

and Geoffrion, exercise the same privilege in opposition. The latter is reported to have said that "the prohibitionists would have their plebiscite, but they would have no prohibition." This, said before the vote was taken, is somewhat puzzling; it may mean that, in the opinion of the speaker, there would not be a majority in its favor. But its meaning, whatever it may be, is not clear. The diversity of opinion in the Cabinet, which but reflects the diversity which exists outside, may explain why no definite answer to the question whether prohibition would follow a vote favoring such a measure could be got.

General Kitchener found a few French, under Major Marchand, at Fashoda, and the latter refused to leave without orders to that effect from his superiors. General Kitchener took possession of the place, flying the Egyptian and British flags, and left there the force he had taken with him. These contrary pretensions will be settled by diplomacy, and France may gain some territory as a result of the Marchand expedition, but it will not include Fashoda, or be in a position which would enable its possessor to interfere with the victorious march of the Anglo-Egyptian forces. Major Marchand ought to be and probably was grateful to General Kitchener for his expedition to Fashoda, if it be true as stated, that it saved the Frenchmen from massacre by the Dervishes. The head of the Madhi has been sent to the Royal College of Surgeons, London. Unless science can hope to profit by an examination of the conformation of the skull, the exploit is one which had better been left unperformed. If the body of the Madhi was destroyed, it was not done as an act of vengeance, but to prevent pilgrimages to his burial place becoming a source of future trouble.

A lull in the rush to the Klondyke has taken place, and it is said that there are thousands in Dawson City, where typhoid fever has broken out, without employment and with but slender means of support. On the whole a fair quantity of gold has been got out this year, but the blanks are numerous; 9,000 people went to prospect on the Stuart River and got nothing. There is some truth, no doubt, in what the pioneer miner, Leduc, says: that many persons unsuited to the work of mining, becoming failures, as they were bound to do, give the country a bad name. Indications are that many creeks on which little has yet been done will prove rich in gold. Meanwhile the means of communication with the Klondyke has been greatly improved, the railway to the summit of the White Pass being within a few miles of completion. When navigation is open the distance between British Columbia and Dawson City can be made in twelve days; in winter the journey will be longer and more difficult. With a large number idle at Dawson City the difficulty of preserving order will be increased and an extra police force may be necessary.

FINANCIAL REVIEW.

The tendency of money to go on still accumulating is very marked, for during the last month the bank deposits have increased by no less a sum than six and a half millions. This makes the total deposits of the country up to the very remarkable figure of \$329,000,000—a sum which could never have been dreamed of in former years, and only indicates the rapid strides the country is making in development and prosperity.

It would be interesting if the bank returns enabled us to see the various sources and districts from which this large amount of deposits is derived.

The return we give at the end of this statement, though dividing the banks of the various provinces, yet does not accurately convey the division of the business as between one section of the country and another, for the leading banks have their branches in all parts of the country. For example: the bank of Montreal is grouped under the heading of "Banks in the Province of Quebec," and one not familiar with these matters might suppose that the statement of the Bank of Montreal was a fair index of the position of the deposits and discounts of that province. But the deposits and discounts of the Bank of Montreal are gathered from every province of the Dominion. They belong to Ontario, the Maritime Provinces and the North-West, just as much as they do to the province of Quebec. Similarly with the Bank of Commerce, which is classed under the heading of "Ontario Banks." So that these returns, although divided into provinces, only give us a very imperfect idea of the localities where the business of the respective banks is done. It would, no doubt, be quite impossible for a government return to be so subdivided as to give the information needed, but possibly some time one of the banks might give such information to its stockholders.

However, it is gratifying that, as a whole, the accumulations of money in the Dominion, not required for business purposes, are going on at such a rate as they are. But we have before observed, and repeat now, that the operations of the banks in loans and discounts do not keep pace with the growth of their deposits. Yet it cannot be said that business is stagnant generally. It is so, no doubt, in one or two departments, especially in the trade of our sawmills that manufacture for the American market. The duty of \$2 per thousand against it is quite sufficient to take away all the profit that is made in manufacturing for the States. Consequently there is no life and energy in the business.

This lumber question is evidently to be one of the very knottiest and most difficult that the Quebec Commission will have to deal with. The lumber interest in various States is up in arms at the prospect of a possible reduction in the duty, much as it would benefit the great body of people of the States to be able to build more cheaply. This is one of the cases where it is so evident that the whole body of the people would be benefited by the admission of an article from Canada at a reasonable rate of duty, that it is astonishing how a legislative body which presumably represents all classes, should consent to a duty which is practically prohibitive. But the whole attitude of politicians of the United States in regard to the exchange of products between that country and Canada is most irrational, and in nothing is this absence of rationality displayed more than in the way they talk of the old reciprocity treaty. They declare that that measure was solely to the advantage of Canada, apparently because under it Canada sent them more than was received in return. But surely for the people of the States to buy a number of most needful and useful articles from Canada without paying duty on them was highly to the advantage of the people of that country, and the more the better.

An equitable reciprocity treaty now would embrace the free admission on both sides of all raw materials and all products of agriculture and the forest, and such a treaty would benefit both sides, no matter what the volume of trade, respectively, from the one side to the other might be.

The bountiful harvest secured by Ontario is likely to be marketed at a lower price considerably than was the case during the winter, but it has been again and again demonstrated that a large harvest at a moderate