. Of course a "hoop" or mould had to be expressly made for the manufacture of this giant, and was mainly of iron. The problem of turning the cheese at least twice a week, so as to cure it properly, was a difficult one, but has been satisfactorily solved by mechanical appliances, which require two men to operate. By May 1st it will be ready for shipment to Chicago. After the close of the Chicago exhibit this great cheese will, it is said, be shipped to England.

The International Monetary Conference, which is to meet at Brussels during the present month, is looked forward to with a good deal of interest by financiers on both continents, mainly with reference to its action on the silver question. It seems pretty certain that, owing to the fall in the value of silver in India, those British banks closely connected with Indian finances, and whose securities have declined seriously with the fall of silver, will favor such action as promises to bring silver up more nearly to a gold standard. The representatives from the United States will unquestionably find pretty strong sympathizers and effective co-workers on the line of bi-metalism in England, though its advocates, as we understand, do not propose

or expect any radical measures at present. There are clearly two sides to this silver question, and it is to be hoped that a free consultation among the ablest financiers in the world will result in the adoption of measures for the universal good.

How rarely it is the case that inventors realize an adequate pecuniary reward for their labors is strikingly illustrated by statistics made public by the Commissioner of Patents for the United States. That official gives a record for seven years—from 1885 to 1891, inclusive—of the patents issued and the assignments of the same made for each year. The total number issued was 162,418, and the assignments made 131,757. This gives a percentage of assignments to issues of 81.12 per cent. Thus it appears that over four-fifths of all the patents issued passed out of the hands of the inventors, in many cases doubtless for a mere song, and shrewd men have reaped where inventive genius had sown.

The statement of revenue and expenditure by the Dominion government for September shows a large increase in the former and decrease in the latter, as compared with the previous September. For September, 1892, the revenue was \$3,283,968 and the expenditure \$1,604,506, against \$3,175,880 and \$1,847,427 respectively in 1891. For the first quarter of the fiscal year compared with the same period last year the figures are as follows:—

	1891-2.	1892-3.
Customs.....	\$5,315,906	\$5,423,830
Excise.....	1,695,299	1,983,289
Post office.....	585,000	615,000
Public Works.....	1,010,030	1,028,400
Miscellaneous	209,298	263,667
	\$8,815,533	\$9,314,486
Expenditure.....	5,833,885	5,753,946
Difference.....	\$2,981,648	\$3,560,540

The increase in surplus of revenue over expenditure is thus \$578,892.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE CHARTERED BANKS IN CANADA.

Comparison of Principal Items.

Assets.	30th Sept., 1892.	31st August, 1892.	30th Sept., 1891.	Increase and Decrease for month.	Increase and Decrease for year.
Specie and Dominion Notes.....	\$18,674,503	\$19,161,710	\$17,140,169	Dec. \$487,267	Inc. \$1,534,334
Notes of and cheques on other Banks.....	7,899,713	7,031,487	7,109,471	Inc. 868,226	Inc. 790,242
Due from American Banks and Branches.....	24,211,355	24,809,507	18,257,462	Dec. 598,152	Inc. 5,953,893
Due from British Banks and Branches.....	1,261,908	1,323,559	4,082,051	Dec. 61,651	Dec. 2,829,143
Canadian Municipal Securities and Brit. Prov. or For'gn or Col. other than Dominion.....	8,428,534	8,995,858	6,155,228	Dec. 567,324	Inc. 2,273,266
Railway Securities.....	8,068,091	7,840,507	3,846,583	Inc. 227,584	Inc. 4,221,508
Loans on Stocks and Bonds on call.....	19,828,270	17,487,343	12,341,950	Inc. 2,340,927	Inc. 7,486,320
Current Loans to the Public.....	188,167,135	186,312,886	185,902,494	Inc. 1,854,249	Inc. 2,264,641
Overdue debts.....	2,303,589	2,379,312	2,758,901	Dec. 75,723	Dec. 453,312
Total Assets.....	258,133,431	294,052,600	273,391,148	Inc. 4,080,831	Inc. 24,742,283
Liabilities.					
Bank notes in circulation.....	34,927,615	32,646,187	34,083,051	Inc. 2,281,428	Inc. 844,564
Due Dominion Government.....	2,516,627	2,058,470	2,475,130	Inc. 458,157	Inc. 41,487
Due Provincial Governments.....	2,934,747	3,350,832	3,064,713	Dec. 416,085	Dec. 129,666
Deposits made by the public.....	104,584,993	162,822,763	145,623,060	Inc. 1,762,220	Inc. 18,939,523
Do. payable on demand or after notice between Bks..	3,491,261	3,501,208	2,384,272	Dec. 9,947	Inc. 1,106,589
Due to American Banks and Branches.....	139,343	211,765	112,725	Dec. 72,422	Inc. 26,618
Due to British Banks and Branches.....	4,373,087	4,631,499	1,867,904	Dec. 258,412	Inc. 2,505,123
Total Liabilities.....	213,477,549	209,756,666	190,268,743	Inc. 3,720,653	Inc. 23,208,866
Capital.					
Capital paid up.....	61,652,233	61,640,390	60,993,290	Inc. 11,843	Inc. 658,943
Reserve Fund.....	24,826,594	24,772,564	23,182,546	Inc. 54,030	Inc. 1,644,048
Directors' Liabilities.....	7,034,794	6,823,246	5,646,176	Inc. 211,548	Inc. 1,388,618

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation, being 5 p.c. on average maximum circulation for ear ending 30th June, 1892, \$1,761,259.