

arises principally from a large amount of arrears of the taxes of the year 1867 having been received, and a larger amount received for commutation of sewer rates than what was estimated, together with several Esplanade awards having been paid in full.

The amount of debenture debt on the 31st Dec. 1867, was.....\$2,114,853 44  
do. do. 1868, " ..... 2,065,594 22

\$49,259 22

Showing that the debt has been reduced during the past year by the sum of \$49,259.22. This gradual reduction of the debt must be a source of satisfaction to the citizens, and there is no doubt that in the present prosperous state of the city a considerable reduction can be made during the present year.

The amount at the credit of the sinking fund on the 31st December, was \$168,678.88, the particulars of which are as follows:—Debentures held in London on account of the fund, \$58,156.70; cash in Bank at Toronto, 31st December, \$69,104.93; amounts in process of collection, \$51,417.25.—Total \$178,678.87. The latter amount is included in the assessment rate of 1868, a large proportion of which had been realized since the 31st of December, and is now lodged in the Bank of Toronto. The amount at the credit of the fund in Bank at this date—5th April—is \$112,465.92.

It is very important that the whole of this fund, a considerable portion of which is yielding only four per cent. interest, should be immediately applied to the payment of the debentures for which the fund was instituted. These debentures might be purchased at a discount and the amount thus legitimately invested would be a saving to the Corporation of about three per cent per annum. The saving which would be thus effected would be about \$3,000 annually.

STATEMENT of the revenue and expenditure of the Dominion of Canada for the month ended 31st March, 1869:

Customs.....	\$630,592 24
Excise.....	265,764 83
Post Office.....	15,584 04
Bill Stamp Duty.....	8,095 34
Public Works, including Railways....	43,773 85
Miscellaneous.....	28,847 20

Total.....\$992,657 50

Expenditure.....\$546,019 79

BEWARE.—The numbers and amounts of the bonds stolen about a year ago from the Western Union Telegraph Company are: No. 17, \$600; No. 43, \$600; No. 187, \$500; No. 188, \$500; No. 189, \$500; No. 208, \$500; No. 842, \$500. Payment of the bonds has been stopped. The robbers are said to have been traced to Canada.

#### THE CITIZENS' INSURANCE COMPANY (OF CANADA.)

Authorized Capital.....\$2,000,000  
Subscribed Capital.....1,000,000

HEAD OFFICE—MONTREAL.

#### DIRECTORS.

HUGH ALLAN, ..... PRESIDENT.  
C. J. BRYDGES, ..... EDWIN ATWATER,  
GEORGE STEPHEN, ..... HENRY LYMAN,  
ADOLPHE ROY, ..... N. B. CORSE.

#### Life and Guarantee Department.

THIS Company—formed by the association of nearly 100 of the wealthiest citizens of Montreal—is prepared to transact every description of LIFE ASSURANCE; also, to grant Bonds of FIDELITY GUARANTEE, for Employees holding positions of trust.

Applications can be made through any of the Company's Agents, or direct to

EDWARD RAWLINGS, Manager.

Agent for Toronto: W. T. MASON. Agent for Hamilton: R. BENNER.

THE CANADIAN MONETARY TIMES AND INSURANCE CHRONICLE is printed every Thursday evening and distributed to Subscribers on the following morning.

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Address all letters to "THE MONETARY TIMES."

Cheques, money orders, &c. should be made payable to J. M. TROUT, Business Manager, who alone is authorized to issue receipts for money.

All Canadian Subscribers to THE MONETARY TIMES will receive THE REAL ESTATE JOURNAL without further charge.

## The Canadian Monetary Times.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1869.

### THE BANK CHARTER QUESTION.

AN INCONVERTIBLE CURRENCY.

VI.

At the outset of this discussion we asserted, on what we think will be admitted to be tenable grounds, that an extension of the Provincial note system that should displace the existing bank notes, or the substantial adoption of the National Bank law of the United States, would prove the inevitable precursor of a suspension of cash payments. Adhering to this idea we proceed to examine some of the consequences that would result from so disastrous a monetary revolution.

Most objects of desire and commerce possess properties of which it is necessary to ascertain definitely the extent or value. When a web of cloth is sold its superficies has to be ascertained, and we have a determinate measure which we can apply to it and thereby ascertain its length, width and extent. The measure by which this is done is a thing of unvarying value, a foot, or an ell, or a metre, or a yard, is not longer or shorter at one time than another; it neither contracts nor expands, and it is this quality of being always of the same determinable length that gives it its value as a common measure. If a chest of tea has to be sold the operation is a different one; here we must be guided by weight, and that weight consists of a certain positive and unchanging quantity. It is never more or less at one time than another, but is always the same. Besides superficies and weight, either of which may without the other, attach to exchangeable commodities, all objects of commerce have another property—value—which requires an instrument by which it can be measured. That instru-

ment is money. All civilized nations for reasons which they have regarded as sufficient, have unanimously agreed in making one or both of the precious metals, gold and silver, a common measure of all other values. Not that a pound of silver or an ounce of gold will at all times, and in all places, measure or exchange for an equal quantity of flour, cloth, iron, or any other commodity; but either of them would be a perfect measure as nearly as possible, of all kinds of commodities at the same time and place. The variation here indicated does not take place in the measure of value, but in the value itself. Gold and silver have not always been absolutely unchangeable in value, but any deviation they may have undergone in this respect has extended over so great a length of time that it has produced no practical inconvenience. This quality of being but little liable to variation in value is perhaps the strongest of all those which have combined to compel the general assent of mankind to their adoption as a measure of value. They have other qualities which have had a share in recommending them. They have cost much labor to produce them; they are useful in the arts and are nearly indestructible. You may submit them to fire, bury them in the earth, let them lie for ages in the water, subject them to acids that would destroy ball metal, and they will neither be diminished in quantity nor deteriorated in quality. Compared with almost anything else that could be adopted as a measure of value, they are free from cumbrousness, being compact and easily handled.

All experience shows that with our present knowledge, and in the existing state of human society, a wise selection was made when, by common consent, the precious metals were converted into an instrument for measuring the value of all other commodities. There have been times of crisis, of peril, of danger to national existence, of mad and visionary speculation, when nations have attempted to supersede the precious metals by the substitution of printed bits of paper, promising to pay on demand, what the issuers notoriously did not possess. The result has always been disastrous. Of the governments which have so issued their promises, there is not one, Sismondi tells us, "which has not sacrificed to the wants of the moment the security of the future, and the justice which it owed to its own subjects; not one which has not multiplied its paper to three, often ten, and even twenty times the nominal value of its specie." In 1805, Spain had in circulation under the name of *reales*—reales, one hundred and twenty millions of paper dollars, which were at a discount of 58 per cent; and afterwards, the discount rose as