

sible loss on unsold property, and placing to contingencies \$11,809. It is an indication of a tolerably "live" business, that a sum equal to about 24 per cent. of the company's whole loans came back to it during the year in repayments, while the aggregate of sterling debentures sold is the largest ever had in one year. The career of the company gives evidence of the careful and business-like policy which is to be looked for at the hands of a very practical board of directors.

THE FINANCES OF MONTREAL.

The municipal revenue of Montreal is larger than that of any other city in the Dominion. Last year it reached \$1,519,876.51. But in this amount was included \$242,802.87 arrears of assessment. The following are the various sources of revenue for the year:

Assessments on real estate.....	\$602,423 34
Business duty and personal tax ..	141,817 39
Arrears of same	242,802 87
Water rates, including arrears	350,551 80
Market revenue	80,128 61
Police licenses	42,731 80
Recorder's Court (fines, etc.).....	10,013 90
Private butchers stalls	15,726 00
Grocers' and innkeepers' licenses..	5,696 00
Road department permits	1,233 00
Ground rents, etc.	3,625 20
Miscellaneous	2,853 15
Statute labor	251 00
Interest	22,012 45
Total.....	\$1,519,876 51

Of the whole amount, real estate produced only \$600,423.34, exclusive of arrears. The business and personal tax yielded \$141,817.39. The rate of the assessment of real estate—one cent on the dollar—is not much more than half what it is in Toronto. The idea is very far from prevailing, in that city, that real estate alone ought to be depended on for a revenue, and everything else left unassessed. The business tax, as it is called, which means a tax on the profits of business, extends to trade, manufacture, occupation, profession, or source of revenue. It is evidently intended to be general, and not to permit any class to bear its share of the city burthens. The mode of realizing this aim is one that must operate very unequally: a tax of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the rental of the premises occupied. This is a very uncertain measure of the revenue or profits which it is the object of the tax to get at. The assessment on banks is not more scientific: it is made to bear a certain proportion to the capital, while it should be on the net earnings. A bank with a paid-up capital of less than \$1,000,000, pays \$400; one with more than a million, but not over two millions, \$500; when the amount of two millions, the tax is \$600, with apparently no higher scale of increase. The tax on each

fire insurance company is \$400, irrespective of the amount of capital, the extent of business or net profit. Marine, accident, and guarantee companies are taxed \$200 each. These taxes do not appear to have been questioned, though the legality of some of them may well be doubted. The local legislatures can levy only *direct* taxes, and they cannot confer on municipalities any larger powers than they themselves possess.

The taxes on street railway and gas companies, which are among the most legitimate sources of revenue, are comparatively large. The former tax yields \$12,000, and the latter \$5,000. Both street railway and gas companies use the public streets—the former to some extent monopolizes them—and may properly be taxed all they can bear. The rule, in the States, is to tax street railway companies heavily; but it is not always easy to collect the tax. In Toronto, at present, the street railway company is practically exempt. The tax of hotel-keepers in Montreal is graduated according to the rent of the premises; not a very certain indication of net profits. The taxes on brewers and distillers also bear a proportion to the rent of premises occupied. Every broker, money lender, and commission agent pays the city \$50 a year. Ten thousand dollars are received in the shape of Recorder's Court fines. If a recent decision, in Toronto, be law, this amount is illegally collected.

Our chief commercial city is probably not wrong in acting upon the conviction that the municipal revenue, if it is to fall with a fair approach to equality on all classes, must be considerably diversified. We are far from thinking that these taxes are, in all cases, levied in the least objectionable form; the object should be set at various forms of individual revenue in something like general proportion, provided protection goes in the same ratio.

THE MONETARY TIMES.

The following items are selected from a great mass of letters commendatory of the *MONETARY TIMES*. It is gratifying to find our labors appreciated by the mercantile community whose interests very nearly concerns us, and of whose welfare we never lose sight:

Messrs. G. P. Mitchell & Sons, West India merchants, Halifax, are good enough to say "We enclose P. O. Order for subscription to a your valuable and always welcome paper. We trust its circulation will continue to increase largely, which its merits as a commercial journal fully warrant."

A Bank agent in Three Rivers writes, "I find the *MONETARY TIMES* of the greatest use to me, and would not give it up for any consideration. I think that every banker and business man in the Dominion should take it.

A clothier in St. Catharines acknowledges, "I have found the *Times* valuable, especially during the hard times. It has given me suggestions that helped me, especially the remarks made about bookkeeping. My impression is that more than half the failures amongst us are due to bad bookkeeping."

A Halifax bank cashier writes thus: "I see your valuable journal is at the Currency Question again, and also that the Government is apparently going to try and get a hold of the currency as Mr. Rose tried to do and failed. I hope that this effort will have the same result."

A Windsor merchant writes, "I hope you will use your pen powerfully in protecting the honest, 100 cent in the \$ merchant, against the Ishmaelites who have been brought into existence by the recent hard times and the working of the Insolvent Act, and whose mission seems to be to breakdown the honest retailer under the patronage of the wholesale men. Some scheme ought to be devised by the wholesale merchants in the interest of their customers to protect the fair trader."

Mr. Edward McGillivray, Ottawa, wholesale grocer, says:—"I enclose draft for subscription to your paper, and consider it money well invested."

A firm of Ottawa woolen manufacturers confess, "We like your paper very much and induced quite a number of people here to take it."

A boot and shoe merchant sends the following from St. John, N. B. "Allow me to add my testimony to the efficient manner in which your paper is conducted, and to your good services in introducing the cash system to general favor."

A retail grocer, London, desires to be "Permitted here to testify to the valuable qualities of the *Times*, I consider it one of the very best papers for business men in the country, and I wish you continued success."

A friendly merchant writes expressing his disposition to assist us in maintaining a worthy standard of commercial modes and morals. "I have always regarded the *MONETARY TIMES* as a moral power in our commercial economy. I have always perused its columns with respect and zest. My hopes for its future are clear and large."

—Small profits on short credits will accumulate much faster than large profits on long credits. A calculation will best prove this: Suppose an Ontario shopkeeper turns over \$1,000 every eighteen months, at 20 per cent. profit, that sum will at the end of six years amount to \$1,728. But the same sum turned over every six months at only ten per cent. will amount in six years to \$4,109. If the following table be examined with care, valuable light will be thrown upon "small profits and quick returns," which is a good deal more than a smart phrase—it is the embodiment of a truth:

Turned over every 2 y's	Amounts in six years to	Turned over every 2 y's	Amounts in six years to
at 20 p.c.	2 years to	At 10 p.c.	2 years to
\$1000 ev' 2 y's.	\$1,728	\$1000 ev' 2 y's.	\$1,331
" 18 mos.	2,073	" 18 mos.	1,464
" 12 mos.	2,985	" 12 mos.	1,771
" 6 mos.	8,916	" 6 mos.	4,109
" 4 mos.	26,623	" 4 mos.	5,559

A man can make nearly a third more money, therefore, by turning over \$1,000 stock every six months at ten per cent. profit than by turning over the same quantity yearly at a profit of twenty per cent.