

Due from other banks in Great Britain.....	1,269,602	2,332,447
Immediately available assets.....	\$ 39,487,474	\$ 37,289,302
Dominion Government debentures or stock.....	2,556,758	2,556,758
Public securities other than Canadian.....	5,816,734	5,860,354
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Govts..	1,827,295	1,691,809
Loans on stocks, bonds, or debent..	11,968,522	11,374,257
Loans to municipal corporations....	3,509,393	2,622,342
Loans to other corporations.....	24,619,704	24,446,286
Loans to or deposits made in other banks secured....	462,685	444,235
Loans to or deposits made in other banks unsecured..	210,213	185,213
Discounts current..	153,081,973	153,095,151
Overdue paper unsecured.....	1,057,295	977,778
Other overdue debts unsecured.....	378,647	72,317
Notes and debts overdue secured....	1,371,865	1,421,819
Real estate.....	968,811	993,142
Mortgages on real estate sold.....	723,738	723,294
Bank premises....	4,034,970	4,030,821
Other assets.....	2,552,607	2,376,960
Total assets.....	\$254,628,694	\$250,161,846
Average amount of specie held during the month.....	6,201,623	6,195,525
Av. Dom. notes do..	9,691,919	8,956,899
Loans to directors or their firms....	7,282,595	7,118,264

The features most worthy of note in the statement compared with that for May of this year are increases of \$1,226,000 in circulation, of \$3,228,000 in deposits, and of \$2,157,000 in loans and discounts. But comparing last month with June, 1889, it is found that total assets are \$1,137,000 less, while total liabilities are less by \$500,000. There is an increase of \$3,280,000 in current discounts, while assets immediately available are not so great by \$4,300,000. Turning to the liabilities columns, the increase of \$5,000,000 in public deposits is offset by a corresponding decline in deposits from Dominion and Provincial Governments, while circulation is swelled by \$750,000. The Government deposits of June, 1889, show \$12,330,000 against less than \$5,000,000 now. An analysis of the figures of the banks as a whole shows that while their position was last year better in some respects than now, that of the Bank of Montreal is not so strong as usual in available resources.

## ABSTRACT OF BANK RETURNS.

30th June, 1889. [In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total
Capital paid up..	\$ 34,434	\$ 17,783	\$ 8,019	\$ 60,236
Circulation.....	16,057	10,122	5,031	31,210
Deposits.....	71,425	48,605	16,264	136,294
Loans & Discounts	101,790	69,729	22,256	193,775
Cash and Foreign balances (Net)...	21,130	4,495	3,875	29,500

30th June, 1890. [In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up	\$ 34,489	\$ 16,471	\$ 8,610	\$ 59,570
Circulation....	16,183	10,248	5,627	32,058
Deposits.....	67,595	50,460	18,132	136,187
Loans & Disc'ts.	105,384	66,816	26,287	198,487
Cash & Foreign balances (Net)...	15,264	7,698	2,764	25,726

## HOW SHALL WE PREVENT FIRES?

Here is a New York view of a commonplace but important matter. We quote: "The rich manure swept up in our streets, the garbage and ashes from our houses, are so valuable as fertilizing material that were not our city governed by misrule, and scoundrelly, swindling practices permitted, it might be rendered wholesome, sweet and clean, entirely free of cost to the city taxpayer, and with profit to those parties who might contract to do the duty. In place of which we pay our tax money for political jobbery, throw valuable property into the deep sea, and by neglect of plain duty, permit our streets to reek with filth, breeding disease, unnecessarily increasing the death rate," &c., &c.

What has all this to do with fire insurance? asks the *Insurance Times* of New York, from which journal we take the sentences given above. The reply is: "A great deal. Do you suppose that the number of our fires would be so great in a given period of time, if the cleaners of our streets could make a profit by the manipulation of our dirt; for in such event would they not look into every nook and corner to obtain this dirt, where it is now left to accumulate, making breeders of very unsatisfactory fires."

Reading the Toronto papers of Wednesday morning last, one discovers that, as a result of the eminently sensible action of the mayor in requesting the chief of the fire brigade to report upon the condition of public buildings in the city with respect to fire appliances, the chief reported on Tuesday last. In addition to examining hospitals, schools, orphanages, &c., Mr. Ardagh says he has examined a number of factories and manufacturers' premises in town to find out what means of egress existed for employees in case of fire, and also what appliances there were to put out fire. He makes the startling announcement that he finds "many large establishments in the city where large numbers of people are employed on the fourth and fifth stories, and which are not provided with fire-escapes of any description." He further tells us what is perfectly obvious to any person of ordinary observation, that "in the event of a fire occurring in any of these establishments in working hours, and gaining headway before being detected, the enclosed stairways found in most of those places would become filled with smoke—the result would be panic, and in all likelihood accident or loss of life to some of the inmates." "I would strongly recommend," adds the chief, "that all factories and establishments employing labor be compelled to furnish the necessary fire escapes, and that a proper officer be appointed to inspect the same."

It appears that no city by-law exists compelling the erection of such fire-escapes. But under the Ontario Act of 1886, 49th Vic., cap. 37, sec. 37, power was given to the council of any city or town to pass by-laws for security against fire in factories, hotels, warehouses, opera houses, etc., and "providing for the adoption and erection of proper fire escapes upon all such buildings more than two stories in height." Now, if advantage had been taken of this provi-

sion, and one-half the diligence shown in applying the Act to factories which has been shown in respect of hotels and taverns in Toronto, the report of Chief Ardagh would not have been possible at this day. However, the chairman of the Fire and Light Committee is charged with the introduction of a by-law to compel the erection of fire escapes and to provide for their inspection.

So far good. But the mayor may render still further service to the citizens if he will go further in a like direction. Fire-inviting or fire-creating rubbish is as great a menace to property as lack of fire-escapes is to human life. Faulty stovepipes, foul chimneys, wooden ash-boxes, oiled rags, loose straw, shavings and paper—all these things and many more urgently need rectification or removal if we are to have reasonable immunity from fire.

In addition to the paragraphs quoted at the beginning of this article, attention may well be drawn to the enlightened fire ordinances of the city of Atlanta, Georgia, which knows what it is to suffer from great fires. These were quoted by Mr. Fred'k. Wyld before the Merchants' Convention at Hamilton last autumn. A column or two of these ordinances was printed in this journal in September last, and we shall give here a condensation of some of them:

"Sec. 447.—No person shall be permitted to place, or allow to remain longer than six hours, in any box, barrel, or otherwise in any building within the fire limits, loose straw, hay, paper or other combustible material. \* \* Owners or occupants of buildings or cellars must permit the chief of the fire department, or any one sent by him, to inspect buildings, cellars and premises within the fire limits, to see if the ordinance is complied with. \* \* It is made the business of the fire chief to make such inspections; and any one who violates the above provisions is subject to arrest, and may, on conviction, be fined up to \$100, or be imprisoned thirty days.

Sec. 450.—The fire chief is to examine frequently the chimneys and stove-pipes in the city, and if he find them defective and dangerous shall require that they be remedied within twelve hours. Failure or refusal to remedy shall subject the tenant or occupant to fine or imprisonment.

"Sec. 455.—No one is permitted to put ashes in a wooden box or barrel in any building unless immediately removed from contact with such building. Any one violating this ordinance may be arrested and fined or imprisoned.

"Sec. 456.—If any chimney, smoke-stack, or other such structure endanger adjacent and surrounding property, the chief shall notify the owner or tenant to have the same made safe within five days. Upon failure to so rectify, if proof of the dangerous character of the structure be provided, then \$100 fine or 30 days imprisonment may be imposed as a penalty."

The average annual loss by fire in the Dominion of Canada is estimated at \$8,000,000. And the Hon. Geo. S. Merrill, Insurance Superintendent for Massachusetts, declares that sixty or seventy per cent. of the fires on this continent arise from preventable causes. Here then is a yearly