

Rothschilds. It is a curious coincidence that this is the gentleman who organized a company of Americans looking to the building of a railway somewhere to the Klondyke, of which George Gould, John W. Mackay, M. L. Z. Leiter, known as a Chicago wheat monopolist, were members. Is this what has been called the Rothschilds' company?

TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

Larger figures than usual are shown by the Board of Trade bulletin of imports and exports for January last. Imports were \$2,169,729 in value, and exports \$559,408, making the aggregate foreign trade of the port \$2,729,137. Principal items of import were the following:

DUTIABLE GOODS.

	Jan., 1898.	Jan., 1897.
Brass and manufactures of	\$ 4,701	\$ 5,064
Copper	337	123
Iron and steel	104,657	80,254
Lead	167	8,026
Metals and composition	14,865	7,125
Total metal goods	\$124,727	\$100,592
Cotton and manufactures of	\$296,240	\$173,494
Fancy goods	91,194	64,183
Hats, caps and bonnets	18,709	21,685
Silk and manufactures of	118,833	80,454
Woolen manufactures	209,316	146,954
Total dry goods	\$734,292	\$486,770
Books and pamphlets	\$23,353	\$18,104
Bicycles, &c.	31,065	25,632
Coal, bituminous	49,823	22,009
" anthracite (free)	83,779	65,819
Drugs and medicines	21,355	12,681
Earthen and chinaware	19,960	13,099
Fruits, green and dried	27,131	14,986
Glass and glassware	12,006	19,296
Gutta Percha	13,037	6,281
Flax	53,201	
Jewelry and watches	23,954	24,792
Leather and manufactures of	21,606	17,821
Musical instruments	13,883	7,079
Paints and colors	10,166	4,024
Paper and manufactures of	32,903	23,716
Spirits and wines	15,657	4,652

The increased import of dry goods (?) and metal wares is thus marked; in paper and books, coal, bicycles, fruit, drugs and leather there were also larger amounts purchased. On examining the list of free goods imported a very unusual quantity of hides and skins appears, the value being \$312,118; dyes and chemicals, wool, coffee, crude rubber, show increased import. The following are the comparative exports:—

EXPORTS, CANADIAN PRODUCE.

Produce of	Jan., 1898.	Jan., 1897.
The Mine	\$ 425	
" Fisheries	9	\$ 330
" Forest	1,199	6,547
" Field	136,829	94,917
Animals and their produce	245,645	216,253
Manufactures	150,964	84,696
Total	\$535,071	\$402,743

A SHAMEFUL EXPOSURE.

Rather more than a hundred shareholders of the Farmers' Loan and Savings Company met on Tuesday in Toronto to receive a report of the liquidator, Mr. J. W. Langmuir, who as chairman of the meeting read a report detailing the condition of the company, into whose affairs he has been probing for some weeks. The story he had to tell is one of negligence on the part of directors, incompetency, deception and fraud on the part of employees, and incapacity on the part of the auditors. "A large proportion of the loans were taken on the security of vacant and unproductive lands, a class of security which, owing to shrinkage in values, is now only realizable, if at all, at a very great loss.

"The books of the company have not only been most defectively kept, but are in many vital particulars purposely deceptive and misleading, which, it is but fair to state, has rendered the supervision of the business by the directors exceedingly difficult, while the disregard of every proper principle that should prevail in keeping the accounts of a loan company rendered it not only exceedingly difficult to make out the condition of individual borrowers, but still more so to ascertain the true position of the company's affairs."

The liquidator plainly states that the company's doors have been kept open of late only by the "systematic falsification by the manager and accountant of the only official documents submitted to public

scrutiny, the assets and liability sheets, and the profit and loss statements. If the auditors had properly discharged their duties, the deceptions practised by the manager, accountant and teller would long ago have been exposed and much loss avoided. Not only were the auditors guilty of gross neglect, but for reasons which they profess to be unable to explain they certified to the correctness of two distinctly different profit and loss statements for the year ending April 30th, 1897, as well as for the preceding year of the company."

There are discrepancies between depositors' pass books and the ledger. Out of 504 deposit accounts, 342 for \$191,588 have been found correct, but of the remaining 162 there have been 71 examined, the pass books of which demand \$69,766 while there is only \$59,489 to their credit on the ledger. There are still 91 accounts of this sort to be examined. Then there is an apparently fraudulent issue of 45 shares fully paid-up stock. The condition of the stock as at 12th February, is 10,000 shares of \$50 each fully paid stock, equals \$500,000, and 1,145 shares on which \$111,320 has been paid; aggregate paid, \$611,320; and there is still owing on the 1,145 shares \$445,930.

The company owes for taxes on vacant lands around Toronto, \$35,000, and other dues of a like kind are estimated at \$15,000 more. "The liabilities of the company at this date, subject to a further examination into the difference between the debenture account and debenture registers of about \$2,000 is as follows:—

Sterling debentures	\$851,277 32
Currency debentures	205,193 33
Deposits so far as ascertained to date	288,310 40
Bank and sundry creditors about	65,000 00
Taxes, estimated	50,000 00

Total \$1,459,781 05

"The assets, according to the books of the company, and as stated in the 'assets and liabilities sheet' of April 30, 1897, which was duly certified to by the auditors and submitted to the shareholders at their meeting on June 2, 1897, are as follows:—

Investments	\$2,194 807 68
Cash in bank	3,651 70
Cash on hand	3,399 87

Total \$2,201,859 25

"Of the \$3,399.87 cash stated to be on hand, \$1,467.81 was composed of worthless cheques and I.O.U.'s of the accountant and teller, and whether the balance ever existed or not is not known, as the auditors acknowledge that they had never on any occasion verified the cash in the teller's hands with the amount said to be at credit. Reference should also be made to unwarranted overdrafts on deposit accounts of the manager, accountant and teller to the extent of \$11,282 24. These irregular overdrafts are now under the consideration of the solicitors.

No regular mortgage ledger was kept, and the bookkeeping is described as "utterly bad and misleading." The securities of the company on productive properties are as in the subjoined list:—

Farm property	\$267,939 99
City of Toronto	344,903 38
Toronto Junction	129,185 09
North Toronto and other suburbs	15,933 78
Towns and villages in Ontario	2,807 61

Unpaid principal of such mortgages \$760,769 85

Showing that not much more than a third of the good mortgages were on farm lands. But the total unpaid principal of mortgages on vacant land is \$1,359,348; and there are arrears of interest to \$47,000 on farm loans, and a further sum of \$341,000 in unpaid principal and arrears of interest on rented properties and vacant land in Toronto and Toronto Junction.

The total unpaid principal, arrears, etc., up to 12th February, is \$1,747,875, and the liquidator makes out that the encroachment on capital amounts to \$453,984. He thinks the shareholders will lose all their stock; not only this, but he questions if more than 50 cents in the dollar will be realized upon the assets of the company. Security for the three missing employees is recoverable from the Guarantee Company for \$11,000; that is, \$5,000 for the manager and \$3,000 each for the accountant and teller. Replying to a question, Mr. Langmuir said: "The manager, the accountant and the teller had all deposit accounts with the company, and these were overdrawn between \$12,000 and \$13,000. That was fraudulent. Bethune was overdrawn from \$6,000 to \$7,000 and Pinkney and Scott by about \$3,000 each. This had been going on since 1894."

The meeting elected the following gentlemen a committee of creditors to act with the liquidator: Rev. Dr. Warden, E. R. C. Clarkson, Alexander Patterson, and Dr. Moffatt. It is understood they are to serve without remuneration. On Wednesday afternoon the depositors met to select a committee to act with the liquidator, but were unable to agree upon the subject. At this meeting the question was asked by Mr. Ald. James Scott why no direct reference was made by the liqui-