

less go on this month, and in March and April. Our banks, however, have ample resources, and will doubtless meet every requirement without disturbing the mercantile community.

The deposits of Canadian banks have decreased over two millions, and so have their loans. Their available resources are still quite adequate, and money matters generally are proceeding without disturbance.

## ABSTRACT OF BANK RETURNS.

31ST JANUARY, 1888.

[In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up..	\$ 35,212	\$ 17,822	\$ 7,322	\$ 60,356
Circulation .....	16,439	10,929	4,583	31,951
Deposits .....	57,131	43,188	13,322	113,641
Loans & Discounts	91,242	63,432	18,053	172,727
Cash and Foreign balances (Net) ..	19,963	7,384	5,002	32,349

31ST JANUARY, 1889.

[In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up..	\$ 34,421	\$ 17,785	\$ 8,018	\$ 60,224
Circulation .....	16,119	10,648	4,825	31,592
Deposits .....	70,556	48,673	15,232	134,461
Loans & Discounts	95,414	66,878	21,188	183,480
Cash and Foreign balances (Net) ..	27,850	7,813	3,663	39,326

## THE CASE OF THE CANADIAN MILLERS.

The Canadian millers have resolved to press their claim on the Canadian Government for a readjustment of the duties on wheat and flour. This resolution was come to at a good representative meeting of the Millers' Association, held in Board of Trade rooms here, on Tuesday. What is asked for is a specific duty of \$1 per barrel on American flour, leaving the duty on wheat the same as at present. One speaker stated that the duty was required to enable Canadian millers to compete successfully with American. The milling interest, it was said, was large and powerful, and it intended to use its power to enforce its demand. It was maintained by more than one speaker that the relative duties on wheat and flour give the Americans an undue advantage, though this point was not much dwelt upon, and there does not appear to have been any attempt at a mathematical demonstration of the grievance alleged. One gentleman, putting the demand on a new footing, said the millers ought to have a protection of twenty to twenty-five per cent. because that indulgence is allowed to other manufacturers. One speaker said it was a question of votes, and that the deputation ought to extort a concession, if necessary, by a demonstration of electoral power. A deputation that should venture on such ground would run the risk of being politely asked to withdraw. And if it come to that, it might well be questioned whether there are not more people in Canada who desire untaxed flour than there are of millers and their friends who want a dollar a barrel duty imposed. A despatch from Montreal was read, showing the stock of flour there to be

95,000 bbls., not including that in the hands of city millers, about 70 per cent. of which was American. Neither Quebec nor the Maritime Provinces, care where the flour they consume comes from; they only desire that it shall be as cheap as possible. The millers desire an opportunity of making flour dearer, and if they succeed the consumer will have to pay the difference.

Nevertheless, if it can be shown that the present duties discriminate against the Canadian miller and in favor of the American, they are entitled to redress. They ought not to be placed at a disadvantage in their own country. At the same time, the scales should be held evenly: the millers should not be allowed unduly to increase the price of bread, for their own profit. We have taken some pains to ascertain how much wheat is consumed in making a barrel of flour, and we have done so without seeking the aid of Canadian millers. We have obtained from American millers, through a gentleman who has no interest in milling, statements bearing on the question. It must not be forgotten that all millers, American as well as Canadian, have an interest in having the public believe that it takes the largest possible quantity of wheat to make a barrel of flour. Wheat is the thing they buy from the farmer and flour the thing they sell to the general public, and they have an interest in making it appear that the material out of which a barrel of flour is made costs so much as to leave them only a small profit. Taking the statements which we have received at their face value, it would appear that the Canadian millers are not without a substantial grievance. One thing is certain, that there is no invariable quantity of wheat which can be named as the equivalent of a barrel of flour, everywhere, at all times, and under all circumstances. It is not a constant but a variable quantity; though the average, so far as it is possible to get at it, does not appear to have been exaggerated by Canadian millers. To make an equal quality of flour, Mr. H. Poppleston, of Memphis, Tennessee, who appears to be a practical miller, states in the *North-Western Miller*, "more or less wheat must be used," according to circumstances. The quantity of dirt and screenings in wheat varies. It is not a difficult thing, the writer in question says, to obtain a large yield of flour; on the contrary, he pronounces it "a very easy matter"; it can be done by adding "a few more rolls and reels on to the tail of the mill." But then the result would be attained at the expense of quality. To make first and second-class flour the maximum quantity of wheat is necessary; but "the increased yield is brought about by furbishing up the low-class material." This conclusion Mr. Popplestone bases on personal observation obtained in every part of the United States, and the reference is to all kinds of mills, good, bad, and indifferent. There is something, he says, peculiar to every mill; no one can exactly duplicate the work of another; but the poorer the mill, the more wheat does it take to produce a barrel of flour. He had made a great many tests with all sorts of mills, and always with varying results. It is

possible that in the "furbishing up of low-class material" we have the secret of American low grade flour being able to undersell our own. Mr. Popplestone adds emphatically that the quantity of wheat necessary to make a barrel of flour "is not a matter that can be determined by mathematics," and that it never will be possible so to decide it. The quality of wheat is said to have deteriorated, while the standard of flour has risen. His experience of the quantity of wheat used in making a barrel of flour was one time 4 bushels and 40 pounds, at another 4 bushels 42 pounds; again, on a run of six months, 4 bushels 24 pounds. The most unsatisfactory return he ever got was 400 pounds more on a run of 200 barrels than the weight of the wheat used in making it. Of what the addition consisted he declines to tell. The offal, he says, sometimes varies greatly from day to day, ranging all the way from 55 to 90 lbs. to a barrel. The average is put at about 75 pounds, and invisible waste at three to four pounds, though it may be as low as one and as high as seven pounds.

A letter from the Washburn, Martin & Co.'s Mills, Minneapolis, which have a capacity of 8,200 barrels a day, says: "I think four bushels and thirty-five lbs. would be the amount of wheat used in making a barrel of flour. Of this amount 60 per cent. would be patent, 28 per cent. clear, and 12 Red Dog." But the writer adds: "It is almost impossible to give reliable information on this subject, owing to the condition of the wheat crop" of last year. In another letter from Minneapolis, we read: "The vice-president and manager of the Columbia Mills says it runs all the way from 4½ to 5 bushels (of 60 lbs.) of wheat to the barrel, and that the price of offal varies constantly, at present bringing from \$8.50 to \$9 per ton." The secretary of the Crown Roller Mills says 4 bushels and 40 lbs. would be a fair average, producing 196 lbs. flour, 80 lbs. bran and middlings, "with a waste of 4 lbs." "One firm," says the letter, which is not written by a miller at all, but by a person who gathered information, "claimed to have produced flour at the rate of 4 bushels and 20 lbs. to the barrel, but not from last year's crop. Sometimes, when, owing to the lowness of the water, country mills are shut down, flour goes up as high as \$14 a ton."

These statements all point in one direction, and as far as they go bear out the contention of the Canadian millers that the four and a half bushels of wheat are required to make a barrel of flour. The better the flour is and the worse the mill, the more wheat it takes. There are a great many more millers in Minneapolis who have not been heard from, to say nothing of other places. Our own millers, when they speak on the subject, generally agree in naming a common figure, four bushels and a half. As an approximate general average this figure may, in the present state of our knowledge, be allowed to stand; but it is quite clear that no unvarying quantity can be relied on to produce a barrel of flour. When people go to the legislature and ask for the passage of laws for the purpose of benefiting themselves, it is not to be ex-