

ABSTRACT OF BANK RETURNS.				
31ST DECEMBER, 1884. [In thousands.				
Description.	Banks in Que- bec.	Banks in On- tario.	Banks in Mari- time Prov's	Total.
Capital paid up..	\$ 36,305	\$ 18,918	\$ 6,383	\$ 61,606
Circulation	16,892	11,320	3,724	31,936
Deposits	62,588	37,322	10,325	100,235
Loans & Discounts	85,008	60,239	16,770	162,017
Cash and Foreign balances (Net) ..	21,786	10,608	3,214	35,608

31ST DECEMBER, 1885. [In thousands.				
Description.	Banks in Que- bec.	Banks in On- tario.	Banks in Mari- time Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up..	\$ 35,930	\$ 17,590	\$ 8,243	\$ 61,763
Circulation	16,697	11,367	4,300	32,364
Deposits	57,019	42,150	12,102	111,271
Loans & Discounts	83,575	61,130	17,360	162,065
Cash and Foreign balances (Net) ..	24,124	9,681	4,803	38,608

DRY GOODS MEN AT THE BOARD OF TRADE.

We have a communication from a member of the Toronto Board of Trade, taking exception to part of our remarks last week upon the proceedings of that body. "Apparently," he says, "you have forgotten that the president, two vice presidents and treasurer of the Board of Trade are, *ex-officio*, members of council, so that there are nineteen members instead of fifteen." True, the president, Mr. H. W. Darling, does represent a department of dry goods; and our statement must therefore be amended. We may remark at the same time that the second vice president, Mr. W. D. Matthews, Jr., an excellent appointment, makes the sixth flour and grain dealer on the Board. It is, of course, a compliment to the capacity of those in that department of trade that so many of them should be chosen members of council. Still, the disproportion, in a body supposed to be representative, of one dry goods dealer to two, three or six in other trades, is great. Let us see what light our correspondent can throw upon this point. "I make bold to say that it is the dry goods merchants' own fault if they are not on the Council of the Board. How many of the leading men in that branch attend meetings and take part in the work of the Board? How many of them show, by their presence and help, that they want to undertake their fair share of the labors of such an important body?"

According to this it appears that the council has been chosen from among the men most prominent in the deliberative and legislative work of the body, for it will hardly be pretended that Mr. Darling is the only clear-headed and experienced man of business among the dry goods members of the Toronto Board of Trade. It would be unfair that men should persistently absent themselves from gatherings of the Board and then complain that their claims upon it were not considered. And much of the force of the complaint frequently made that the Board is too numerous and composed too largely of retail men and even non-residents, might be lost if a still larger number

of the really prominent merchants of the community showed, by their presence, an interest in its conduct. We learn with interest from our correspondent, and, being satisfied, upon enquiry, of its truth, we gladly make the acknowledgment to the gentleman named that "the Hon. James Patton declined at first to be appointed to the council, but was persuaded by some of the other members of the Board to let his name be added." It is clear, therefore, that the collector of customs had some doubts about the propriety of his taking part in the deliberations of the council.

Among the points in the president's address, which space did not permit us to dwell upon last week, we notice the proposal to form what may be termed a charitable committee of the Board. Now, it has been urged that it is no part of the duty of a Board of Trade to bother about dispensing charity. In this view we cannot altogether concur. The Board of Trade may well and properly concern itself with whatever concerns the welfare of the city. And if anyone doubts that there are indigent, helpless people amongst us, or that the indolent, useless class are more and more becoming a burden upon the willing workers, rich and poor, that person's eyes require to be opened. The sums spent upon charity in Toronto are liberal; pity it is that so much of the money is thrown away by being expended upon the unworthy. If the Board of Trade will, from among its members, select a committee of men with business heads *as well as* warm hearts, who shall direct into confluent channels our streams of beneficence, while refusing assistance to the undeserving, welcome the productive immigrant but expose the "shyster," it will render permanent service to the city and to the country.

INTEREST ON LOANS.

Competition among lenders is leading to a reduction of the rate of interest, in every description of loan. Not only are the banks discounting first-class paper at a reduced rate, loan companies and individual mortgagees are also accepting lower rates. With loan companies seven per cent. has ceased to be a rate generally obtainable. A good deal of money has recently been lent on mortgage at six per cent., five and a half, and one loan of \$50,000 is reported at five per cent. Repayment by monthly instalments is now seldom stipulated for: straight loans are the order of the day, and considerable difficulty is experienced in getting loans satisfactorily placed. In this state of matters, it is not to be expected that the usual dividends of loan companies can be kept up. Profits are lower than formerly, and it would not be easy for borrowers to pay the rates which prevailed some time ago. Whether the decline in the rate of interest be temporary or is likely to prove permanent, it is a fact which has to be faced to-day. The probability is that the decline will prove permanent, and that the dividends paid by loan companies in former days need not again be looked for as a rule; at present it is certain that they cannot be earned. The fact is one to which dividend receivers must reconcile themselves; for it is useless to repine at the inevitable.

INEBRIETY AND LIFE INSURANCE.

We have already published statistics, from the experience of certain life assurance companies, which seem to warrant the conclusion that there is a marked difference in mortality between insurants who are total abstainers and those who are not. This difference is always in favor of "tee-totalers." While the experience thus far tabulated may not be conclusive, it is yet worthy the careful attention of life underwriters.

The London Providence Temperance Insurance Company was organized forty years ago, designed *only to* insure men who were not drinkers of intoxicants. For a long time the Co. struggled against many adverse elements, but success came at last and it is now ranked among the prosperous companies of the world. This company published, last year, a very interesting table of risks covering a period of seventeen years, comparing with itself the other companies which did not make so positive distinction in requiring all their insured to be teetotalers

The table was made to show the difference between this and another company, whose number of insured was the same or nearly so. The expected and actual deaths are very clearly brought out in each year, and the fluctuations are sometimes puzzling. The first column represents the temperance company, the other the ordinary company with which it was compared:

Year.	Temperance Co.		Ordinary Co.	
	Expected.	Actual.	Expected.	Actual.
1866	100	85	180	186
1867	105	71	191	169
1868	109	95	202	179
1869	115	73	212	201
1870	120	87	223	209
1871	127	72	234	217
1872	137	90	244	282
1873	144	118	253	246
1874	153	110	263	288
1875	162	121	274	297
1876	168	102	279	253
1877	179	132	291	280
1878	187	118	299	317
1879	196	164	505	326
1880	203	136	311	304
1881	214	131	320	290
1882	225	157	327	285
Total,	2,644	1,861	4,608	4,349

Thus, while in the ordinary company the expectancy of death came within less than six per cent. of being realised, there was, in the "Temperance" company a margin of thirty per cent. to the good. The result was therefore in favor of the teetotalers by twenty per cent. It will be observed that while, in five years out of the seventeen years compared, the expected deaths were exceeded in the general company, the mortality never once came up, in the "Temperance" company, to the expectation.

In connection with this subject, we are favored with a letter from an American physician of experience, who says: "It is not possible for any medical man to conceal from himself, and it ought no longer to be withheld from the public, that there is a class of diseases most rife among, though not exclusively peculiar to intemperate persons, which surely, if slowly, add to the mortality ratio. Liver diseases, kidney diseases, lung troubles, such as pleurisy, and pneumonia, are in my experi-