

Japan, charged with crime, will be tried in the native courts. Other countries are expected to follow the example of Great Britain, and Japan will henceforth enjoy the full privileges of a civilized country. Some commercial advantages are gained by the treaty; instead of the trade of Great Britain being confined to a few specified ports, it will be free to enter the ports of Japan generally. The duties on British goods are not lowered, but somewhat increased by the new treaty, but they are put at a more moderate figure than in almost any other country.

At this distance, and without fuller details, it is not easy to understand the exact meaning of the result of the Victorian election. One result is that the Patterson Government has resigned. They appealed to the electors as moderate tariff men, willing to retain protection, but bound to reduce the high tariff. The leader of the Opposition, now called upon to form a Government, had taken the ground that great caution should be observed in reducing the tariff. The Free Traders, pure and simple, formed a third party, and only elected 14 members in a House which counts 95 members. Their defeat does not appear to be the defeat of either of the principal parties. Whether the leader of the Opposition in the late House meant that some reduction of the tariff was desirable, when he said that was a course in which to make haste slowly, may be a matter of inference. But what the electors have decided will be the rule for the new Government. As far as we can judge, with the present information, there is a majority in favor of reducing the high tariff of 1892, though we cannot pretend to be certain that this is the case. Defeat of the Free Trade party does not appear to be accompanied with a warrant in favor of high protection.

#### LIFE ASSURANCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

How great the extent of life assurance transactions are in the aggregate in the United States may be illustrated by a few figures. In that country last year fifty-one life assurance companies doing business wrote over a thousand millions of life indemnity, and the average amount of each policy was \$2,500. But three-quarters as much assurance (\$775,996,000) terminated in the same twelve months, nearly half of it by lapses. Thus:—

BUSINESS OF 1893 IN THE UNITED STATES.			
Business written.....	421,748 policies for		\$1,090,002,107
Termination by death ..	20,223 " "		59,395,844
" " maturity ..	4,808 " "		8,999,241
" " expiry ..	8,626 " "		27,372,317
" " change ..	2,401 " "		37,294,614
Total natural terminations, 36,058			\$133,062,016

Thus the natural terminations were 17 per cent. of the whole amount insured. The surrenders were \$118,842,507 under 37,678 policies, and the lapses formed the great aggregate of \$305,424,149, the number of policies being 126,107. Furthermore, we observe that the great proportion of 115,592 policies, representing \$224,627,000 of assurance, are put down as "not taken." What a flattering, deceptive, flash-in-the-pan sort of business is this that coaxes or bribes people into agreements they do not carry out? As the *Indicator* puts it, this makes the total chargeable mainly to hot-house forcing methods, 279,377 policies for \$648,894,360.

Comparing 1893 with 1892, it appears that the gain in insurance in force in the year was 148,029 policies for \$814,741,506, being about 29 per cent. of the new issues and nearly 8 per cent. of the amount in force at the beginning of the year. Industrial companies wrote 2,791,003 policies in the States for \$844,546,648; terminated 2,282,824, for \$259,575,912, and gained in the amount in force

630,880 policies for \$79,118,619, being about 23 per cent. of the new issues and 13 per cent. of the amount in force at the beginning of last year.

#### THE BANK STATEMENT.

We give below a condensation of the figures of the statement of Canadian banks for the month of August, which bears date Ottawa, 19th 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.	
	August, 1894.	July, 1894.
Capital authorized .....	\$ 75,458,685	\$ 75,458,685
Capital paid up.....	62,189,585	62,156,255
Reserve Funds.....	27,166,850	27,160,750
Notes in circulation .....	30,270,366	29,801,772
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits .....	5,928,143	6,470,573
Public deposits on demand .....	66,389,701	64,950,318
Public deposits after notice .....	109,998,432	111,633,147
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured .....	64,283	89,268
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.....	2,587,234	2,705,296
Due other banks in Canada in daily balances .....	184,251	112,521
Due other banks in foreign countries..	96,806	127,751
Due other banks in Great Britain.....	5,163,386	5,562,778
Other liabilities .....	259,792	263,131
Total liabilities .....	\$220,942,480	\$221,716,648
ASSETS.		
Specie.....	\$ 7,968,955	\$ 7,779,735
Dominion notes.....	15,836,019	15,690,145
Deposits to secure note circulation....	1,823,153	1,821,268
Notes and cheques of other banks.....	6,053,369	6,776,646
Loans to other banks secured.....	53,664	76,557
Deposits made with other banks.....	3,310,476	3,339,382
Due from other banks in foreign countries.....	19,904,605	17,251,515
Due from other banks in Great Britain..	3,539,880	3,713,057
Dominion Government debentures or stock .....	3,133,480	3,133,230
Other securities.....	18,919,547	19,283,107
Call loans on bonds and stock.....	15,282,727	14,677,518
	\$ 95,825,874	\$ 94,542,160
Loans to Dominion and Provincial Governments .....	402,969	190,456
Current loans and discounts.....	199,908,340	202,720,760
Due from other banks in Canada in daily exchanges.....	185,299	102,332
Overdue debts.....	3,121,927	3,016,800
Real estate.....	934,671	942,359
Mortgages on real estate sold.....	618,759	623,463
Bank premises.....	5,444,965	5,396,612
Other assets.....	1,642,628	1,570,586
Total assets.....	\$308,085,634	\$308,105,729
Average amount of specie held during the month.....	7,832,980	8,021,844
Average Dominion notes held during the month.....	15,500,434	14,005,096
Greatest amount notes in circulation during month.....	31,088,197	30,913,384
Loans to directors or their firms.....	7,973,633	8,104,682

There is no striking change in the liabilities side of this statement. Circulation had begun to show a trifling increase in August, but will this month and for several months be swollen to greater figures in the natural course of things. There is virtually no alteration in the aggregate of public deposits in the banks, which remains at \$176,400,000; demand deposits are increased about a million and a half, and deposits at notice are lessened by about the same amount. The sums due by our banks in the States and Great Britain are smaller than in the previous month.

Among assets, several items indicate diminished volume of business; notes and cheques of other banks, for instance, are less in amount. The shrinkage of current loans and discounts in Canada from \$202,720,000 to \$199,908,000 is just about offset by the increase of \$2,650,000 in balances due from the United States, indicating that this much