

Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.....	1,316,284	1,276,072
Due other banks in Canada.....	1,202,183	1,254,325
Due other banks in Foreign Countries...	184,678	72,654
Due other banks in Great Britain.....	1,469,168	1,153,960
Other liabilities.....	305,624	345,269
<b>Total liabilities ..</b>	<b>\$140,072,442</b>	<b>\$142,725,187</b>

## ASSETS.

Specie.....	\$7,366,541	\$7,527,367
Dominion notes.....	11,519,922	11,799,979
Notes and cheques of other banks.....	4,849,999	5,591,072
Due from other banks in Canada.....	3,127,588	3,259,035
Due from other banks in Foreign Countries.	15,788,974	17,346,687
Due from other banks in Great Britain....	3,288,421	4,366,688
<b>Immediately available assets .....</b>	<b>\$45,941,446</b>	<b>\$49,890,828</b>
Dominion Government debentures or stock	888,836	897,049
Public securities other than Canadian.....	1,360,822	1,295,784
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Governments..	519,100	2,352,102
Loans on stocks, bonds or debentures.....	11,751,721	11,933,117
Loans to municipal corporations .....	1,356,052	1,271,787
Loans to other corporations .....	16,267,582	15,360,527
Loans to or deposits made in other banks secured.....	187,318	207,836
Loans to or deposits made in other banks unsecured .....	384,261	152,539
Discounts current .....	130,315,617	129,959,711
Overdue paper unsecured .....	2,025,299	2,194,676
Other overdue debts unsecured .....	150,786	123,238
Notes and debts overdue secured.....	2,149,545	2,169,589
Real estate .....	1,099,346	1,111,847
Mortgages on real estate sold .....	805,975	828,561
Bank premises .....	3,072,342	3,072,081
Other assets .....	2,059,277	1,994,163
<b>Total assets.....</b>	<b>\$222,073,974</b>	<b>\$224,815,446</b>
Average amount of specie held during the month .....	7,262,860	7,275,618
Av. Dominion notes do.	11,697,767	11,532,797
Loans to Directors or their firms .....	10,397,486	8,689,631

## INSURANCE COMPANIES' MEETINGS.

The sensible policy laid down in the report for 1882, of the Citizen's Insurance Company, which was, in brief, "prudence in underwriting and economy in management," has not, if followed, produced its expected effect upon the business of that company for 1883. "A review of the business of the company for the past year," says Mr. Henry Lyman, the president, in the opening sentence of the report of the directors, submitted on the 3rd inst., "is, I regret to say, not so satisfactory as I anticipated it would be. \* \* The fire and accident losses were unusually large, and the rates of insurance lower, probably, than ever before." And, indeed, after doing so well in securing a surplus revenue of \$41,000 in fire and accident in 1882, it is disappointing to find the balance \$11,000 the other way in that department in 1883. There is comfort, however, in the fact that the Life Branch shows a profit of \$21,700 on the year; so that, on the whole, the company's expenditure was \$10,000 within the revenue. And this is doing better than in 1881, when total expenditure exceeded revenue by \$14,000.

As the fire and accident figures are still lumped together, one cannot tell with any exactness the ratio of loss sustained by fire, but it appears to be something near 65 per cent. of the premiums, as against 48 per cent. in 1882, and 70 per cent. in 1881. The re-insurance of the Canada's risks may have to do with this. Losses paid and outstanding in the Fire and Accident Branch were \$143,602, and the premiums taken \$231,819. The assets of this branch remain, but for the shrinkage in value of some stocks, about as they were a year ago, the differences shown being that smaller amounts are in bills receivable and sundry debtors, and larger amounts in agents' balances, and cash in bank. In the Life Branch, premiums were \$46,699, against \$42,336 in the previous year, and death claims \$14,502, a sum far below the expectation. The expenses, we observe, are nearly \$2,000 greater than in 1882. Total assets in this branch are increased to \$177,328, which is sufficient to provide a reserve as required by law, and have a surplus of \$11,248. This showing, and the more liberal terms mentioned as offered to policy-holders, should prove an effectual stimulus to the company's life business.

An expression of regret at the circulation of anonymous and untruthful circulars aimed against the company, finds place in the report. This policy of stabbing in the dark is to be condemned, no matter who adopts it or what its object. There are some other features of insurance competition which would be more honored in the breach than in the observance. For example: we have seen an alleged copy of a private circular sent by the managers of a new competitor in that line to the agents of an old company, asking them to leave the service of the latter and become the servants of the former company. "What of that," says some brazen canvasser, "it is done every day among merchants, who steal one another's travelers or seduce their book-keepers on the quiet." Not so bad as that, friend, not every merchant would do that; and if they would, that does not make it right. The golden rule has still some hold upon the consciences of men.

—A serious charge of conspiracy to bribe members of the Ontario House of Assembly, is now under investigation. The parties against whom the charge has been made, are: Mr. J. A. Wilkinson, a local politician, Mr. F. S. Kirkland, an American, from Wisconsin, Mr. Edward Meek, barrister, of Toronto, and Mr. C. W. Bunting, manager of the *Mail*. Mr. Kirkland had an axe to grind in connection with timber limits; and he expected to succeed through political influence, which, he seems to have thought was a purchasable commodity. He was willing to pay in solid cash. Mr. Kirkland fell in with local politicians, who wanted to displace the Mowat Government; and, as the story goes, the two joined forces. Mr. McKim and Mr. Balfour, members of the local legislature, relate several offers of bribes, that were made to them, to change sides. These members resolved to turn detectives and allowed \$1,800, in two sums, \$1,000 and \$800, to be paid to them. They placed the money in the speaker's hands,

and an investigation commenced in two places: before the Committee of Privileges, and the police court. Bail was refused by the Police Magistrate, for Kirkland and Wilkinson; and they were only admitted to bail on application to a superior court, yesterday. Dr. Dowling, another M.P.P. was also approached. How far the ramifications of the plot extended cannot at present be ascertained; and impartial persons will wait till the fact is established before they connect the Ottawa Government with it. Some letters, found on Kirkland, show that he was drawing on associates, in the States; and it looks as if the money were his. But, on this, and several other points, judgment must, for the present, be suspended.

## PROPHESYING "SURE THINGS."

Mr. Samuel Benner, an Ohio farmer, has written a book. That is, he wrote one some eight years ago, entitled "Benner's Prophecies of Future ups and downs in Prices," which has gone through various editions, and now he issues some "Addenda for 1884," to comply, he says, with "an urgent demand from many business men." Mr. Benner takes and maintains the startling ground that "the advance and decline in the average prices of pig-iron, hogs, corn and provisions in the markets of our country for a series of twenty years past, and for certain periods, have been as alternately certain as the diurnal revolutions of the earth upon its axis." So that, it is quite possible to know in what years to make money on pig-iron, hogs and corn. By the way, we must not, in the interest of our readers, pass over what the author says about "Panic" on page fifteen of Messrs. Robert Clarke & Co's. Cincinnati edition of February 1884 (12 mo. pp 177, price \$1.00.) This it is: "I predict that there will be a commercial revulsion and a financial crisis in the year 1891." Reader, be warned in time, you have only seven years to prepare. A little further on he says that while he has not such data as Joseph's Egyptian weather statistics, nor such divine backing as that seer had in his interpretation of Pharaoh's dream to make his interpretation come true, "still on our part, we base our predictions of the future upon records of the past," a proceeding in which he follows Lord Byron, Patrick Henry, Walpole and other philosophers who have said the same thing more neatly. We must make a practical quotation or two, however, recommending those who want to know more about this method of prediction by rule of zig-zag, to buy the book for themselves. Among the Signs of the Times we read: "1884—Iron will continue to droop, with lower prices. \* \* \* There will be an increased number of failures, over and above the number for 1883, before we get a turn in business affairs. \* \* \* Reasoning from what we know, railroad stock have been low enough in this year for this decline so far, and therefore we should not have lower points until after next year. \* \* \* The low point for corn and hogs is for this winter; that is, for the packing season of 1883—84, which no doubt will show a lower average price than for the packing season of 1882—83. The further prophecies are for a higher average in these staples after this winter till the packing season of 1886—87. \* \* \* The prospective supplies and probable demand for wheat indicate that this country will have cheap bread for this year, 1884." As a specimen of the author's occasional quaintness of style we quote from his paragraph on "Panic," p. 17: "Are not all kinds of business at loose