

	Canadian inland Tonnage.	U. States Tonnage.	Total inland Tonnage.	Grand total inland and sea going Tonnage.
1877....	2,207,832	2,238,590	4,446,422	11,091,244
1887....	3,931,523	1,797,039	5,728,562	14,090,998
1895....	5,196,811	2,927,323	8,124,134	19,100,963
1896....	5,967,917	4,443,732	10,411,649	21,870,473
1897....	4,913,143	6,449,810	11,362,953	23,373,933

This latter table is a much more pleasant exhibit than the preceding one, as it shows an increase of Canadian inland shipping from 2,207,832 tons in 1877 to 4,913,143 in 1897 in native vessels visiting native ports. Had the increase been as great as those of American vessels, it would have been much more gratifying, but an examination of more elaborate tables than we can give in these columns shows that the increase in tonnage of Canadian vessels visiting Canadian ports has been going on steadily year by year, whereas the large increase of American tonnage in 1897 over previous years was only a sudden spurt, which we have reason to believe was not maintained. We now present another table which shows the tonnage of all the sea-going vessels entering and clearing Canadian ports in 1897, with the principal countries they came from and sailed for, distinguishing between those entered inwards and those outwards:

	British tonnage.	Canadian tonnage.	Foreign tonnage.	Total tonnage.
Gt. Britain, inwards...	1,793,240	79,247	220,352	2,092,839
" outwards...	1,821,848	98,549	338,611	2,259,006
N.foundland, inwards...	76,345	84,072	8,196	168,613
" outwards...	71,080	140,171	4,779	216,030
U. States, inwards....	442,494	600,350	1,781,469	2,824,313
" outwards...	322,576	579,471	1,735,306	2,637,353
West Indies, inwards...	38,142	45,023	28,383	111,548
" outwards...	37,121	41,379	13,333	91,833
Totals, inwards.....	2,807,340	914,319	2,369,774	6,091,433
" outwards.....	2,586,095	973,853	2,359,599	5,919,547
Grand total, in	5,393,435	1,888,172	4,729,373	12,010,983

Amongst British Colonies, Canada stands easily first in the extent of her shipping. In proportion to her population, the registered tonnage of the vessels of Canada exceeds that of most other countries, and, regardless of population, her shipping trade ranks fourteenth amongst all countries. The vessels having a Canadian registry are estimated to have an aggregate value of over 22 millions of dollars. Having shown the official returns of the whole shipping trade of the Dominion, it will be interesting to note that the port of Montreal stands at the head of all Canadian ports for the tonnage of vessels on its register, the total being 88,976, being over 12 per cent. of those in the registry of 77 ports. Of the ocean trade of this country, this port has practically a monopoly during the season of navigation. Last year, 868 sea-going vessels arrived in the harbour of Montreal, whose total tonnage was 1,584,072, which brought in goods valued at \$61,117,703, and took out those valued at \$62,729,180. The tonnage of last year was exactly double what it was ten years ago, and the imports and exports were in the same proportion. The shipping and shipping trade of Canada are a source of just pride to all Canadians, and are a promise of future expansion. With such a record of maritime develop-

ment and activity as the above presents, the Dominion may well feel that this country shares in the maritime supremacy of the British Empire.

THE JANUARY BANK STATEMENT.

The Government Returns of the chartered banks, for January, save for an increase in figures, show about the same variation as for the corresponding month of a year ago. Bank notes in circulation amounted to \$36,916,579, a decrease since Dec. 31st of nearly 3 1-2 millions. Deposits payable on demand have decreased during January, \$3,869,648, but deposits payable after notice have increased by 2 1-2 millions. The total increase in deposits since Jan., 1898, is \$27,351,297. Current Loans have been reduced during January, by \$700,000, but, as compared with the corresponding month of 1898, show an increase exceeding 21 millions. Call loans on stocks and bonds also exhibit an increase indicative of the marked activity in the business of the principal cities, the increase over the figures of a year ago being 6 1-4 millions.

The increase in other important items of the January declaration of the banks' condition are as follows: Specie and Dominion Notes, \$1,851,316; Canadian, Municipal, and other securities, \$2,652,079. The balances to the credit of our banks in Great Britain have been reduced by nearly 2 1-2 millions, and the amount due from American banks and agencies slightly increased. The decrease in Overdue Debts for the year is stated to exceed \$700,000. The decrease in Directors' Liabilities is \$572,000.

Additions to Paid-up Capital and Reserve Funds during the month have been made by the following banks:—

	Reserve Fund.	Capital.
Bank of Nova Scotia.....	\$32,670	\$29,700
Bank of Hamilton.....	6,566	10,590
People's Bank of Halifax.....	10,000
Union Bank of Halifax.....	25,000
People's Bank of New Brunswick...	1,000
Banque d'Hochelega.....	770

The Union Bank of Halifax is about to ask permission from its shareholders to increase the stock of the bank from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

RESIGNATION OF MR. R. H. MATSON.

We are informed that Mr. R. H. Matson has resigned the management of the Canadian business of the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society of New York. He has held the position of general manager for Canada for ten years. On the 31st Dec. last, the Canadian insurance in force was \$4,150,000, and the premium income for the year amounted to \$117,000. We believe Mr. Matson retires from the management of the company enjoying the respect of every official connected with the Society, and, although not yet aware of his future plans, we join with numerous friends in good wishes for his welfare.