

true that mutual preference would not suit all the colonies, even if the British Government had no reason not to entertain the idea. An Australian statesman, some time ago, explained that Australia finds a foreign market for most of her wool, and that a preference against her principal customer, Germany, might deprive her of her present market without any assurance of substituting another. Canada happens to find a market for her grain and much of her lumber in England, and therefore sees that preference in that market would be an advantage to her. But, in the case of wool, it would be a disadvantage to Australia; therefore, as a general rule, it is not suitable for application to the colonies. Colonel Denison's scheme of a general tax throughout the British Empire, for the defence of the Empire, seems to be no better adapted for the general use to which its author proposes it should be put. Sir Robert Giffen, an authority in statistics, figures that this scheme would cost Great Britain £41,000,000 in taxation, in addition to an increased price for colonial goods. His conclusion is that the result would be disaster to the very trade for which Colonel Denison is anxious to provide protection. But still, the meeting of the Colonial Premiers with Mr. Chamberlain can scarcely fail to produce a good result. They will come to know one another better, and that will clear the way to some agreement, of which no clear conception can now be formed in advance by outsiders.

Mr. Edmund Barton, Premier of Australia, expresses the opinion that an Imperial customs union is not within the bounds of practical politics; because the colonies require customs revenue for the sustenance of their governments. But he thinks that, short of absolute free trade within the Empire, something of mutual benefit may be done. What it is, or whether he has anything in his mind which he thinks might be realized, he is careful not to say. At the present moment, discretion among the Colonial Premiers assembled in London, is at a premium; and it is well it should be so. The airing of individual views, prior to the meeting that is to take place, would only tend to complicate matters instead of aiding in a rational solution of some questions which may have germs of promise in their crude state, and which under discussion may show capabilities of developing into practical propositions. Mr. Barton does not despair of seeing some mutual tariff concessions, but even here he sees difficulty for the removal of which he is not without hopes. The cautious temper in which these remarks originate is far removed from the danger of glib-tongued rashness.

A week ago, an anti-Imperial meeting was held at Drummondville, province of Quebec, at which 5,000 persons are said to have been present. The occasion was Saint Jean Baptiste Day, and as this personage is known as the peculiar saint of the French-Canadians, it is customary to exploit "Notre langue; nos lois; et nos institutions." A resolution was passed giving expression to these views. The opposition to Canada taking a part in England's wars is put partly on economic and partly on national [French-Canadian] grounds. The economic protest is little more than an echo of what Sir Wilfrid Laurier has said, in Parlia-

ment. He protested against spending on militarism what could be made effective in the development of the country; they do the same; in fact, their avowed object is to strengthen his hands in the line he has taken, on the question of Imperial defence. The resolution is a protest against doing what the meeting thought would weaken French-Canadian nationality. The desire to preserve the autonomy of Canada is not peculiar to the French-Canadians; but the majority of the people do not see the danger to it which this meeting in imagination conjured up. If the meeting was entitled to speak for French-Canadians, it could not claim to express the voice of the majority of Canadians of different national origins.

FINANCIAL REVIEW.

We present below a condensation of the monthly statement of Canadian banks for May, 1902. 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, etc.

CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

LIABILITIES.		May, 1902.	April, 1902.
Capital authorized		\$79,126,666	\$77,126,666
Capital paid up		69,358,448	68,474,523
Reserve Funds		40,203,693	38,665,823
Notes in circulation		\$50,754,716	\$50,691,588
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits		7,599,206	6,859,833
Public deposits on demand in Canada ..		101,714,180	99,210,543
Public deposits at notice		239,969,781	239,875,361
Deposits outside of Canada		30,163,079	32,067,736
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured		680,815	659,015
Due to other banks in Canada		2,946,393	3,051,245
Due to other banks in Great Britain ...		4,740,853	6,529,954
Due to other banks in foreign countries..		920,190	672,895
Other liabilities		10,600,764	8,708,267
Total liabilities		\$450,089,961	\$448,326,515
ASSETS.			
Specie		\$12,304,824	\$12,919,711
Dominion notes		23,778,337	21,339,692
Deposits to secure note circulation		2,584,513	2,569,513
Notes and cheques on other banks		13,255,351	14,557,378
Loans to other banks, secured		679,196	659,015
Deposits with other banks in Canada ...		4,215,064	4,097,714
Due from banks in Great Britain		6,374,242	3,763,348
Due from other banks in foreign countries		13,551,470	12,547,160
Dominion or provincial Govt. debentures or stock		10,169,429	10,169,429
Other securities		48,972,314	47,612,032
Call loans on bonds and stocks in Canada		41,308,894	39,503,535
Call loans elsewhere		38,277,922	43,020,869
		\$215,471,556	\$212,782,035
Current Loans in Canada		303,738,098	302,160,867
Current Loans elsewhere		26,327,300	28,737,195
Loans to Dominion and Provincial Governments		4,118,213	4,245,762
Overdue debts		2,091,730	2,280,888
Real estate		893,000	943,945
Mortgages on real estate sold		777,942	736,473
Bank premises		6,814,182	6,911,171
Other assets		6,129,466	5,777,745
Total assets		\$566,361,675	\$564,576,264
Average amount of specie held during the month		12,323,898	12,290,099
Average Dominion notes held during the month		21,821,409	21,410,069
Greatest amount notes in circulation during month		52,184,227	53,221,681
Loans to directors or their firms		9,802,821	9,822,350