

had denied them on oath. He admitted that he had been concerned in arranging certain partnership concerns for the contractors, for which he was paid travelling expenses, extending perhaps in six years to \$1,200, but that he had received no profits from the contract, nor had had any interest therein, and had never been a medium of communication between the contractors and the Government; moreover he was not aware that the contractors had contributed anything for election expenses. Sir John Thompson opposed the motion for enquiry on the ground that the charge related to an offence against the Independence of Parliament Act, involving forfeitures and fines which could be sued for, but that the penalty of forfeiture of seat ceased to be operative with the expiration of the Parliament during which the offence was committed, and that the present was the fourth Parliament since that date. It was twelve years since the alleged offence was committed, and there must be some limit to the time within which enquiry could be entered on. Liability to forfeiture of a seat in a previous Parliament had not previously been held as a bar against re-election, the case of Mr. Vail being in point. Mr. Laurier, Mr. Mills, and Sir Richard Cartwright agreed in favor of enquiry. Finally Mr. Lister's motion was rejected, on an amendment to proceed to the orders of the day, the division having a strictly party complexion, majority 24.

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.

	Aug. 1891.	July, 1891.
LIABILITIES.		
Capital authorized..	\$75,258,665	\$75,258,665
Capital paid up....	60,939,481	60,875,834
Reserve Funds	23,155,988	23,068,184
Notes in circulation	32,012,196	30,579,968
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits....	6,889,260	5,755,032
Public deposits on demand.....	58,553,420	58,996,896
Public deposits after notice.....	85,531,209	84,568,962
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured...	185,000	189,000
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.	2,591,698	2,516,157
Due other banks in Canada in daily balances	399,590	531,034
Due other banks in foreign countries	84,885	222,360
Due other banks in Great Britain...	2,227,946	2,912,774
Other liabilities....	288,924	310,455
Total liabilities..	\$188,764,213	\$186,582,729
ASSETS.		
Specie	\$ 6,455,536	\$ 6,321,846
Dominion notes....	10,742,885	10,805,960
Deposits to secure note circulation..	843,075	842,904
Notes and cheques of other banks..	7,065,222	6,237,880
Due from other banks in Canada in daily exchanges	507,255	1,757,464
Deposits made with other banks	2,854,304	2,437,660

Due from other banks in foreign countries	17,440,197	16,722,340
Due from other banks in Great Britain.....	3,875,418	2,635,593
Dominion Government debentures or stock.....	2,594,788	2,493,774
Other securities....	10,057,910	10,050,930
Call loans on bonds and stocks	11,640,809	10,660,906
	\$74,077,39 9	\$70,967,257
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Govts..	1,564,866	1,828,094
Current Loans and discounts	184,106,324	184,566,971
Loans to other banks secured	193,586	367,000
Overdue debts	2,953,151	2,808,271
Real estate.....	1,084,673	1,075,910
Mortgages on real estate sold	841,554	839,566
Bank premises....	4,372,888	4,325,878
Other assets	1,874,409	1,482,202
Total assets.....	\$271,069,033	\$268,261,328
Average amount of specie held during the month	6,330,690	6,391,322
Av. Dom. notes do..	10,687,367	10,548,041
Loans to directors or their firms....	5,692,191	5,943,958
Greatest amount notes in circulation during month	32,566,029	32,050,695

There is a very general expectation of an active business season this year; and certainly there is good ground for it. The whole of our business of every description finally rests upon what the ground produces, including of course the animals that are fed upon it, and the trees that grow in the forest. We can hardly add the fish in the sea to the category of what grows upon the ground; but the product of our waters has always an important bearing upon the total production of the country. And taking all these together, it is doubtful whether the country ever produced as much before as it has this year. So far as the crops of cereals are concerned, it is certain that the quantity was never as great. The quantity in other lines of production is no doubt equal to the average,—that is, let us say, dairy products, cattle, timber and lumber, and of such manufactures as are sent out of the country. With regard to the money value of this mass of products, it is pretty certain to be on a remunerative scale. Wheat is commanding nearly a dollar per bushel, barely nearly half a dollar, other grains are bringing good prices; cheese is above the average and eggs are selling well, forest productions are fair, so that on the whole it is almost certain that the total monetary return for all we have produced in 1891 will be the largest on record. All this tends to the conclusion at first enunciated, viz.,—that a very active year's business is in prospect.

We shall very soon see whether this is so or not. The first symptom of activity in business at this time of year is the increased volume of bank circulation. During the month of August circulation increased over \$1,400,000. This, however, is only an ordinary increase, in fact, it has not much to do with the marketing of the crops. There is never a great movement of circulation for the purchase of the crops until September; and with regard to the very large crop in Manitoba, it will be a

month later before any great quantity is forwarded to market.

The Banking Return of the 30th September ought to exhibit a material increase of circulation over the same period last year, and that for October a still larger increase. It is fortunate that our system of circulation enables the movement of crops to take place without a drain of money being required from other sources. In the United States the movement up to this time has been very heavy, in spite of the attempts of agitators to persuade farmers to keep their crops back. Farmers, it is plain, know their own interest better than the noisy speechifiers who make a living by organizing alliances and talking at conventions, but whose advice is generally put aside when the time for action comes. So it has been during the present year. The crops of the States are moving eastward with unprecedented rapidity, and a great scarcity of money is already beginning to be felt at some points. To judge by the figures of the present bank statement, it seems probable that Canada herself is assisting the United States with funds for this very purpose—a singular commentary on the "Jeremiads" of Mr. Wiman, and on the notions of ill-instructed people on the other side of the border who think of us as a poverty-stricken people.

Next, as a result of increased business, will come an addition to deposits. This, however, will be later on, but it is quite likely that before next spring there may be an increase of deposits to the extent of many millions. Yet these deposits, we venture to say, will not be idle in bankers' hands. Such a state of things always stimulates business enterprise and brings about new ventures in manufactures and commerce. Our commerce and manufactures, and our business generally, have evidently increased during the last ten years at a greater rate than our population, and in fact there is much room for increase of this kind. The activity or otherwise of business is fairly reflected by the volume of loans and discounts, and in this respect Canada is far behind her sister colonies of Australasia. The discounts of the banks there, in proportion to population, are more than three times as much as those of Canada. There is three times as much business done, man for man, in the southern colonies as in the northerly ones, a condition of things largely arising from the different circumstances of the two countries, and the increased rapidity with which a given amount of capital can be turned over in a gold-producing country, whose business goes on all the year round.

There is abundant opportunity, therefore, for the development of new enterprises and the increase of old ones. We have by no means reached the limit of our enterprises in mining and manufacturing. Our mining and shipping and railway and fishing industries admit of very much greater expansion. And with such years of heavy production as we are now experiencing this expansion can be provided for from the increase in our own capital. There was a time when it was necessary to go abroad to borrow for almost every considerable enterprise. Now our accumulations