

that it would not be bound by the decision. A future Labor Congress in which representation will be according to numbers, is not unlikely to reverse the decision in favor of an eight hours law. Meanwhile, it may be taken for granted that no such law has the remotest chance of obtaining the sanction of Parliament.

BANKING REVIEW.

The figures of the Canadian bank statement for August last will be found in condensed form below, and are compared with those of the previous month. The statement bears date Ottawa, 18th September.

CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

LIABILITIES.		August, 1890.	July, 1890.
Capital authorized..	\$	76,008,665	\$76,008,666
Capital paid up....		59,881,243	59,634,914
Reserve Funds		21,499,034	21,134,035
Notes in circulation		32,718,363	31,167,628
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits....		6,237,811	6,491,102
Deposits held to secure Government contracts & for insurance companies		140,211	150,812
Public deposits on demand.....		53,874,953	54,630,576
Public deposits after notice.....		77,077,061	76,635,176
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured...		254,000	244,386
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.		1,591,102	1,937,593
Due other banks in Canada		743,292	675,686
Due other banks in foreign countries		100,544	109,321
Due other banks in Great Britain...		1,601,776	1,696,783
Other liabilities....		141,067	196,289
Total liabilities..	\$	174,480,184	\$173,935,855
ASSETS.		August, 1890.	July, 1890.
Specie	\$	6,202,575	\$ 6,375,880
Dominion notes....		9,558,037	9,610,147
Notes and cheques of other banks..		5,853,176	5,980,498
Due from other banks in Canada.		2,912,850	2,978,975
Due from other banks in foreign countries		12,868,709	12,069,930
Due from other banks in Great Britain.....		2,450,409	2,412,184
Immediately available assets.....	\$	39,645,756	\$ 39,427,614
Dominion Government debentures or stock.....		2,556,758	2,556,759
Public securities other than Canadian.....		5,943,869	5,939,927
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Govts..		1,552,614	1,632,521
Loans on stocks, bonds, or debent..		15,269,507	13,414,475
Loans to municipal corporations		3,398,367	3,938,458
Loans to other corporations		24,806,323	25,278,225
Loans to or deposits made in other banks secured....		163,801	433,577
Loans to or deposits made in other banks unsecured..		405,213	335,213
Discounts current..		151,234,334	150,820,722
Overdue paper unsecured.....		1,141,769	1,086,674
Other overdue debts unsecured.....		83,080	73,105
Notes and debts overdue secured...		1,329,888	1,426,593

Real estate.....	1,042,885	1,051,847
Mortgages on real estate sold	706,835	708,142
Bank premises....	4,063,799	4,054,653
Other assets	2,739,646	2,473,428
Total assets.....	\$256,084,446	\$254,648,943
Average amount of specie held during the month	6,513,548	6,211,860
Av. Dom. notes do..	9,414,214	9,442,074
Loans to directors or their firms....	7,232,469	7,233,402

At this date of writing, although the Banking Return can only be given to the 31st August, we can form a pretty accurate estimate of the entire outcome of the whole production of the Dominion in its various departments and localities. The grain crop of Ontario does not now bulk so largely in the total of our productions as formerly, but it is still of first-rate importance. It is with great satisfaction it can be noted that grain in Ontario, as a whole, has turned out well, and is likely to be disposed of at satisfactory prices. Barley is being hurried across the frontier as rapidly as cars and shipping can take it, in view of the high impost of the McKinley Bill, and doubtless so much of the crop will be landed securely in the United States before the high duty comes on, that a fair general average price will be realized for the whole. Present prices in Ontario are unexpectedly high. Our crop of wheat will almost certainly be realized on at a good price. All the indications are that the crop of the world will be under an average, with the result that prices will be maintained at a higher level than has been customary for several years back. Our cheese and dairy products will undoubtedly yield more than an average. Of cheese a far greater quantity has been shipped this year than last, and the price has been steadily advancing, so that now it is on a highly remunerative level. Butter too is maintaining a good price; though it does seem as if we must despair of ever producing butter good enough to export in quantity. Nothing strikes a visitor to Europe more than the very superior quality of the butter placed upon the table as compared with that in general use on this continent. A middle class hotel in England or France would be ashamed to put before its guests such butter as is in regular use in the highest class of hotels in the United States and Canada. Such butter, however, as is produced here the farmers are getting a good price for. But with a little more care they could get double the money that they do; for that is just the difference between poor qualities and good.

The results of the Manitoba harvest have been dilated upon almost *ad nauseam*, but we may just say that a summary of the whole position will lead to the expectation that the value of all that the country produces will be about three times as much as it was last year. A highly satisfactory result in spite of all the drawbacks that have been suffered. In Manitoba, as in Ontario, the dairy interest is looming up into increasing importance, and will doubtless do so more and more in the future, as the country is admirably adapted for cattle. So much for the products of the farm and the field.

It would be well if we could speak as favorably of the products of the forest. This however cannot be done. There has been very great disappointment with the results of timber and lumber sent to the English market. It was fully expected that continued good trade in England and prosperity of business would lead to a continuous good demand for our timber and deals, and that they would bring good prices. But this has not been the case. A heavy decline in shipbuilding on the Clyde caused an accumulation of stocks at that port, and a steady fall in prices. Every timber-producing country in the world was pouring in supplies to England at the same time that Canada was, with the result that the market became overloaded. Heavy losses have been suffered by holders, and large quantities of timber that were manufactured last winter will not be exported at all this season, reducing by so much the financial outcome of our forests for the present year. The sawed lumber trade for the American market has fared much better, and returns will be about the average. Taking into account the results of our labors in the departments of mines, fisheries, shipping and manufactures, it is safe to say that our total product of every description during the current year will be considerably larger in monetary value than that of last year. All which will give a good foundation for the business of the year to come. But there must certainly be a heavy diminution in the production of timber, and doubtless matters in the Ottawa Valley will in consequence not be so brisk as usual. There are indications that the senseless competition among dry goods importers is diminishing and that reasonable profits will be made in this important branch of our trade, as well as by most of the other wholesale interests.

The bearing of the foregoing remarks upon banking is obvious. There is already an increase of circulation over last year. The advantage of our system of bank circulation over that of our neighbors will be demonstrated as the season goes on in the ease with which large masses of produce will be moved to market. Instead of financial derangement, monetary spasms, restrictions of discounts and high rates, we shall have the ordinary business of banking moving on, and merchants obtaining their supplies as usual. The present return shows a slight decrease in deposits as compared with last month, but an increase of nearly two millions and a half as compared with the corresponding period last year. If our forecast of the year's productions proves correct, we may see a considerable expansion in our bank deposits. Loans and discounts have increased nearly three-quarters of a million during the month, and nine millions and a half over the corresponding period last year. The last figures are rather serious. They indicate a considerable amount of carrying over, and of extending favors to weak firms. The result of a good year's business ought to be shown in a reduction in this heavy line, which is more than the country can carry with safety and profit. Foregoing and appended are the usual summaries and comparisons of the banking position.