

Books and pamphlets	16,274	17,686
Coal, soft.....	8,834	13,048
" hard.....		
Drugs and medicines	35,585	28,897
Earthenware	8,287	4,540
Fish, &c.	10,735	16,975
Fruit, green and dried....	30,084	20,854
Furs	28,380	32,422
Glass and glassware.....	14,698	11,805
Jewellery.....	12,513	18,602
Leather goods.....	25,600	16,168
Musical instruments	7,052	2,383
Paints, &c.	5,134	6,161
Paper goods	23,475	22,918
Spirits	25,155	16,462
Wines	18,288	18,182
Melado		169,355
Molasses	22,793	17,035
Tobacco and cigars	6,547	8,224
Wood goods	18,362	16,247

The total of dutiable goods was last month \$1,982,441 in value as against \$2,017,058. Value of free goods was \$648,434, where in February, 1891, it was \$580,225; coin and bullion, \$36,885, against \$112,575 in the previous February. Turning to exports we find an increase in phosphate of lime, a decrease in fish and in forest products, as well as in those of the field. But the aggregate of dairy products, live stock and dead meat shows a considerable advance. Butter, cheese and eggs showed an export value last month of \$831,000. We give a synopsis below.

EXPORTS.—PRODUCE OF CANADA.

Produce of	Feb., 1892.	Feb., 1891.
The Mine.....	\$ 16,011	\$ 335
" Fisheries.....	1,115	6,775
" Forest.....	6,292	10,280
" Field.....	12,447	18,766
Animals, &c.....	347,504	244,130
Manufactures	22,893	40,826

Total Can. exports.. \$406,262 \$321,112

BANKING RETURN.

The figures of the Canadian bank statement for Feb. last will be found in condensed form below, and are compared with those of the previous month. The statement bears date 18th March.

CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

LIABILITIES.		
	Feb., 1892.	Jan. 1892.
Capital authorized..	\$75,904,665	\$75,758,665
Capital paid up....	61,500,966	61,346,171
Reserve Funds	23,947,508	23,728,254
Notes in circulation	32,711,015	32,705,400
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits....	6,010,618	6,048,697
Public deposits on demand.....	60,029,923	58,637,771
Public deposits after notice.....	93,394,227	92,269,422
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured...	110,000	60,000
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.	2,842,871	2,894,644
Due other banks in Canada in daily balances	137,410	120,421
Due other banks in foreign countries	209,246	128,925
Due other banks in Great Britain...	1,685,761	1,301,982
Other liabilities....	358,512	479,382
Total liabilities..	\$197,489,682	\$194,645,730

ASSETS.		
	Feb., 1892.	Jan. 1892.
Specie	\$ 5,996,998	\$ 5,850,584
Dominion notes....	10,538,883	10,406,734
Deposits to secure note circulation..	846,927	843,075
Notes and cheques of other banks..	7,182,447	5,884,187
Due from other banks in Canada in daily exchanges	184,146	310,474
Deposits made with other banks	3,119,497	3,358,991

Due from other banks in foreign countries	17,612,793	17,650,742
Due from other banks in Great Britain.....	4,692,633	5,094,959
Dominion Government debentures or stock.....	3,059,034	3,058,802
Canadian municipal securities, &c. ...	6,449,879	6,538,942
Public securities other than Canadian	5,842,569	5,397,162
Call loans on bonds and stocks	14,720,222	14,568,049
	\$80,248,038	\$78,962,201
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Govts..	2,161,170	2,119,236
Current loans and discounts	186,116,911	184,034,993
Loans to other banks secured	110,000	60,000
Overdue debts	2,658,891	2,770,349
Real estate.....	1,149,937	1,147,044
Mortgages on real estate sold	779,983	755,770
Bank premises....	4,487,244	4,491,847
Other assets	1,837,215	1,614,606
Total assets.....	\$279,547,605	\$275,956,236

Average amount of specie held during the month	5,987,243	5,838,917
Av. Dom. notes do..	10,447,012	10,212,090
Loans to directors or their firms....	6,194,604	6,127,129
Greatest amount notes in circulation during month	33,363,708	35,374,621

The month of February was a quiet one in all branches of business, and this quietness is reflected in the above return. There is really very little in this comparative table which shows any change from January figures, and very little that calls for remark. The increase indicated in public deposits from \$150,907,000 to \$153,424,000 is more apparent than real, since it is in part offset by an increase among the assets in "notes and cheques of other banks," to the extent of \$1,298,000. The available assets of the banks are practically the same in February as in January, for the increase in the item just named is transitory, changed as it may be in a day.

An increase of two millions in current loans is natural enough at this season of the year, for money is steadily going out to assist the operations of lumbermen in the woods, and will in fact continue to go out until next June. Not only sawn lumber dealers or square timber dealers proper, but all operators who get out such merchandise as stove-bolts, railway ties, telegraph poles, get advances about this time of year for the handling of wood in these various forms, which has been got out during winter and has remained piled on the banks of streams awaiting the spring movement of the waters.

ABSTRACT OF BANK RETURNS.

31st January, 1892. [In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total
Capital paid up..	\$4,502	\$17,339	\$9,505	\$61,346
Circulation	15,818	11,422	5,465	32,705
Deposits	78,341	60,268	21,300	159,909
Loans Discounts & Investments...	102,064	70,929	30,997	203,980
Cash, Foreign balances (Net) and Call Loans.....	32,631	24,065	5,719	62,415
Legals	5,145	3,570	1,690	10,405
Specie	3,096	1,947	807	5,850
Call Loans...	5,716	7,725	1,127	14,568

29th February, 1892. [In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up	\$4,503	\$17,347	\$9,651	\$61,501
Circulation	15,912	11,393	5,406	32,711
Deposits.....	79,040	61,755	21,592	162,387
Loans, Disc'ts & Investments...	102,124	72,081	32,195	206,400
Cash, Foreign Balances (Net) & Call Loans..	33,063	24,609	5,191	62,863
Legals	4,993	3,831	1,715	10,539
Specie.....	3,093	1,960	944	5,997
Call Loans..	6,082	7,476	1,162	14,720

FIRE INSURANCE IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1891.

The appearance of the report of the New York Superintendent of Insurance is annually looked for with interest by insurance men generally, for it is the most comprehensive and complete of all the voluminous State reports so dear to American departmentalists. Mr. Pierce has just presented the 33rd annual report of his office; an octavo volume of some 500 pages forming the fire and marine portion thereof. Besides statistical tables, interesting to professional readers, some facts of general utility are presented. Mr. Pierce laments the "decline during the past 20 years in the profit theretofore attaching to the business of fire underwriting" (examples of which are not wanting in Canada), and that notwithstanding suggestions freely offered by the insurance departments, the press, bodies of underwriters, etc., in the way of reform, little has been accomplished, and the field, as it stands to-day, is "an uninviting if not an unprofitable one" for the operators. Twelve home and eighteen foreign (State) corporations withdrew from fire business in New York during 1891, taking out capital to the extent of nine millions.

During the last twenty years the salient features of the business have been, it is stated, a falling off of nearly 2 per cent. in interest from investments, a general trend of percentage of loss in an upward direction, an increase in commissions and expenses, and a growing tendency to term policy writing without a corresponding increase in rates. The present position is summed up in the statement that "the business seemingly in need of additional capital offers no encouragement to those who might incorporate to undertake its transaction." There is no longer a "reasonable prospect or expectation of profit" for the companies, particularly the smaller ones. In New York there was a difference of \$3,500,000 against the companies in 1891, as compared with 1890, while the general record shows a "year most distressing in its results, a decrease of assets of nearly \$6,000,000 being coupled with increased liabilities of about \$11,000,000." All this is very bad, and the more so as a very considerable proportion of loss is from "incendiarism or fires resulting from criminal negligence." The fire waste within the State, each year, is about \$15,000,000, or say \$6,000,000 more than the average of the whole amount of the tax levy for State purposes. Attention is drawn to a