

	1888.	1885.
Deposits.....	\$ 11,000,000	\$ 29,958,000
	1872.	1873.
Deposits.....	\$ 66,847,000	\$ 97,716,000
	1865.	1863.
Capital paid up.....	\$30,647,000	\$ 45,008,000
Circulation.....	\$14,158,000	\$ 25,906,000
Discounts.....	\$45,677,000	\$110,375,000
		\$156,683,000

I compare only the banks of Ontario and Quebec. I have had no opportunity of obtaining early statistics of the banks of the Maritime Provinces, and cannot, I regret to say, include them.

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—Brussels, 7th.—Carding mills of Geo. Howe & Co. burned. The building a total loss, part machinery saved. Loss about \$8,000 insured in Gore Mutual for \$4,000.—Egmondville, 7th.—Mitchell's hotel with contents and a large stable adjoining consumed, loss \$800, partially insured.—Orangeville, 6th.—The old Pottery buildings owned by Thos. Stevenson and occupied by Stevenson & Graham as a storehouse. Building insured for \$550 and the contents for \$3,000.—Cobourg, 5th.—G. S. Bickle's residence gutted, furniture partly saved loss \$1,000, insurance \$2,500.—Omemee, 4th.—Isaiah Wilson's barn on Orange line, burned, loss \$1,000, insurance \$500.—Brantford, 5th.—Turnbull & Thompson's block gutted James Muir dry goods, loss about \$15,000, insured in Hartford for \$5,000 and Western for \$5,000; C. S. Newell, candles, loss \$1,000 insured in Hartford, for \$600; James McCrae, boots and shoes, loss \$2,500 Insurance \$1,000 in the Gore Mutual; Transcript Office loss, \$3,500, insured \$2,500, Irish National; Turnbull and Thompson's loss on the building about \$6,000 insured in Gore District \$2,050, and Waterloo Mutual for \$2,050 Miss McKenley dressmaker, and John Fisher insurance agent, also losers. The firemen, steamer and Whitlaw, Baird & Co.'s pump, all did splendid work. The fire was kept in the block.—Hamilton 10th.—Ald. McRobert's stable and Alex. Kerr's stable, loss \$350, Kerr not insured.—Chatham 12th.—Ursuline Academy laundry damaged \$900, fully insured.

OTHER PROVINCES.—Montreal 6th.—H. Haswell & Co.'s wholesale drug store gutted. Loss estimated at \$36,000 insurance \$45,000, buildings owned by J. S. Evans, damaged \$5,000, insured in Royal Canadian \$6,000 each.—Montreal 9.—J. A. Craig's furniture works, 240 feet front, and 36 feet deep took fire on a holiday, building wrecked and quantities of material destroyed, damages placed at \$70,000, insurance in North British \$12,000, Scottish Union \$3,000 and Western \$3,000. It is doubted if the insurance companies are liable, as the firm had paid their premiums with a promissory note, and had since become insolvent. The works of the Phoenix Electric Light Company were destroyed and the machinery and supplies damaged by water. The loss to the company will amount to about \$5,000 or \$6,000, fully covered by insurance. The workmen in both factories have lost all their tools, about 100 chests, which is most unfortunate, as none of them were insured.—Halifax 9th.—John Shannahan's three-story wooden building, roof burned and interior gutted Sir Edward Kenny owns the building, insured for \$900 in the Imperial.—Fredericton, 7th.—Queen's hotel outbuildings destroyed, and hotel itself damaged by fire and water. W. M. Wheeler, owner, loss \$3,000, no insurance. J. Edwards, lessee, has \$1,500 in Aetna, and \$1,500 in F. I. A. Richey's barn burned, insured for \$300 in N. B. & M. Myhrall's barn \$400 in Central. M. Gauvee loss \$1000 on carriages.

THE GROCERS' AND IMPORTERS' EXCHANGE.

The newly organized Grocers' and Importers' Exchange, of New York, was formally opened on Thursday the 22nd inst., with appropriate ceremonies. A large audience assembled, comprising all the prominent merchants engaged in the Tea and Sugar trades, and addresses were made by Mr. Henry E. Hawley, the President, Mayors Edison and Low, I. H. Herriek, President of the Produce Exchange, B. G. Arnold, President Coffee Exchange and Geo. W. Laue, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Exchange was declared open for business. The first call which took place yesterday comprised Japan and Formosa Tea on the Exchange standards, Refined Sugar based upon Standard A and Raw sugar based upon Cuba Muscovado, 89° test or Fair Refining with the following classification:—

Cuba Muscovado, Cuba Molasses Sugar, and

West India and Demerara Centrifugals. The test by the polariscope in conjunction with Dutch Standard in color is the standard of grading.

Class A comprises eight grades centrifugals, testing from 98 to 91°.

Class B comprises eight grades of Cuba Muscovado, testing from 92 to 85°.

Class C comprises seven grades of Cuba Molasses Sugar, testing from 91 to 85°.

No Sugar below No. 7 D. S. in color to be a good delivery. No centrifugals testing below 91°; no Cuba Muscovado below 85°; and no Cuba Molasses Sugar below 85° shall be a good delivery.—N. Y. Shipping List

—“Give the devil his due,” is what the Winnipeg Sun says, in a style of semi-apology which is at least equivocal, in referring to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Has the Sun been recalling Shakespeare's *Falstaff* and does it desire to be condemned (as it certainly will be by less fair-minded journals,) for in the words of *Poems* “keeping his word with the devil,” or will it rather be abused, as Prince Henry puts it, “for cheating the devil? Intemperate abuse of the company is what our contemporary objects to. While criticizing the company sharply when the interests of the people demand it, it concedes that:

“On the other hand the company and its officers have done much that is praiseworthy, and much to excite our admiration, and we would not withhold anything that is their just due. The interests of the company are largely parallel with those of the people, and the liberal concession made in regard to the carriage of frozen wheat, and the efforts of the traffic manager, Mr. Harder, to secure reductions from other roads, is, we believe, but an earnest of what may be expected from the Canadian Pacific people when proper representations are made to them.” When there is nothing but evil spoken and written by so many respecting the C.P.R. this ogre of the future Canadian mythology with seven-league boots and a merciless club, it must be comforting to the company to find some one, less Calvinistic in his views, who will admit, as Burns was disposed to do of Satan, that even the very devil may have some claims to consideration and that,

“Auld Nickie-ben,
Oh, Wad ye tak' a thocht an men
Ye siblins might, I dinna ken,
Still hae a stake,”

QUITE AU FAIT.—“What kind of a man is he?” asked a gentleman about a young society man.

“Oh, he's mighty popular with the women.”

“Is he intelligent?”

“No, not particularly. You see there is not much demand for intelligence in society.”

“Does he dance?”

“Of course.”

“Knows what's going on in theatricals, music, &c.?”

“Of course.”

“Au fait in everything I presume?”

“Well, I don't know whether he owes Fay or not, but I know he owes about every man of my acquaintance. Who is Fay? I'll look him up and see if he don't owe him, too. I'll bet he does.”

A tribute to American freedom and progress was paid by Chief Justice Coleridge when he said: “It is not your colossal fortunes that have interested me. I can see them at home. What I do admire, what I long to see, and never shall see in my own dear England, is what may be called your upper and lower middle classes. I have seen tens of thousands of houses occupied by the owners of them. I am told that in general your farmers own their farms. Your cultivated gentlemen own their houses, and your artisans own their cottages. What a state of satisfaction and content this produces.”

—The Hudson Cotton Factory will open in December. The *Witness* also says:—“Notwithstanding reports to the contrary the Valley-field cotton mills will not shut down, but have decided to run their machinery as at present for a few weeks. When the spring trade opens out, every loom in the mill will be fully occupied with orders, as the company manufacture a class of goods hitherto imported, such as cambrics, permanent linings, silicias, waist linings, satens and corset jeans, tailors' pocketings hollands, &c.

—Sheriff Quessel, of Arthabaska county Que. last week seized the whole line of the South-eastern Railway, but a compromise has been made regarding the movables. The seizure is for a claim of \$20,000 by the township of Wickham.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 12, 1888.

Wholesale dry goods houses are quiet as usual at this season, stock taking being the order of the day. In groceries a fair jobbing business is proceeding and that is all. The mildness of the season has been against much business in all circles, but the weather has now turned a little colder. The want of good country roads is also felt; merchants are more confident than hitherto. Remittances are reported on all hands as coming in well, far better indeed than had been expected. On the whole, the situation, although neither striking nor brilliant, is a reasonable one and up to the average of last year.

The stock market was much stronger and more active to-day, closing with a very firm tone. Bank of Montreal and Toronto each advanced 2 per cent., and all other active stocks advanced in sympathy. The money market is easy and quiet. Rates of discount are 7 to 7½ per cent., while for call loans 5 to 5½ per cent. is charged. Sterling exchange is dull with bankers 60-day bill's quoted at 83-16 between banks, and 8½ over the counter; for demand bills 8½ to 8½. There has been large offerings of currency on New York at 1-16 discount with ½ bid.

ASHES.—There has been rather more life in the market this week, and we hear of a transaction of 200 brls Pots to-day at quotations, which are \$4.80 to 4.90 for No. 1 and \$4.25 to 4.80 for No. 2. Pearls are firm, but transactions are few.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Manufacturers are fairly busy on future supplies, and all seem satisfied with the position which for the time of year, is considered good.

CEMENT, FIRECLAY, ETC.—Prices are steady at former quotations with a seasonable business doing. Portland cement is firm at \$3.50; Roman, \$2.75; Canadian \$1.75, Firebricks sell at \$3.25 to \$3.50 per hundred and fireclay at \$14. per ton.

DRY GOODS.—Trade is dull, as may be expected at this season, only a “between season's” business being done. Spring goods are coming in, and what few travellers are out are sending in satisfactory orders. There is a good city trade, and retailers are busy, by reason of the seasonable change in the weather. Payments are reported good, the largest houses find an improvement in this respect over last year at this time. Taken as a whole the outlook is considered more cheerful now than for some little time past.

DRUGS & CHEMICALS.—Business in this line is as usual at this season of the year, light, but for druggist sundries there is a good demand. Prices remain as before quoted:—*Sal Soda*, \$1.10 to 1.20 per 100 lbs.; *Bi. Cb. Soda* \$2.50 to 2.60; *Soda Ash* \$1.50 to 1.75; *Bichromate of Potash* per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 12.00; *Borax* refined, 14½ to 15½c.; *Cream Tartar* crystals, 80½ to 82c.; do ground 86c. to 88 c.; *Tartaric Acid*, 57c. to 60c. per lb; *Caustic Soda*, white, \$2.25 to 2.40; *Sugar of Lead*, 11 to 12½c.; *Bleaching Powder*, 00.00 to 2.75; *Alum* \$1.80 to \$2.00; *Copperas*, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; *Flowers Sulphur*, per 100 lbs., \$2.75 to \$2.90; *Rol Sulphur*, \$2.40 to \$2.60; *Sulphate of Copper* \$5.50 to \$5.75; *Epsom Salts*, \$1.10 to \$1.25; *Saltpetre*, \$9.00 to 9.50; *Quinine*, \$2.00 to \$2.25, as to makers, per oz. bottles *Optum*, \$4.10 to \$4.25; *Morphia*, \$2.15 to \$2.30.

FISH.—No special feature to notice, business being done at the following quotations; No. 2 Labrador Herring, \$4 to 4.50 No. 3 \$3 to 3.50; No. 1 are practically out of the market. Cape Breton herrings, \$6, Green Cod fish, No. 1 \$5.75 to 6.00, No. 2 \$4.75 to 5. Dry Cod \$5.00 to 5.50. Salmon are in rather better supply. North Shore No. 1 \$20, No. 2 \$19 and No. 3 \$18. British Columbia Salmon are easier at \$16.00 to