

seems to be no reason for general apprehension in recent bank failures. The most important of them—that in Chicago—was clearly due to bad banking methods. Such things must be expected to occur from time to time, so long as foolish and incapable people are allowed to have the management of large institutions. To lend more than the whole capital of the bank to one concern—and that concern not a commercial one—could not but in time work disaster. The stoppage was brought about by the action of a bank examiner, but his action was simply that of “locking the door when the steed was stolen.”

The system of bank examination in the States rarely seems to work in the way of preventing mischief in its incipient stages; and sometimes it is utterly inefficient even in discovering evils which were so rampant as to wreck a bank within a short time after the examiner had pronounced everything to be right.

The sittings of Congress are always looked forward to with apprehension by the financial and solid business interests of the States; for it is only too common for rash and ill-considered measures to be introduced into that body, the passing of which would have incalculable results for mischief. As to foolish and inflammatory resolutions, there has been an example recently of the extent to which thoughtless folly can go. The whole is rather a dismal commentary on the developments of democratic government, and of the extent to which business and great financial interests may be damaged by the rashness of wrong-headed and ill-informed legislators. Such things could not happen in our legislatures, or in England, owing to the fact that a responsible ministry would have to bring in such resolutions, which they could only do at the peril of their own position.

So far as Canada as a whole is concerned, there appears to be a considerable amount of money being saved in spite of all drawbacks and disadvantages. The deposits of the chartered banks have increased nearly seven millions, and of the other savings bank and loan companies three millions, making the very substantial increase of nearly ten millions of dollars during the year.

The total amount of deposits of all kinds on the 30th November was \$286,450,000, an amount that would never have been dreamed of at the time when the provinces were confederated.

It is not more than twenty-five years since a very eminent Scotch banker, who was exceptionally well acquainted with Canada, expressed the opinion that deposits in this country could never be an important factor in the position. They were at that time certainly small enough. But for a country with only five millions of population to have nearly sixty million pounds sterling in actual money savings, besides an enormous amount of property of various other kinds, both real and personal, is a striking tribute to the industry, energy and capacity of the people who have made the Dominion of Canada what it is.

ABSTRACT OF BANK RETURNS.

30th November, 1895.

[In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in the other Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up	34,819	17,789	9,486	62,094
Circulation	16,756	11,842	5,764	34,362
Deposits	96,895	73,916	27,900	198,711
Loans, Discounts and Investments	112,554	82,460	35,128	230,142
Cash, Foreign Balances (Net), and Call Loans	44,601	27,492	10,382	82,475
Legals	8,609	4,864	2,558	16,031
Specie	3,494	2,725	1,130	7,349
Call Loans	5,740	9,346	2,018	17,104
Investments	6,576	12,060	4,555	23,191

30th Nov., 1896.

[In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up	34,819	17,291	9,615	61,725
Circulation	17,202	11,925	6,135	35,262
Deposits	99,146	76,348	29,634	205,128
Loans, Discounts and Investments	119,280	85,299	37,021	241,600
Cash, Foreign Balances (Net), and Call Loans	40,741	26,826	10,605	78,172
Legals	7,341	4,555	2,915	14,811
Specie	3,644	3,051	1,611	8,306
Call Loans	4,768	7,834	1,614	14,216
Investments	7,004	12,686	4,576	24,266

Government Savings Banks

Montreal City and District Savings Bank

La Caisse d'Economie, Quebec

Loan Companies, 1895

Bank Deposits

Total Deposits of all kinds

GOVERNMENT CIRCULATION.

Small

Large

\$21,515,770

Gold held, \$9,901,438, or 46.02 per cent.

PROTECTION AND RECIPROCITY IN THE STATES.

As far as can be seen at present the Republicans at Washington are preparing to set up a new trinity: Protection, Reciprocity and Silver, and to ask for it the adoration of the faithful. Of the three elements the aim will be to make the first predominant; the second is to be shaken in the face of twenty-nine countries which sell to the Republic more than they buy from it; silver is to take the form of a common coin suitable for trade between the United States and Spanish America: a revival of Blaine's silver policy made public six years ago. In the tariff scheme there is no place for ad valorem duties; at least specific duties are to be the rule. Wool is to be taxed; but not many rates of the McKinley tariff are to be restored. Men in the confidence of the President-elect let it be known that he became convinced, after they went into effect, that these rates were too high. In the reciprocity part of the programme, as sketched by the Hopkins' committee, no place is given to Canada. McKinley was consulted by the committee before it made its report; he is said to be now in favor of a much larger measure of reciprocity than was contained in the bill which bore his name, but it does not follow that Canada is to be added to the twenty-nine countries named. The silver leg of the tripod it is hoped to make strong enough to bear the Sound Money Democrats, the Silverites and the Populists. That such a miracle can be utilized there are, apparently, some who believe, or who at all events wish to make others believe. In the late election campaign many Sound Money men were carried off their feet in their denunciation of silver; to it they attributed all the woes of the silver-standard countries, including low rates of wages, though a silver standard must raise nominal wages as certainly as that it could not so affect real wages. Now some of these Sound Money men begin to foresee the magic effect to be produced by the coming common silver coin. It is to remove the paralysis of international trade, in a given direction; to say to the fluctuations between the price of gold and silver, “be still” and they will be still; it is to bring up the value of the white metal, but for prudential reasons the Silverite water-mark of 16 to 1 is not mentioned. Some of the Sound Money men have further discovered that England is racking her brain over the same problem of a common silver coin for use in the East,