

is undoubtedly the best working rule yet adopted; it has the justification and prestige of absolute success.

The record shows that the following changes have taken place in the position of the banks in the last 10 years:—

Since 1893 the paid-up capital of the chartered banks has increased to extent of.....	\$ 9,002,356
Since 1893 the circulation has increased.....	24,058,060
" the current loans have increased.....	123,126,146
" the deposits ".....	231,773,881

Manifestly, the paid-up capital of the banks has been comparatively stationary, while their business has doubled in the last ten years, so that there is ground for the opinion that an increase of paid-up capital with their note issues supplemented by Dominion notes in times of emergency would afford the safest, most easily adopted and most effective plan for enlarging the currency and general resources of the banks.

FIRE-PROOF WOOD FOR SKYSCRAPERS.

ELECTRIC FIRE-PROOFED WOOD MOST APPROVED.

Superintendent Stewart completed yesterday the work of rejecting material ordered by contractors, builders and owners for use on skyscrapers in course of construction. The boom which has extended all over New York in the construction of tall buildings of the fire-proof type, has overtaxed the inspectors of the Building Department. Superintendent Stewart said yesterday that he had found it necessary to assign special men to see that the law is strictly complied with, but that more inspectors were needed to protect the interests of the city by thoroughly testing the materials destined to be placed in skyscrapers.

The New York "Times" reports on this as follows:—"During the last week," said Superintendent Stewart, "I have found it necessary to reject over 100,000 feet of lumber ordered to be placed in high buildings. I have inaugurated a new system in the handling of this subject. Now, when material is ordered for fire-proof buildings I receive notice and send inspectors to the yards before the material is delivered. Samples are taken to the department and careful tests are made. During the first part of my administration I allowed all the companies opportunity to furnish fire-proof wood. Now the lines must be drawn tighter. Last week a New Jersey concern furnished for a New York building in the banking district 51,000 feet of lumber which had to be rejected. This was done as not complying with section 105 of the Building Code. Ten thousand feet of flooring was rejected in the so-called Flat Iron Building. This was furnished by a New York company. If these companies cannot bring their product up to the standard they will not be able to

blame this department. We cannot place the lives of thousands of people in skyscrapers in danger simply because a few concerns cannot treat wood to comply with the law. All the wood which has been treated by the electric process has passed the inspectors and not a foot of such material has been turned down by this department."

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CANADA.

The table presented on a preceding page gives the value of the goods imported into and exported from Canada in the years 1879, 1889, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901 and 1902, showing the several amounts brought from and sent to the countries trading with this Dominion, and the total imports and exports for each of the above years. As an exhibit of the expansion which has taken place in the trade of Canada the table will be found extremely interesting. The following is a synopsis of the returns showing the amount by which the totals for each one of a number of years exceeded or fell below the totals of the year 1873. The imports are for goods entered for consumption:—

Year.	Total Imports.	Increase or Decrease since 1873.	Total Exports.	Increase or Decrease since 1873.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1873....	127,514,594	.....	89,789,922	.....
1878....	91,199,577	d 36,315,017	79,323,667	d 10,466,255
1883....	123,137,019	d 4,377,575	98,085,804	i 8,295,882
1888....	102,847,100	d 24,667,494	90,203,000	i 413,078
1893....	121,705,030	d 5,809,564	118,564,352	i 28,774,430
1897....	111,294,021	d 16,220,573	137,950,253	i 48,160,331
1898....	130,698,006	i 3,183,412	164,152,683	i 74,362,761
1899....	154,051,593	i 26,536,999	158,896,905	i 69,106,983
1900....	180,804,316	i 53,289,722	191,894,723	i 102,104,801
1901....	181,237,988	i 53,723,394	196,487,632	i 106,697,710
1902....	202,791,595	i 75,277,001	211,640,286	i 121,850,364
Aggregate imports and exports in 1873.....	.....	.....	.....	217,304,516
do do in 1902.....	.....	.....	.....	414,431,881
Gross increase in Canada's foreign trade since 1873.	.....	.....	.....	197,127,365

Apart from our trade with Great Britain and the United States the principal enlargements of our foreign trade since 1873 were with the following countries:—

	Total Imports.	Increase or Decrease.	Total Exports.	Increase or Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
France 1873....	2,023,288	.....	31,907	.....
" 1902....	6,672,194	4,648,906	1,388,848	1,356,941
Germany 1873..	1,099,925	.....	76,553	.....
" 1902..	10,823,169	9,723,244	2,692,578	2,616,025
Belgium 1873..	346,702	.....	17,754	.....
" 1902..	1,711,599	1,364,897	2,444,450	2,426,696
S. America 1873.	416,199	.....	1,285,434	.....
" 1902.	1,659,074	1,242,875	1,781,913	496,479
Switzerl'd 1873..	120,514	.....	Exports	.....
" 1902..	765,010	644,496	not given.	.....
Australia 1873..	Imports	.....	41,822	.....
" 1902..	not given.	.....	2,586,554	2,544,732
China and Japan 1873..	1,663,390	.....	46,466	.....
" 1902..	1,984,876	321,486	570,586	524,120
Holland 1873..	216,628	.....	13,142	.....
" 1902..	875,615	658,987	320,241	307,099