

sia are very similar to those of Canada, and this should give to our manufacturers an inducement to look into the prospects of trade with that country.

BANKING RETURN.

We give below a condensation of the figures of the statement of Canadian banks for the month of September. It is compared with the bank statement for the previous month, and shows capital, reserve, assets and liabilities, average holdings of specie and Dominion notes, &c.

CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

LIABILITIES.		Sept., 1897.	Aug., 1897.
Capital authorized.....		\$73,258,684	\$73,258,684
Capital paid up.....		62,279,925	61,959,547
Reserve Funds.....		27,233,999	27,070,799
Notes in circulation.....		\$38,616,211	\$34,454,386
Deposits.....		6,716,316	6,637,438
Public deposits on demand.....		76,137,117	74,949,375
Public deposits after notice.....		135,682,927	135,068,821
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured.....		80,000	100,000
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.....		3,304,066	3,858,637
Due other banks in Canada in daily balances.....		143,696	126,619
Due other banks in foreign countries..		279,397	360,692
Due other banks in Great Britain.....		2,031,777	2,116,546
Other liabilities.....		456,158	359,491
Total liabilities.....		\$263,446,774	\$258,032,070
ASSETS.			
Specie.....		\$8,750,689	\$8,724,780
Dominion notes.....		17,586,188	17,613,363
Deposits to secure note circulation....		1,779,454	1,880,678
Notes and cheques of other banks.....		9,093,759	7,909,618
Loans to other banks secured.....		28,500	29,677
Deposits made with other banks.....		4,094,247	4,598,522
Due from other banks in foreign countries.....		27,939,204	27,913,770
Due from other banks in Great Britain..		12,462,134	12,249,663
Dominion Govt. debentures or stock		2,767,379	2,767,379
Other securities.....		27,802,361	27,356,818
Call loans on bonds and stock.....		17,314,047	16,606,104
Current loans and discounts.....		\$.....	\$127,750,372
Loans to Dominion and Provincial Governments.....		206,779,863	202,457,187
Due from other banks in Canada in daily exchanges.....		1,353,197	1,297,002
Overdue debts.....		172,376	165,951
Real estate.....		3,622,730	3,636,793
Mortgages on real estate sold.....		2,062,722	2,047,917
Bank premises.....		567,829	564,170
Other assets.....		5,677,406	5,641,285
		2,420,619	2,345,074
Total assets.....		\$352,274,880	\$345,805,354
Average amount of specie held during the month.....		8,743,943	9,492,800
Average Dominion notes held during the month.....		17,462,464	16,586,384
Greatest amount notes in circulation during month.....		39,077,427	34,928,862
Loans to directors or their firms.....		6,897,049	6,678,798

One striking point in this return is the advance of circulation in September by more than four millions over that of August. The greatest aggregate of circulation reached during last month was \$39,077,000, which is about six millions more than the like September figure of either of two previous years. Deposits continue to increase, the handsome total of \$211,820,000 being now reached. When commenting a month ago on the August return, we noticed the fact, that while business was generally good and grain moving freely at improved prices, the current loans and discounts were \$2,000,000 less than in the previous month, and \$5,000,000 less than in the previous August, and said "it may be that the September return will show the improvement." Accordingly, the September return does show a marked increase in current loans and discounts, namely, from \$202,400,000 to \$206,700,000. The totals of assets and liabilities are swelled by five or six millions each.

WITHOUT THE FARMERS' ASSISTANCE.

There is always a strong element among the farming classes ready to complain when merchants make a profit in handling farm produce or grain. Such organizations as the Patrons of Industry, the Grangers, and others of similar nature, have been brought into existence mainly through the idea that the merchants were becoming rich at the expense of the farmers. There is little evidence to support the contention that middle men in Canada have amassed fortunes in handling agricultural products, but in the instances where money has been made in this way it will usually be found to be the reward of a risk undertaken. Some one has been bold enough to break away from the beaten paths of trade, over-crowded with competitors, and risk his money in a new venture. If he should be successful, the first to begrudge him his gains are the men who refused to attempt the undertaking or to assist in it.

Numerous movements are now on foot to erect cold storage warehouses at different centres of the produce trade. The benefit of storage facilities must go primarily to the farmers, and yet they are unwilling to undertake any responsibility in connection with the establishment of a cold storage system. Recently a number of Halifax merchants in attempting to float a joint stock enterprise, to build premises having facilities suitable for the storage of fruit and produce, appointed provisional directors, who sent a prospectus and blank applications for stock to all the leading farmers of the Province of Nova Scotia. Not only did they not receive one subscription from the farmers; but they were not even treated with the courtesy of a reply from any of them. So far as Canada is concerned, the establishment of cold storage warehouses and shipping facilities is pioneer work. It is destined to become an enormous branch of industry, and when the initial difficulties are overcome must prove a source of considerable profit. The farmers will then be the first to complain that the owners of these facilities are making enormous profits out of the products of the farm.

BANK CLERKS AND OTHER CLERKS.

The arrest and trial before a magistrate of a young man, one of the staff, charged with being concerned in the robbery of the Napanee branch of the Dominion Bank, and his discharge by the magistrate after an examination lasting several days, have caused no little excitement and plentiful comment during the past week. Some of the comments made in print have been merely indiscreet, others are in our view positively harmful, tending as they do to encourage laxity in official relations, and to produce a wrongful estimate of the habits and duties of a young man of business.

Passing by the questions whether the evidence was sufficient to warrant the young man's arrest, whether he was properly or improperly dismissed from the service of the bank, there can be but one opinion in rightly constituted minds as to the unseemliness of the demonstrations made, both in Napanee and Belleville, it is said, in glorification of the clerk on his discharge.

Few, we should think, will be found to defend the playing of poker by members of the staff in a bank office, and the opening of the safe, late at night, to get coppers to serve as counters in the game. We have heard card-playing in a bank excused upon the plea that it tends to keep the youngsters of the staff away from worse places; and we are reminded it is often lonely for lads or young men in branches of banks in small towns away from their homes and relatives. We also know that their rooms at boarding