

claim is secured by the personal guarantee of a wealthy director, on whom the loss will fall. Doubtless the creditors of the bank will rejoice at this decision of the Privy Council.

TARIFF LEGISLATION AT WASHINGTON.

The tariff amendment bill reported by the Committee of Ways and Means will meet strong opposition from interested parties. Of the \$20,000,000 reduction which it would effect, about one half would come from sugar, and \$5,000,000 from raw materials. The sugar interest of Louisiana will, of course, be up in arms; but it is not very strong, unless by combination, and its condition under the present tariff is not promising. The sugar producers have not so many friends as some other protected interests, and they would be sacrificed when another might be saved. In the actual condition of sugar production, the United States cannot profitably be made a sugar producing country. Louisiana, compared with other sugar countries, has been losing ground under the present tariff, and her sugar interest is opposed to that of the great body of consumers.

Against the reduction of duties on raw materials, the great body of the protectionists have no interest in kicking. On the contrary, it is the most natural and a perfectly legitimate way of encouraging manufactures. The opposition, in this case, will come from the farmers, whom it is impossible for the most part to protect. "Among the principal classes of articles exempted from duty," says the *New York Times*, "is that of undressed wood and lumber, for taxing which there is no more excuse than for the taxation of air and water, since it raises the cost of what we absolutely need, and of that of which our supply, rapidly diminishing, is already notoriously insufficient for the demands sure to be made upon it." Another class embraces the ores of iron, copper and lead. Ores for making Bessemer steel have to be imported; and the best way of enabling the makers of that kind of steel to compete with outsiders, would be to admit the necessary ore free of duty. In return for this advantage, they might, as proposed, part with some share of the excessive protection they now enjoy. But to a reduction from \$17 to \$12.50 a ton they will strenuously object. They pretend that, even at present, there is little or no money in the business. It cannot be denied, however, that the high tariff has produced some millionaires among the iron men of Pennsylvania, and that the consumer has supplied the means. Those who oppose the opening of the ports to iron ore allege, by way of prophesy, that the right kind of ore will yet be found in abundance in the States; to which the all-sufficient answer is that it has not yet been so found. The salt tax is naturally objected to by consumers, and it is an obstacle in the way of the pork-growers and curers, who form a much greater interest in the Republic.

If the farmers understood their own interest, they would know that free salt would be, for them, a substantial benefit. The proposed abolition of duties on farm

produce will meet their opposition. The protection offered to the farmer is, to a great extent, delusive. Unlike the manufacturer, he produces largely for a foreign market, where he must meet the competition of the world. There he cannot be protected. The protected manufacturer practically confines himself to the home market; he cannot induce foreigners to give any thing like the prices which he exacts from the home consumer. The farmer is deluded when he is made to believe that he is rowing in the same boat with the protected manufacturer; the delusion is useful to the manufacturer, if it induces the farmer to support a high tariff "all round," but to the farmer it is difficult to see the benefit.

TRADE WITH FRANCE.

We have an enquiry from Paris, as to the prospect of an extended trade with France in watches, clocks, jewellery, precious stones, bronzes and opticians' goods. (*Bijouterie, Orfèvrerie, Horlogerie, Diamants, Bronzes, Optique.*) "What duties such merchandise pays, on what terms they are bought and such other information as may enable Parisian exporters in this line to judge what description of their products can be absorbed by this market."

In reply we have to say that French clocks, of a good class, already come to the Canadian market and that more might be sold of a cheaper grade. As to watches, those of American make are preferred here; those of French production have not, thus far, commended themselves generally. French jewellery is not extensively dealt in in Canada; the styles are not in favor and they are besides too expensive as a rule. Cheap bronzes sell well, as do opticians' goods; and it would be possible to dispose of an increased quantity. Jewellery, (which is interpreted to mean articles of personal adornment, such as gold and silver work of all kinds, plated and solid, bracelets, brooches, ear-rings, finger-rings, chains &c., watches and clocks excluded), pay 20 per cent. duty; watch movements, 20 per cent.; watches and watch-cases, 25 per cent.; clocks of all kinds, 35 per cent. Terms are cash on receipt of goods if brought direct from the manufacturer by the Canadian jobber. But the larger proportion of such merchandise is bought through some commission house, which gives from four to six months' credit upon them and charges say 5 per cent. commission.

—The problem that presents itself to many grocers in manufacturing towns and cities is how bad debts—debts incurred by honestly intending laborers—can be prevented. The *New England Grocer*, has been considering the question. It concludes that the mechanic is a good customer while he is employed, but almost necessarily spends as he goes—never having a margin left for a rainy day. The shop shuts down, his wages stop, and what shall the grocer do? Shall he sell him goods on credit knowing that, even should he obtain work again it would be impossible for him to "catch up again?" Or shall he refuse to sell him on credit and thus incur his lasting enmity? It's a hard problem.

BANKING REVIEW

The figures of the Canadian bank statement for January last will be found in condensed form below, and are compared with those for the previous month. The statement bears date, Ottawa, 16th February:

CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

LIABILITIES.		Jan., 1886.	Dec. 1885.
Capital authorized..	\$81,479,666	\$ 74,179,999	
Capital paid up....	62,139,651	61,763,279	
Reserve Funds....	17,795,766	17,803,766	
Notes in Circulation	29,845,735	32,363,993	
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits....	8,282,241	8,666,285	
Deposits held to secure Government contracts & for Insurance Companies.....	773,915	736,534	
Public deposits on demand.....	49,174,508	52,119,200	
Public deposits after notice.....	50,649,263	49,748,931	
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured....			
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.	763,537	1,246,377	
Due other banks in Canada.....	1,745,932	1,645,317	
Due other banks in Foreign Countries	8,995	112,512	
Due other banks in Great Britain...	645,361	472,895	
Other liabilities....	262,259	328,207	
Total liabilities..	\$142,232,706	\$147,410,253	
ASSETS.		Jan., 1886.	Dec. 1885.
Specie.....	\$ 6,772,958	\$ 6,710,059	
Dominion notes....	12,655,637	12,446,829	
Notes and cheques of other banks..	4,622,776	7,869,777	
Due from other banks in Canada.	2,998,101	3,204,024	
Due from other banks in foreign countries.....	17,955,926	16,098,643	
Due from other banks in Great Britain.....	3,177,675	3,936,556	
Immediately available assets.....	\$ 48,183,073	\$ 50,265,882	
Dominion Government debentures or stock.....	4,292,359	4,317,070	
Public securities other than Canadian.....	3,440,984	3,351,106	
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Gov....	1,876,914	2,466,833	
Loans on stocks, bonds or debentures...	12,034,170	12,556,051	
Loans to municipal corporations....	1,613,811	1,578,398	
Loans to other corporations.....	12,864,536	14,070,832	
Loans to or deposits made in other banks secured....	122,198	172,198	
Loans to or deposits made in other banks unsecured..	428,039	679,543	
Discounts current..	125,272,703	125,493,661	
Overdue paper unsecured.....	1,547,324	1,545,859	
Other overdue debts unsecured.....	93,160	98,688	
Notes and debts overdue secured...	2,083,100	2,022,279	
Real estate.....	1,431,850	1,379,821	
Mortgages on real estate sold.....	645,811	661,118	
Bank premises....	3,289,630	3,317,860	
Other assets.....	3,685,890	3,886,342	
Total assets.....	\$222,905,552	227,863,547	
Average amount of specie held during the month.....	6,753,938	6,768,901	
Av. Dom. notes do..	12,448,912	12,419,569	
Loans to Directors or their firms....	6,739,300	7,205,249	