

stock; then came distrust on the part of depositors; then heavy withdrawals of money; then alarmed conferences between the Board and other banks, and appeals for assistance; then as to the end of the first development the resignation of the principal executive officer of the bank, the one man, who was not only the founder of the Bank, but who by his daring and genius, had achieved for it a success (apparently) far beyond what had ever been dreamed of in Canadian banking before.

We are of course repeating what the public is very familiar with. They know perfectly what follows. The appointment and resignation of a successor, followed with extraordinary rapidity, then came an examination of the Bank's position by a Committee; then the appointment of a new General Manager, under terms as to salary, quite as extraordinary as the events that had preceded it; then heavy and still continued withdrawals of deposits, accompanied by a wholesale casting overboard of discount customers. The same bold and aggressive line of action, which had been adopted to obtain business, was now employed to get rid of it. Customers who before had been eagerly welcomed, were now told that *they must go*. Thus cast adrift, they found a haven of refuge one by one in other Banks. Not all of them, however. For some, we believe, have not yet been fortunate enough to find such a haven. The Bank is not only casting customers overboard, but even whole towns and districts. Branch after branch is being closed up with a rapidity hitherto unknown. The one set purpose, and all-constraining impulse of the management now is, to get back within the comfortable lines of the first year or two of the bank's existence.

So much for the past. What the future will bring forth none can tell. We believe the committee of examination pronounced the bank solvent. We believe also that in their judgment immense sums would require to be written off for losses; and also that the Bank was terribly clogged by lock-ups and dragging securities. These will require to be worked out. The new manager has the reputation of being a shrewd and able man, and to have, like the former one, a sprinkling of dash and daring about him. But he has been brought up in a first rate school, and he has the fate of his predecessor before him as a beacon.

Is it of any use to moralize about all these things? This may be doubted. There have been plenty of examples of the consequences of bad banking, both in Canada and elsewhere. If men will persist, in spite of warnings, in pursuing courses that experience has declared to be dangerous, they must of course accept the consequences, and not only they themselves, but those who trust them. There is neither "good luck" nor "bad luck" in banking. Events follow one another in the way of cause and effect with a regularity that is almost unvarying. Banking is, in this respect like any other line of business. It is like navigation, for example. Many years ago a line of steamships crossed the Atlantic whose management was characterized mainly by boldness, dash and daring. They eclipsed their competitors by the rapidity of

their passages. One of their captains, however, was an exception to the rule. He refused to drive ahead in the daring style of the rest, and, being a good seaman, the owners put up with this little eccentricity and allowed him to have his own way. The result was that he alone of all the captains escaped ruinous disaster. Every ship but his was wrecked one after another. The line was broken up and disappeared from the scene, never to be revived again. What is the moral of all this? What, but that caution and prudence are better elements in navigation than dash and daring. So they are in banking.

When any bank seeks to eclipse its competitors in the style in which it does business, then the public should be on the lookout. High rate of interest for deposits means bad security for depositors; there can be no doubt about it. And loans without security, and at a lower rate of interest than ordinary, carry bad consequences both for the borrower and the poor bank stockholders whose means and credit are being jeopardised.

When managers of branches have "easy times" of it, so called, and are allowed to launch out money by hundreds of thousands at a time without restraint or check; when the chief officers of banks are known as heavy speculators, and when the reserved funds of an institution are swelled up by stock operations and the like, there is sure to be a day of sharp reckoning ahead. Shrewd observers have been quietly prophesying for years past that something would happen. But then these were "old fogies" and behind the times. After all it may be useful for bankers and their customers to think about these things. If they would think about them it would save trouble. This development has caused some discussion on the subject of bank returns. We shall have something to say upon this in our next issue. We append our usual figures and summary, and our readers can examine these for themselves.

## 30TH JUNE, 1883. [In thousands.

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in Maritime Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up ..	\$ 36,723	\$ 18,105	\$ 6,576	\$ 61,404
Circulation .....	17,032	11,245	3,935	32,212
Deposits .....	55,445	42,126	9,578	107,149
Loans & discounts..	91,738	67,722	18,839	178,299
Cash and foreign balances (Net)...	21,036	6,390	1,464	28,890

## 30TH JUNE., 1884. [In thousands.

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in Maritime Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up....	\$ 36,299	\$ 18,764	\$ 6,380	\$ 61,442
Circulation .....	14,927	10,778	3,949	29,654
Deposits .....	55,383	40,345	10,866	106,594
Loans & Discounts.	90,549	65,009	19,053	174,611
Cash and Foreign Balances (Net)...	18,427	7,228	2,213	27,868

During the month circulation increased \$1,200,000, deposits \$4,759,000, loans and discounts \$2,400,000, and in cash and foreign balances a decrease of \$900,000 is shewn.

## TRADE WITH FRANCE.

Now that our imports from France have reached almost the highest point ever known, it is of interest to see what these consisted of. The value of imports into Canada from France in the fiscal year, 1882, was \$2,097,000; in 1883 it was \$2,316,480. We give below the value of imports of principal items during the fiscal year last past:—

Article.	Quantity.	Value.
Brandy .....	298,049 gals.	\$538,401
Wines, Still .....	157,280 "	147,448
Calf Skin, &c .....	116,634 lbs.	127,355
Other Leathers .....	.....	105,985
Champagne .....	13,522 gals.	103,360
Kid Gloves .....	.....	96,969
Woollen Goods .....	.....	80,993
Silk Piece Goods .....	.....	70,188
Flowers and Feathers...	.....	64,618
Laces and Braids .....	.....	63,628
Dried Prunes .....	1,485,035 lbs.	63,325
Books and Pamphlets..	.....	45,964
Bibles and Prayer Books	.....	31,292
Fancy Goods .....	.....	31,254
Tobacco Pipes .....	.....	30,963
China and Porcelain...	.....	25,596
Glass and Glassware...	.....	24,708
Filberts and Walnuts...	493,701 lbs.	24,160
Almonds .....	261,749 "	18,846
Buttons .....	.....	21,380
Glue .....	184,069 lbs.	19,831
Cologne and Bay Rum..	1,299 gals.	19,081

Wines and brandy together constitute more than one-third, in money value, of all our imports from *La Belle France*. Ontario took from her last year \$110,000 worth, Quebec, \$476,000 worth. Every one of our Provinces in fact, imported these liquors from France. The value of champagne so purchased was \$103,000; of still wines, \$147,000; of brandy, \$538,401. These figures make those of liquors imported from other countries seem less formidable in comparison. For example, \$180,000 worth of gin from Holland, and \$38,000 from Britain; \$76,000 worth of rum from the West Indies, and whiskey to the value of \$194,000 from Great Britain. We remark, in passing, that of American whiskey—which Canucks think is not so good as our own—British Columbia uses the most. What sort of prices they pay is indicated in the fact that where New Brunswickers took 3,724 gallons, and paid \$2,737 for it. Columbians paid \$7,790, or nearly three times as much, for about the same quantity.

Leather goods form another item which is a large one among our imports from France. The item of French calf and kid appears at \$127,000, and kid gloves at \$96,969. Artificial flowers and various kinds of feathers, are descriptions of millinery goods, which are nowhere so tastefully made as in France. These represent a value of \$64,618 in the returns, while laces and braids amount to as much more. Imports of woollen fabrics are not so large as in former years, probably because Bradford now turns out very fair substitutes for the beautiful *beiges*, in which the French excell. Silk dress goods, ribbons, clothing, and other manufactures, form a total of \$100,000. Fancy goods continue to be a considerable item, jewellery, a relatively small one. The item of bibles and prayer books, \$31,292, represents imports by the Province of Quebec, and the imports from France of books and pamphlets, \$45,904, were almost entirely for that Province.

We remark that the imports of woollen goods include \$7,912 worth of cashmeres;