

The Imperial Bank is opening a branch in Vancouver, B.C.

Banking capital and deposits in the States have both increased this year, the former by six millions, the latter by fifty-four millions. The deposits are 64 millions in excess of those held three years ago. Both are indicative of improved business.

Another U. S. Bond issue is regarded as probable early in the year. A new syndicate is being organized, which may make a formal offer to the Administration to buy an issue of low rate bonds, say 3 per cents., for the purpose of restoring the gold reserve and providing for the contingency of further export withdrawals.

The Bank of Ottawa reports profits of \$204,479 which is equal to \$13.60 per cent. for year ending 1st inst. This provides for two half yearly dividends of 4 per cent. each, with \$75,000 left to carry to Reserve Fund, and \$5,000 to Pension Fund. The Reserve Fund now amounts to one million dollars, which is equal to 67 per cent. of the capital.

The amounts and kinds of money in circulation in the United States are given in a Treasury bulletin as on 1st inst. :-

	1895.	1894.
Gold coin.....	\$480,252,104	\$465,789,187
Silver dollars.....	58,760,713	57,449,865
Subsidiary silver.....	65,416,119	61,606,967
Gold certificates.....	50,233,979	58,925,899
Silver certificates.....	335,855,893	332,517,084
Treasury notes.....	115,260,322	124,574,906
U. S. notes.....	234,912,497	276,910,489
Currency certificates.....	45,935,000	57,135,000
National bank notes.....	207,568,852	202,517,054
Total.....	\$1,594,195,479	\$1,637,226,451

Treasury holdings show net decrease for the month of November of \$4,974,248 gold coin and \$8,818,646 gold bullion.

The Clearing house returns for week ending 5th inst. were as follows, compared with corresponding week 1894:-

	Dec. 5th, 1895.	Dec. 6th, 1894.
Montreal.....	\$13,174,658	\$11,861,838
Toronto.....	8,455,256	6,818,585
Halifax.....	1,268,620	1,240,622
Winnipeg.....	1,873,870	1,349,685
Hamilton.....	818,816	738,297
	\$25,591,200	\$22,009,027

The public revenue is showing gratifying indications of improvement. The receipts from 1st July to 1st December were as follows:-

	1895.	1894.
Customs.....	\$290,142	7,160,714
Excise.....	3,350,279	3,304,397
Post office.....	1,170,000	1,120,000
Public works.....	1,747,224	1,635,468
Miscellaneous.....	396,197	384,516
	\$14,954,142	\$13,605,055
Expenditures.....	11,618,500	12,050,038
Surplus.....	\$3,335,642	\$1,555,017

November is not a good revenue month, as outlays are always above the average, and importing is low, being between two active seasons. Should this record be kept up, the deficit of last year will be wiped out.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondents.

TORONTO LETTER.

Acquittal of the Hyams.—McMillan convicted.—After the \$1000 reward offered by the C. F. U. A.—Who is the unknown?—Arthur A. Dicks acquitted of the charge of murder.—Hyams re-arrested—A Steam Fire Engine for Toronto manufacturing in Brantford.—Our necessities require six steamers.—The distasteful tax.—Transfer of Steam Boiler Insurance.—Three months under the Stamp.

DEAR EDITOR,

As partly expected, the Hyams brothers have been acquitted by the jury, and this long and expensive trial is over. Dissatisfaction, however, is very generally expressed at the result, it being the opinion of many that the judge made too liberal a use of his powers in ruling out so frequently, much of the evidence that the Crown Counsel considered pertinent to the case, and which if it had been admitted would doubtless have affected the issue of the trial very largely. This case will always stand out prominently amongst criminal trials as one of the most interesting and remarkable, and perhaps one of the most expensive to the Crown, as well as one in which the defence expended money lavishly, where it would do the most good legitimately in the interest of the accused.

The trial of McMillan, for setting fire to the Osgoodby Building, where, you will remember, originated the second of the three conflagrations last winter in Toronto, has ended in his conviction. It is right to say that in some respects the evidence against McMillan did not seem quite satisfactory, but the Judge's charge went strongly against the accused, and no doubt influenced the jury. It is said the verdict will be appealed against. In connection with this matter I would mention that the Fire Underwriters some time ago offered a reward of \$1,000 for information leading up to the arrest and conviction of the incendiary or incendiaries who started the Osgoodby fire last winter, and McMillan having just been convicted, a legal gentleman promptly waited on Mr. McLean, Secretary of the C. F. U. A., yesterday, claiming the reward on behalf of his client. On requesting the name of the client, the solicitor said that he could only give the name in confidence to the Secretary, as his client desired to be unknown for good reasons. Very properly Mr. McLean refused to accept the name on any such conditions, stating that the Underwriters would desire to make their cheque payable direct to the right party, and, moreover, would require satisfactory proof that his client was that party. It was also pointed out that the claimant of the reward was a little hasty in moving, seeing that McMillan was not yet sentenced, and that steps were being taken to secure a new trial.

The trial of Arthur A. Dicks, for the murder of his wife Mary Dicks, on 2nd March last, by setting fire to his house, was yesterday brought abruptly to an end by Judge Rose taking the case from the jury, and ordering an acquittal. He considered there was no evidence that the place had been set on fire to get the insurance, as goods had been removed openly, nor that the woman had been first killed and the house set on fire afterwards. Mrs. Dicks' life having been insured for \$19,000 for the benefit of her children, and that they being young the accused would have control of the money, seemed to supply a motive for the alleged crime.

The Hyams, having been re-arrested, are both to be tried now for conspiracy to defraud the Life companies, and one of them for forgery, so that this year will be a notable one in Canadian history for insurance trials. I hear also of another arrest made for setting fire to the ice-houses lately burned in the east end.