Meantime progress has been equally evident in other directions and may be briefly summarised. The number of Post Offices in the Dominion increased, between 1868 and 1898, by fifty-six hundred; the number of letters, under constantly decreasing rates, rose from eighteen millions to one hundred and thirty-five millions and the newspapers in an equal proportion; the tonnage of Canadian shipping rose by four millions and the number of the vessels by six thousand; the imports doubled and the exports trebled in value; the balance in the Post Office savings banks increased from a few thousands to thirty-four millions of dollars, and the assets of the chartered banks rose from seventy-seven to three hundred and sixty-five millions. By the Census of 1891 there were 28,537,000 acres of land under cultivation. The net Public Debt—mainly expended upon railways, canals and other public improvements—rose from $75,757,135 in 1868 to $263,956,399 in 1898. During the same period the revenues of the Dominion increased from thirteen to forty millions. Meanwhile the Provincial debts had risen from nothing to thirty millions * and the Provincial revenues from five to twelve millions. One of the most striking features in this summary is that relating to banking. Through an exceedingly flexible bank-note system and the main-

* The Provincial indebtedness has, with some exceptions, been incurred in opening up new country and backwood regions by means of roads, bridges, railways, etc.