

justified by the then undeveloped condition of the commerce in question.

Bliss gives the following figures in connection with the trade of Upper Canada down the St. Lawrence :

	1830	1831.
Ashes—barrels	9,745	10,482
Wheat—bushels	92,584	85,026
Beef—barrels	1,936	1,020
Pork "	10,935	12,643
Tobacco leaf, hhds.....	385	406
" manufactured, kegs..	364	185
Hides, number.....	13,583	14,676

In a report of the Provincial Parliament of Upper Canada, the whole exports from that province down the St. Lawrence, in 1831, are estimated as equal to 40,000 barrels of 220 pounds each, and the imports upwards as 10,000 tons of merchandise. In 1830 the imports upwards appear to have been above 8,000 tons, and the whole trade downwards to have been equal to 316,000 barrels, being about double that of the year 1826.

The navigation connected with this commerce is given as :

	1830.	1831.
Boats	534	464
Batteaux	696	971

A subsequent enquiry by the Parliament of Lower Canada gives the quantity of merchandise carried on the St. Lawrence from Montreal upwards, in 1832, at 20,000 tons, and the produce brought down not less than 66,000. The fleet consisted of upwards of 600 Durham boats and 1,200 batteaux.

The transport of agricultural produce through the canal from Burlington Bay into Lake Ontario, during the six months ending with December, 1831, is given as the following :

Pork	223 barrels.
Flour	4,072 "
Wheat	22,468 bushels.

And the trade between Lakes Erie and Ontario, in 1831, by the Welland Canal is put at :

	Welland Canal.	Queenston Portage.	Total.
Ashes (barrels)	2,800	650	3,250
Boards, feet	985,888	2,000	987,888
Flour, barrels	30,081	11,035	41,116
Pork "	8,600	4,139	12,739
Staves, number ..	137,718	.....	137,718
Tobacco, hhds....	.....	300	300
" casks .....	.....	412	412
" kgs .....	.....	196	105,301
Timber, feet	28,500	.....	28,500
" pieces	4,187	.....	4,187
Wheat, bushels....	210,101	65,000	275,101
Whiskey, barrels..	1,795	.....	1,795

Between Ontario and Erie, in 1831, the following are given :—

	Welland Canal.	Queenston Portage.	Total.
Merchandise, cwts.	14,734	9,000	3,734
Salt (barrels)	14,182	.....	14,182

In 1831, the year in which the canal was opened, the trade was ten-fold greater than in 1829. The business on the canal is stated to have been, in 1832, four-fold more than in 1831. Almost all of the above enumerated produce downward was of colonial origin.

"Sloops and schooners, decked and open boats and steam vessels, to a very considerable amount of tonnage, are employed in the inland navigation of the other parts of great rivers of Canada, and the numerous tributaries and the secondary rivers of the Province of New Brunswick." The statement is made that any attempt towards giving even an approach to an enumeration of the trade on the latter would be vain.

The steamers employed in the trade are referred to with regard to velocity, convenience and dimension as being "inferior to none in any country."

They varied in size from 100 to 1,500 tons and in power from 20 to that of 250 horse.

The whole were built since 1810.

There is an account of the number, tonnage, and power of steam boats employed on the waters of the northern colonies. It is as follows :—

	No.	Estimate Tonnage.	Estimate H. Power
Lake Erie	3	600	90
Ontario	9	2,700	810
Simcoe	1	150	30
Rice	2	300	60
St. Francis	3	600	150
St. Louis.....	5	1,000	250
River Ottawa.....	6	600	180
St. Lawrence.....	17	8,500	2,040
St. John	3	450	90
Gulf St. Lawrence....	3	1,200	225
Bay Fundy	2	400	100
Halifax Harbor	1	100	20
	55	16,600	4,005

The authority already quoted says :—

"It is by the Welland Canal undoubtedly that the productions of the vast interior of Canada and the Western States of America will, in future, find their easiest, shortest and cheapest channel to the sea." And again : "The immense extent of coast along the upper lakes—Erie, St. Clair, Huron, Michigan and Superior—and the rivers which fall into them, would naturally be sufficient to make a prodigious increase of intercourse and wealth in this quarter, but this increase will be augmented and accelerated beyond all example by the enterprise and industry of the Americans, who are including the navigable communication of these waters into the great valley of the Mississippi by the canals between the Illinois and Lake Michigan, the Ohio and Lake Erie, the former of which is far advanced and the latter near completion."

"By these," says Bliss, "tobacco, corn and provisions, and even cotton, to the amount of several millions of money will be yearly put afloat on Lake Erie."

MAXIME MARITIME.

JUSTIFIABLE LENIENCY.

The record during these autumn days is happily free from any but minor failures. This may be accounted for in the fact that wholesalers are disposed to give their customers every chance to take advantage of the benefit accruing from the movement of crops. If there is one period of the year more than another when the country store-keeper is likely to be found in funds it is in the fall, when the farmer makes a full or partial liquidation of his account. Whole salers know this and consult their own as well as the interests of customers in being lenient in the matter of maturing or overdue bills.

THE ARMY BILL ACT OF 1812.

One of the most interesting parts of our history is, as the preface to Mr. Stevenson's brochure says, that which relates to the war of 1812. It might have been added that it is one about which not much is generally known. At that time the efforts of the militia and the monetary sources of Canada were taxed to

the utmost. It is the object of the present work* to show how the exigencies of the army were provided for, under circumstances peculiarly trying, by the establishment of a Government Bank of Issue.

The Americans declared war in June, 1812, and on the 30th of that month Sir George Prevost required by proclamation all American citizens to leave the province of Lower Canada. On July 22nd, Sir Isaac Brock issued his proclamation as Governor of Upper Canada. The country was but poorly prepared for war. "To man the fortresses of Quebec and Kingston, and to cover a frontier of 1,700 miles in length, the whole available force consisted of 4,450 regulars of all arms. In the upper province there were about 1,450 soldiers. The militia consisted of about 2,000 men in the lower and 1,800 in the upper province. The total population of Upper Canada at this time was under 100,000, while that of the lower province did not exceed 300,000."

It was determined by the Parliament of Lower Canada, assembled in July, that an issue of army bills should be made to provide for the expenses of the conflict, and the Governor was authorized to issue such bills from "the Army Bill Office" to the extent of £250,000 currency, which at four dollars to the pound, was equal to a million dollars. These army bills of \$25 and upwards bore interest at the rate of four pence per cent. per day. The principal of the \$25 or larger bills was payable (at the option of the Governor) in cash or in exchange on London, thirty days sight; the interest in cash or in army bills at the option of the holder. The \$4 army bills bore no interest and were payable in cash to the bearer on demand. Other provisions of the Act concerned the rate of exchange, and made the interest on these army bills a preferential charge upon the Customs, taxes, or other revenues of the Province. It also laid down that these bills should be "current in the revenue" and "in the hands of the Receiver-General shall be deemed as cash." James Green, Esquire, was appointed director, and Louis Montizambert, Esquire, cashier of the Army Bill Office, with office in the Court House, whence was made the first issue in denominations of \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$400, signed by the Commander of the Forces, the Director and the Military Secretary.

At this time the currency of Canada consisted, in the absence of a colonial coinage, of the gold and silver coins of several nations. Spanish, Portuguese, French and German coins circulated, as well as English, and values had been placed upon them by a statute of 1795 "to prevent the diminution of specie circulating," as follows :—

NAMES OF COINS.	Weighing. Dwts. Grs.	Canada Currency.
The British guinea	5 6	1 3 4
The Johannes of Portugal.....	18	4 6 0
The Moldore of Portugal	6 18	1 10 0
The Four Pistole Piece of Spain ..	17	3 14 0
The French Louis d'or coined before 1793	5 4	0 18 0
The American Eagle.....	11 c	2 10 0

With regard to silver, the American dollar shall pass current at five shillings currency, and every other coin current in the Province as already provided for, viz.:

	Canada Currency.
The Spanish dollar at.....	50 5 6
The British Crown.....	0 5 6
The French Crown or piece of 6 livres Tournois	0 5 6
The French piece of 4 livres, 10 sols	0 4 2
The British shilling	20 1 1
The French piece of 24 sols 1 tournois	0 1 1
The French piece of 33 sols 1 tournois.....	0 1 1

* The War of 1812, in connection with the Army Bill Act, by James Stevenson, General Manager of the Quebec Bank. Montreal: W. Foster Brown & Co., publishers, 1892.