

indicates an increased business, deposits being swelled to \$4,970,000. Current bills show a considerable increase, and there is a marked decrease in the item of overdue debts. Some of the real estate held, too, has been sold and replaced by mortgage. The report does not consider the business of the country for the past year generally satisfactory: either the farmers owed more than was thought or else they are holding back their grain for higher prices. While deposit money is plentiful in Canada as well as elsewhere, the directors find "its good effects are affected by the lower rates of interest at which it can be utilized."

The twentieth annual meeting of the Bank of Hamilton was held on Monday last in its new banking premises, a very complete and handsome building, a description of which we hope to give in next issue. The net profits earned during the year were \$135,403, sufficient to pay dividend at 8 per cent. and add \$30,582 to Rest, which account is still further increased by premium on new stock sold, and amounts to more than fifty per cent. of the paid capital. The bank's statement shows evidence of activity and progress. Deposits now reach \$4,690,000, and circulation is near a million; available assets stand at \$1,809,000. An interesting retrospect of the history of the bank was given by the president. We reproduce some of his figures; the first annual meeting was held in June, 1873:

There was in 1877 a paid up capital of.....\$ 67,000  
At the tenth meeting in 1882 it was.. 751,000  
" the fifteenth meeting in 1887.... 1,000,000  
" the twentieth in 1892 ..... 1,250,000  
In 1877 the Rest accumulated was.. 50,000  
In 1882 it had risen to ..... 135,000  
In 1887 it had risen to ..... 340,000  
In 1892 it is now ..... 650,000

The deposits were \$874,000, \$1,272,000, \$2,215,000, and now \$4,745,000, at the four periods; and the total assets were in 1877, \$1,956,000; 1882, \$2,984,000; 1887, \$4,507,000; 1892, \$7,980,000.

By the alteration of the date of annual meeting from July to June, it comes about that the last statement of the Union Bank of Canada is for eleven months instead of twelve, which renders difficult any close comparison with the previous statement. Nevertheless we note that the earnings for the shorter period have been unusually good, \$154,500 in eleven months being equal to about 14 per cent. yearly on the capital. But there is no rose without a thorn, and the thorn in this case is the necessity of writing some \$78,000 to Contingent account to provide against probable losses on accounts specified in the report. The sum of \$10,000 has been put aside to establish a guarantee fund for the officers and employees.

A better showing is made by the Traders Bank this year. Its net profits amount to \$62,997, being within a fraction of 10½ per cent. upon its paid capital. A dividend of six per cent. has been paid, and \$20,000 added to Reserve, making that fund now \$55,000. An examination of the statement of assets shows that the management is keeping the reserves in good proportion, nearly \$900,000 being immediately available. We notice that the number of directors has been increased from five to seven, and that some sweeping changes have been made in the list. Mr.

Wm. Bell, of Guelph, becomes president, instead of Mr. Alexander Manning, while Mr. Wm. McKenzie, president of the Toronto Street Railway Company, has been chosen vice-president of the bank. We should say that in the absence of Messrs. A. Manning, S. F. McKinnon and A. A. Allan from the directorate, not a little in the way of an outspoken, as well as a solid and practical business element, is lost to the board. But any negative effect from the change in these two instances must have surely been well considered before being decided upon. The business of banking requires not only skill in administering finances, but discretion in choosing or rejecting business, and great firmness in dealing with men. The shareholders will expect the new president to call into play all the positive forces of his nature in the discharge of his new duties. Two at least of the new names on the board are those of merchants prominently identified with the grocery and dry goods trades respectively. They are likely, we should think, to look well after the interests of shareholders.

La Banque Jacques Cartier shows better earnings than for any of the five years last preceding, and has added a good sum to Reserve. It has been clearing off some questionable assets, too, and shows a cleaner sheet, an item of \$276,000, "other assets," having disappeared, overdue bills being reduced, and a pronounced improvement being made in available assets, the proportion of which was last year very low. The directors have resisted pressing requests to open branches, considering, we should think rightly, that the money can be better used at head office.

#### BANKING RETURN.

The figures of the Canadian bank statement for May last will be found in condensed form below, and are compared with those of the previous month. The statement bears date 21st June.

#### CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

	May, 1892.	Apr., 1892.
Capital authorized..	\$75,958,685	\$75,958,685
Capital paid up....	61,554,098	61,541,658
Reserve Funds ....	24,599,046	24,025,291
Notes in circulation	31,383,218	31,496,369
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits....	5,554,991	5,209,166
Public deposits on demand.....	61,921,281	60,730,909
Public deposits after notice.....	95,517,848	94,447,185
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured...	160,000	130,100
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.	3,037,074	2,484,558
Due other banks in Canada in daily balances .....	144,726	131,384
Due other banks in foreign countries	169,841	163,989
Due other banks in Great Britain...	4,398,444	4,513,406
Other liabilities....	728,725	164,177
Total liabilities..	\$203,016,245	\$199,471,250
ASSETS.		
Specie .....	\$ 6,223,078	\$ 6,106,251
Dominion notes....	11,274,188	10,599,672
Deposits to secure note circulation..	846,927	846,927

Notes and cheques of other banks..	7,083,973	5,786,233
Due from other banks in Canada in daily exchanges	303,840	245,769
Deposits made with other banks ....	3,178,369	3,178,499
Due from other banks in foreign countries .....	19,572,562	17,616,526
Due from other banks in Great Britain.....	728,373	1,863,495
Dominion Government debentures or stock.....	3,055,634	3,054,034
Canadian municipal securities, &c. ..	6,867,457	6,692,872
Public securities other than Canadian .....	6,669,111	6,293,201
Call loans on bonds and stocks .....	15,393,396	16,004,117
	\$81,196,908	\$78,171,837
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Govts..	1,640,353	2,194,081
Current loans and discounts .....	193,311,856	191,995,277
Loans to other banks secured .....	160,000	130,000
Overdue debts ....	2,126,476	2,489,155
Real estate.....	1,092,413	1,084,882
Mortgages on real estate sold .....	811,581	804,027
Bank premises....	4,548,611	4,533,311
Other assets .....	1,655,536	1,451,033
Total assets.....	\$286,543,931	\$283,069,561

Average amount of specie held during the month .....	6,050,856	6,110,804
Av. Dom. notes do..	10,907,396	10,403,619
Loans to directors or their firms....	6,495,324	6,589,059
Greatest amount notes in circulation during m'th	32,624,588	33,503,800

#### ABSTRACT OF BANK RETURNS.

30th April, 1892. [In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Capital paid up	34,503	17,387	9,651	61,541
Circulation ....	15,629	10,407	5,460	31,496
Deposits .....	79,387	61,819	21,796	163,002
Loans, Disc'ts & Investments...	105,782	74,430	32,736	212,948
Cash, Foreign Balances (Net) & Call Loans...	30,578	21,822	5,023	57,423
Legals ....	5,494	3,754	1,352	10,600
Specie .....	3,145	1,984	976	6,105
Call Loans...	6,462	7,725	1,817	16,004

31st May, 1892. [In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Capital paid up..	34,503	17,394	9,657	61,554
Circulation .....	15,485	10,413	5,485	31,383
Deposits .....	80,645	63,632	21,914	166,191
Loans Discounts & Investments...	106,039	74,722	33,070	213,831
Cash, Foreign balances (Net) and Call Loans....	31,992	23,016	4,883	59,891
Legals .....	5,527	4,297	1,451	11,275
Specie .....	3,165	2,020	1,036	6,221
Call Loans...	6,396	7,313	1,684	15,393

It will be observed that deposits had increased by \$3,189,000 at close of May as compared with April. These were distributed over the banks generally. That there was but small demand here for this money and that it was mainly used abroad is indicated by the corresponding increase in foreign balances.

Circulation, which usually begins to