

the end from the beginning, they could show at the close of life, their worldly work accomplished, without taking all their time from higher and better thoughts and works, a fair balance in money made, blessed with infinite satisfaction and comfort. The evil of the day is the desire to do a large business. "If," says the business man, "It can net five thousand dollars out of a year's business, with my present capital, I can surely realize more than twice that amount in another year, if I double my capital." This may, or may not be true. The vicissitudes of business are so many, the state of the market so varying, in short, the change of circumstances are so constant with all those engaged in commercial pursuits, it does not necessarily follow that because a man is highly successful during one season, he will be equally so the next. It is safe, however, to say that if capital is tripled, business may be doubled, but not more. For it should be remembered that a larger business requires additional thought, attention, and work, and hence more capital than the proportionate increase of the business—for there will be less time for financiering. We frequently forget that when we double our business, we are doubling labors and cares, which are already as great as ought to be undertaken. Unless, therefore, we take some care of ourselves, we shall find that increasing our business we shall be increasing our troubles, and leaving a balance at the end of life simply so many obligations met, so much interest paid, such a quantity of goods sold, so many extra steps taken, so many anxious days and sleepless nights passed, with nothing to the other side of the account except premature old age and disappointed hopes. We advocate, however, a strict attention to business, in all its details, as the only avenue to financial success. To ensure a prosperous and constantly increasing business, there must be no over-trading for capital; short credits must be preferred to long ones, and cash to credit at all times, either in buying or selling; and small profits, in credit cases, with little risk, to the chance of better gains with more hazard. Constant energy, watchfulness, tact, and thought, are required in every trade and calling, and they are the harness which every man has to wear who drives a business at a safe rate. But when a business goes too fast, it often gets unmanageable, and runs away with its owner.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

Prof. Chas. Davies urges the following among other well founded objections to the adoption of the metric system in the United States and Great Britain. The consequence of the changes thus instituted would be he says:

1. They would strike out from the English language every word and phrase and sentence used in connection with our present units of weights and measures, and would impose the necessity of learning a new language for the one now in use.
2. They would blot out from the knowledge of the nation all apprehension of distance, and area, and volume, acquired through the present units, and would render necessary the acquirements of similar knowledge by less convenient units, having different relations to each other, and expressed in a new and unknown language.
3. They would change the records of our entire landed property, requiring them all to be translated into a new and foreign language.
4. We must not forget that prices and currency are dependent upon, and necessarily adjust themselves to, weights and measures; and that all our ideas of cost and value are fixed with reference to our present units. The adoption of the metric system, therefore, would carry with it an entire change in the money values of all articles of commerce and manufactures, and of all agricultural productions, for these values would have to be readjusted to the new units, and to be expressed in the new language. Hence the changes

would extinguish all knowledge of money values now so familiar to the entire population in their daily purchases, and sales, and barter, for these values are all adjusted with reference to the units of weights and measures.

OIL MATTERS AT PETROLIA.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

PETROLIA, May 15, 1871.

The oil business in all its branches is still very flat, with an increased production of crude. The combination has not as yet finally agreed, the difficulty being the holding out of one large refinery, whose manager (it being a Scotch company—the Standard) does not feel inclined to act without direct orders from his principals. This may have been overcome ere this, but up to Thursday last it was not settled.

The strikes since my last have been a new well on Parson's lot, which showed splendidly as to gas and oil, and on testing, promises to be a large well; but nothing definite can be stated as to its capacity. Mr. Hyde's well has also been drilled deeper, with every prospect of success. Messrs. Jones & Co. have a good well on the lot adjoining Parsons', on the west. Another well, owned by Mr. McDougall, near it, having been tested, promises fairly.

The production exceeds 1,000 barrels a day, with shipments about the same—23 cars per day. All the refineries, except the export ones, are at a stand-still, awaiting the result of the combination. No sales of territory to report, and business in lands generally is flat.

Crude, per brl.....	\$1 30 to \$1 30
Refined, per gal.....	0 18 0 25

Financial.

TORONTO STOCK MARKET.

Reported by Blakie & Alexander, Brokers.

TORONTO May, 17, 1871.

A very large business has been done throughout the week at advancing rates for all the favorite stocks, the most noticeable rise being in Montreal, Merchants and Commerce. Other securities are very firm with a strong upward tendency.

Banks.—Commerce advanced from 141½ to 146½ and large sales at intervening rates, closing very firm with sellers at 147½. Last sales of Toronto were made at 183½ and 184; books are closed for dividend 1st June. Royal has been in good demand during the week with large sales at 108½ to 109½ closing firm. Latest transactions in Ontario were made at 121½ to 122, books now closed. Montreal advanced rapidly from 275 up to 292½ at which rate last cash sales were made and 284 to 285 was paid ex-dividend, books close to-day. A ready market was had for Merchants' throughout the week at rates from 138 to 145½ the closing rate for buyers with sellers at 146½.

Bonds.—For small lots of Government Sterling "Sixes" 106½ is asked, "Fives" are nominal with none on the market. Dominion Stock is saleable at 111½ and procurable at 112½. County Bonds would bring 103 to 103½ for first class long dates and Townships 96½ but both are scarce.

Sundries.—Freehold is very scarce and in strong demand at 140 with little offering. Holders of Canada Permanent asking 160 with buyers at 155. Some amounts of Western Canada were taken at 143½. Provincial is in some demand at 110 and Union was placed for small lots at 116½. Landed Credit is much enquired for at 108 to 108½ with sellers at latter figure, and Building and Loan would be taken at 110 to 110½ with little on the market. A good business was done in Western Assurance at 136 to 137½, the demand continuing at 137. British America is offered at 93 with takers at 90. City Gas cannot be obtained at less than 130.

BANK OF MONTREAL.—The Directors of the Bank of Montreal have issued a circular to the shareholders showing the condition of the Bank, and stating that in accordance with the wishes of some of the shareholders the latter shall be given an opportunity of determining the question of a new issue of stock. The report is to be submitted to the annual general meeting on the 5th June, 1871, and reads as follows:—"Statement of the result of the business of the Bank for the year ended 30th April, 1871; balance of profit and loss account, 30th April, 1870, \$42,655 48; profits for the year ended 30th April, 1871, after deducting charges of management, and making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, \$1,262,352 27—total \$1,305,007 75; from which has been taken: Dividend 6 per cent. paid December, 1870, \$260,000; bonus 2 per cent. paid December, 1870, \$120,000; dividend 6 per cent. payable June, 1871, \$360,000; bonus 2 per cent. payable June, 1871, \$120,000—total, \$960,000. Leaving a balance at credit profit and loss account, \$345,007 75. The Directors have pleasure in presenting so favorable a statement of the result of the year's business. In accordance with the views expressed in the report of last year, the Directors have not made any addition to the "Reserve" Account, which remains as before at \$3,000,000. The Directors have this year been enabled to make good the expectation that was held out at the last annual meeting, that a larger return will be made to the shareholders, in the event of the average profits of the last two years being maintained. It will further be observed that the large balance of undivided profits remaining on hand would have admitted of a more liberal distribution to the shareholders for the past year. The Directors, however, desiring to act with caution, and having in view the changes in the Banking Law, to take effect in July next, and the disposition on the part of some large shareholders to increase the capital of the Bank, have considered it inexpedient, in the general interest, to distribute more than 16 per cent. for the year, until the shareholders have the opportunity of expressing their views; and in order that this may be done intelligently, and after due consideration, this report is published at the earliest possible moment.

(Signed), E. H. KING, President.

Montreal, May 12, 1871.

--Mr. A. A. Allen of the Ontario Bank, Port Hope, was the recipient, on the 6th inst., of a valuable gold chain and locket, from the customers of the bank there, on the occasion of his removal to Toronto to take the position of receiving teller in the same institution.

--The agency of the Bank of Toronto in Montreal has been removed from St. Francois Xavier street to new premises in St. James street, which are tastefully fitted up.

--The strike of the cabmen in Montreal has had the effect of starting a cab company into existence. The new company have issued their prospectus. The capital stock is \$200,000. It is proposed to supply the public, through the medium of a Joint Stock Company, with a class of carriages such as are common in the principal cities and towns of Europe. The drivers are to be dressed in a livery becoming to their avocation. The company has secured the exclusive right of stationing their cabs and omnibuses opposite the Grand Trunk depot. The provisional Directors are Messrs. Hugh Allan, Hon. Thomas Ryan, George Stephen, C. J. Brydges, Thomas Workman, and E. A. Prentice. The Managing Director is Mr. John Shedden.

--A correspondent claims for the village of Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, the honor of having more life policies in force in proportion to the population than any other point in that Province. One company, the Phoenix Mutual, of Hartford, collected premiums there in 1870 to the amount of fourteen hundred dollars, nearly.