BANKING REVIEW.

The figures of the May bank statement will be found in condensed form below, and are compared with those for the previous month :

LIABILITIES.

	May, 1884.	April, 1884.
Capital authorized..	$71,896,666	$71.896,666
Capital paid up....	61,783,317	61,761 417
Reserved Funds....	18,194,129	17,989,129
Notes in Circulation	28,449,049	29,239,635
Dominion & Provincial Gov't deposits	5,831,400	6,882,533
Deposits held to secure Government contracts and for Insurance Co's ..	477,291	517,865
Public deposits on demand	41,417,213	42,480,223
Public deposits after notice	54,109,469	54,058,662
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured....	....	......
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured...	1,270,279	1,235,622
Due other banks in Canada	1,813,424	1,352,789
Due other banks in Foreign Countries	148,385	120,745
Due other banks in Great Britain....	2,231,058	2,992,916
Other liabilities....	471.225	293,297
Total liabilities ..	$136,218,798	$139,174,293

ASSETS.

	May, 1884.	April, 1884.
Specie............	$ 6,940,400	$ 6,953,397
Dominion notes....	10,768,320	12,078,345
Notes and cheques of other banks......	4,683,088	5,568,440
Due from other b'nks in Canada.......	3.157,798	3,087,451
Due from other b'nks in for'gn countries	10,828,767	13,168,643
Due from other b'nks in Great Britain..	2,609,409	1,650,794
Immediately available assets......	$ 38,987,782	$ 42,507,070
Dominion governm't debent. or stock..	907,549	907,049
Public sec'rit's other than Canadian....	1,504,164	1,502,378
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Gov....	6,089,582	6,108,132
Loans on stocks, bonds or deben..	11,960,405	12,192,872
Loans to municipal corporations	1,642,346	1,484,617
Loans to other corporations	15,630,815	14,413,784
Loans to or deposits made in other banks secured....	229,900	186,702
Loans to or deposits made in other banks unsecured..	458.527	316,675
Discounts current..	131,064,780	130,806,977
Overdue paper unsecured	1,591,424	1,884.577
Other overdue debts unsecured	121,623	193,611
Notes and debts overdue secured..	2,295,424	2,421,416
Real estate........	1,124,921	1,134,387
Mortgages on real estate sold	825.022	820,618
Bank premises....	3,104,226	3,102,513
Other assets	1.433,501	1,787.274
Total assets......	$218,972,091	$221,770,661
Average amount of specie held during the month......	6,848.895	6,838,413
Av. Dom. notes do..	11,468,980	12,110,183
Loans to Directors or their firms....	7,774,880	7,646,305

Owing to the receipt of the supplement containing the May bank statament at a later period than usual, we are unable to give this week, the full return, but present above our usual condensation of it.

THE CITY COUNCIL AND FIRE PROTECTION.

Some months ago the people of Toronto became convinced of the inadequacy of fire protection in the city. A fire took place in open day, resulting in the destruction of one of the finest church edifices in Toronto. The fire brigade, second to none in Canada, stood powerless to cope with the fire, because of the inadequate water pressure. The insurance companies became alarmed, and at considerable expense brought Mr. Alfred Perry from Montreal to make a thorough inspection of our whole system of fire protection. Mr. Perry is a gentleman of large experience in such matters, and quite competent to judge of the efficiency or otherwise of the fire appliances of this or any other city. After a minute and thorough inspection Mr. Perry published an elaborate and able report, pointing out the defects in our system of fire protection, and suggesting, what appeared to us at the time efficient remedies. The city council appeared to awake from their censurable indifference to the safety of the city from fire, and made a show of taking some steps at least, with the view of remedying the most glaring defects. One of these steps was to be the improvement of our electric fire-alarm system. On the recommendation of the fire and gas committee the council made an appropriation of $1000 for the purchase of two dozen new fire alarm boxes. Among the improvements was a repeater, but nothing has been done, except to spend the money placed in the estimates for a repeater in extending the electric light service. We are surprised at Mr. Farley allowing any tampering with the department over which he presides.

It will be thus seen that nothing has been done, although it would not require a great outlay to make the improvements in this branch of the service as suggested by Mr. Perry. It is little short of criminal neglect on the part of the city council to allow such a state of things to exist. Examples are daily furnished of the sad state of disrepair into which our fire alarm system has been allowed to fall. On Sunday evening last an alarm given from box 148, corner of College and Clinton streets, was sounded from box 52, in the east end of the city. A similar alarm was struck a few evenings ago, resulting in the reels passing one another, the one going west, the other east, on their way to the same fire. Such a state of matters, if allowed to exist, may at any moment end in a disastrous conflagration. The first step towards putting out a fire is to be early on the spot. This is the chief benefit derived from a perfect system of electric fire-alarms. But if the sounding of an alarm from a box in the west end of the city results in ringing out a number in the east end, what can be expected but blunders of the worst kind, and a wasteful destruction of valuable property by fire?

The climax, however, has been reached by the city council in connection with the tenders for new pumping engines. Weeks ago tenders were called for and received. Experts were appointed to report on the various tenders. Aldermen went on tours of inspection to American cities, presumably with the view of preparing them to make a wise choice. Champagne and Pullman cars were the order of the day. Everything was done by our American cousins to entertain and enlighten their Canadian visitors, quite regardless of cost. The aldermen and the civic friends who accompanied them returned, and the public naturally expected that immediate action would be taken. Not so; meeting after meeting of the council was held without anything being done. It was currently reported on the streets for some days past, that very questionable means were being used in obtaining the support of certain members of the council in favor of one of the tenders. On Friday evening the council was called together by the Mayor after his return from the semi-centennial celebration of a neighboring city. The session was prolonged till about 5 o'clock on Saturday morning, without any decision being arrived at. The supporters of the American engine, it is said, were supposed to be in the minority, and to prevent a vote being taken they spoke against time. A prominent alderman from St. James' ward appeared to be the leader in the work of obstruction. At length some time after the sun was up and shed its life giving rays on the sleepy aldermen, a motion to adjourn till Monday evening was carried. Public feeling, apparently, ran high in favor of the Canadian engine; and the council room on Monday evening was packed with the supporters of the different engines—those in favor of that of Inglis & Hunter appearing to predominate. Alderman Harvie opened the proceedings by referring to certain charges that had been made as to the bribing of some of the aldermen to vote in favor of a certain tender being accepted, and he called on Alderman Brandon, who, with some reluctance, admitted that he had been "approached." It turned out that he was not the only one, and instead of deciding which tender was to be accepted, our city fathers have shelved the matter for some time by referring the whole matter of the alleged bribery to the county judge for investigation. Is it true, as alleged, that contract brokers make their appearance whenever any large city contract is to be made? If such a thing exists, we trust the approaching investigation of the aldermanic bribery plot, will be the means of discovering the nefarious practice and stamping it out.

THE ANTHRACITE COAL MONOPOLY.

Philadelphians are loud in their denunciation of the anthracite coal monopoly, which compels consumers to pay fictitious prices for their coal. One of the means suggested, for breaking the monopoly, is to abolish the coal duties; and in this way relief ought to come, if in no other. The monopolists do not appear to have done themselves much good, while they have inflicted deep and cruel injury on the public. The monopoly owes its ori in to the Reading Railway Company, which cumbered itself with such an extent of coal lands, in the Schuylkill region, that it broke down under the weight, and the road had to go into the hands of a receiver. But the company was most improperly allowed to