merited suspicion on American meat in Europe. Diseased horse flesh has been shipped to Europe under the name of beef, Some of it, it was said, was to come back, under the guarantee of fancy brands. The rascals engaged in the business have the audacity to contend for the right to continue it, but now that the attention of the authorities has been directed to it the infamy will come to an end. But suspicion once excited may not be so easily allayed. American pork has been till recently excluded from most of the countries in Europe, on the suspicion of liability to disease, and American beef goes there in large quantities. If the consumers of the latter once get the impression that they are liable to get diseased horse flesh under the name of beef, a serious check to this trade would take place. The motives to stamp out this vile traffic are strong and will be sure to prove efficacious. Henry Boose, the person engaged in this traffic, ought not to escape without condign punishment.

BANKING RETURN.

The figures of the Canadian bank statement for Nov. last will be found in condensed form below, and are compared with those of the previous month. The statement bears date Ottawa, 18th December.

CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

LIABILITIES.

	Nov., 1891.	Oct. 1891.
Capital authorized..	$75,758,665	$75,258,665
Capital paid up....	61,234,202	61,025,204
Reserve Funds	23,355,509	23,194,784
Notes in circulation	37,430,690	37,182,768
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits....	5,185,751	4,944,828
Public deposits on demand..........	60,407,296	58,498,022
Public deposits after notice............	89,294,205	88,503,782
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured...	72,797	179,996
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.	2,886,614	2,673,535
Due other banks in Canada in daily balances	264,577	276,425
Due other banks in foreign countries	166,164	127,898
Due other banks in Great Britain...	1,646,770	1,951,954
Other liabilities....	811,401	180,376
Total liabilities..	$198,166,352	$194,519,488

ASSETS.

	Nov., 1891.	Oct. 1891.
Specie	$ 5,783,640	$ 6,240,126
Dominion notes....	10,104,057	10,461,550
Deposits to secure note circulation..	843,075	843,075
Notes and cheques of other banks..	8,195,716	6,932,279
Due from other banks in Canada in daily exch'nges	377,047	668,161
Deposits made with other banks	3,743,823	3,048,777
Due from other banks in foreign countries	20,364,542	18,923,915
Due from other banks in Great Britain..........	5,735,420	5,600,484
Dominion Government debentures or stock.........	2,593,541	2,577,791
Other securities....	10,391,898	10,027,484
Call loans on bonds and stocks	13,235,807	12,639,259
	$81,368,566	$77,962,901
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Govts..	853,577	536,153
Current loans and discounts	187,847,645	188,660,305
Loans to other banks secured..........	94,378	208,573
Overdue debts	2,654,123	2,580,808
Real estate........	1,157,070	1,104,047
Mortgages on real estate sold	772,485	789,729
Bank premises....	4,429,626	4,412,258
Other assets	1,639,121	1,599,940
Total assets......	$280,816,793	$277,854,911
Average amount of specie held during the month	5,944,706	6,348,297
Av. Dom. notes do..	9,994,058	10,663,256
Loans to directors or their firms....	5,033,314	6,106,141
Greatest amount notes in circulation during m'nth	38,553,546	37,595,775

We purpose to discuss the financial situation with some fulness next week, but meanwhile remark that it is evident from the above statement that a considerable liquidation is going on. The resources of the banks are largely increased within the month, and at the same time the demands of their regular customers have been less, as indicated by the decline, compared with October, in the item of current loans and discounts. In consequence of this the liquid assets or reserves have been much increased during November. On the whole the noticeable features of the return are satisfactory ones.

There is a feeling of confidence in business circles, and we believe it only needs cold weather and sleighing to make trade brisk, which, with such a depressingly wet Christmas as the present, it cannot well be. While the country storekeeper is not selling his heavy woollens, and meanwhile does not at the moment feel as happy or as hopeful as he might, activity must come. The money market is easy and the stock market buoyant. That the community is not poor may be gathered from a glance at the $150,000,000 of their savings, in the hands of the banks, as shown above.

ABSTRACT OF BANK RETURNS.

31st October, 1891. [In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total.
	$	$	$	$
Capital paid up	34,501	17,079	9,445	61,025
Circulation	18,299	12,515	6,368	37,182
Deposits.........	77,022	56,785	20,993	154,800
Loans, Disc'ts & Investments...	101,165	72,164	31,262	204,591
Cash, Foreign Balances (Net) & Call Loans..	36,006	20,591	6,403	63,000
Legals	5,157	3,855	1,450	10,461
Specie......	3,390	1,944	906	6,240
Call Loans..	4,583	6,137	1,919	12,639

30th November, 1891. [In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's	Total
	$	$	$	$
Capital paid up..	34,501	17,268	9,465	61,234
Circulation	18,260	12,927	6,242	37,431
Deposits.........	78,069	58,825	20,961	157,486
Loans Discounts & Investments....	101,197	72,109	30,128	204,434
Cash, Foreign balances (Net) and Call Loans.....	37,032	23,237	6,035	66,304
Legals	5,106	3,543	1,454	10,103
Specie	2,982	1,943	858	5,783
Call Loans...	4,887	7,406	943	13,236

BANK DEPOSITS.

A number of our contemporaries are giving currency to an unfounded statement that, under the Bank Act which came into force last summer, the balance held by banks in respect to which no transactions have taken place for five years, will be confiscated by the Government.

The enactment is, we think, open to strong objection as an interference with private rights, but it does not go so far as the statement suggests. The law requires that a statement of all amounts untouched for five years shall be sent to the Finance Minister, to be laid before Parliament, and the information thus become public, but that is the extent of the injury done.

Parties having deposits in banks can easily protect themselves from this unwarrantable publicity by getting their pass-books written up, or their deposit receipts renewed, at least once in every two or three years.

AMERICAN CURRENCY IN CANADA.

Among Canadian bankers the question has been raised whether Canada ought not to reciprocate the American tax of ten per cent. on Canadian bank notes by a similar imposition on American bank notes, silver and silver certificates.

Some of our banks have agencies in the United States, and the tax prevents the free circulation of their notes in the Republic. No American banks have agencies in Canada, and any of their notes that come here come to pay for some purchase; this is also true of American silver and silver certificates. The need is of some means, automatic if possible, of restoring these currencies to the country after they have served the original purpose for which they entered the country. The tax on Canadian bank notes, when issued by Canadian banks in the United States, can easily be understood, in the light of history, and in accordance with current American theories of securing such notes. The National Banks' notes are absolutely secured; Canadian are sufficiently secured, though in a different way, and the difference is one on which a prejudice against the latter might easily be founded in a foreign country, where different ideas and practices prevail. The Canadian banks which have agencies in the United States issue a perfectly sound currency, convertible at all times into gold, and capable of being used to draw gold into the Republic by the simple process of conversion. But defenders of the American tax argue, if free circulation of Canadian notes in the Republic were permitted, some Canadian banks of a different character might come into existence and find a footing there. In this way a currency which would cause loss to the holders might find extensive circulation. This, it is remembered, used to be done by worthless American banks which, having headquarters in the East, used to circulate their notes in the West, to the loss of ignorant persons. The danger is so remote nowadays as to be scarcely real, but if the memory of what once used to be done