

Sweden.....	1891	80,567,000	16.76
Norway.....	"	47,435,980	23.71
Holland.....	"	35,033,670	7.50
Austria.....	"	567,071,300	23.73
Belgium.....	"	63,347,450	10.22
Italy.....	"	354,436,622	11.60
Denmark.....	"	137,876,560	63.09
New South Wales.....	"	35,122,730	
Victoria.....	"	34,582,050	
Queensland.....	"	10,200,000	
South Australia.....	"	12,161,900	
West.....	"	704,880	
Tasmania.....	"	2,065,000	
New Zealand.....	"	19,789,400	
Total of Australasia.....	"	115,524,760	

FINANCIAL ITEMS.

The Northern Banking Co., Belfast, has just closed a very prosperous year.

The Windsor Hotel Co has declared a dividend of six per cent. for past half year, payable to-day.

The Canada Gazette has had far fewer notices in recent numbers of new companies seeking incorporation than were published in every issue some months ago.

The Chicago & Northern Pacific Railroad Company is reported to have been recently sold at auction for \$8,000,000. It went into hands of a receiver on 10th Oct., 1893. The length of the line owned by the Company was 44.84 miles. A Toronto paper states the bonded debt and capital at 60 millions, which is quite erroneous.

The course of the revenue and expenditure of the States up to the present time indicates a probable deficit for current fiscal year of \$70,000,000. The Customs receipts for 1896 were 70 millions less than in 1890, and 48 millions less than the average of nine years from 1885 to 1893. The necessity is so pressing for more revenue that the Customs duties must be raised to the level of former years.

The public revenue is keeping up in advance of the record of 1895, the total up to end of October being \$11,951,731, compared with \$11,787,964 for same time last year. Ordinary expenditure shows a falling off, the 1895 figure being \$8,007,542, and this year \$7,162,575, and on capital account, the amount for first 4 months of last year was \$1,421,714, and this year \$742,954. The imports have been moderate, but so far show little apprehension of the coming changes in the tariff. Without pretending to have prophetic powers, or to be in the secret of the Cabinet, we venture to foreshadow an increase in the duties on sugar, tea, coffee, with imports on certain articles of the liquor trade.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Co shows earnings and expenses for October and for 10 months to 1st November as follows:

	Oct., 1896.	January 1st to Oct. 31, 1896.
Gross earnings.....	\$2,121,650	\$16,791,042
Working expenses.....	1,182,009	10,470,040
Net profits.....	\$939,640	\$6,321,001

In October, 1895, the net profits were \$1,109,646, and from January 1st to November 1st, 1895 there was a net profit of \$5,598,419. The decrease in net profits over the same period last year is, for October, \$170,005 and from January 1st to November 1st there was an increase of \$722,581.

The deficit in United States finances to date since 1st July last is close upon 40 millions. How to make this up, and bring revenue and expenditure nearer an equilibrium is a problem causing no little anxiety.

The Merchants' Bank of Halifax will move into the very handsome new building, corner of Notre Dame and St. John streets, early next year. Westward Ho! is the direction business is trending on Notre Dame st.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondents.

TORONTO LETTER.

Perils of Deer Hunting in Muskoka—Again the City of Toronto has a fire claim.—Mr. Thomas R. Wood welcomed home.—That special meeting of the Toronto Board was a joke after all.—All's well that ends well.

DEAR EDITOR.

Attention has been called to the unusual number of serious accidents,—fatal ones, sad to say, in two instances—occurring this autumn in the Muskoka forests. It does seem as if many of the hunters going out there for deer shooting are far from being expert sportsmen. The up-to-date firearms are dangerous weapons in the hands of the careless and those unskilled in their use. Deer have not been plentiful, and the unfavorable weather caused the hunters unusual effort to secure their game. A nice little yarn has been given us, to the effect that two friends watching a "deer run" spied their quarry simultaneously, and both fired together dropping the beast. Thereupon uprose a heated argument as to whose shot was the fatal one. Each insisted it was his, but one more vehemently than the other urged his case. On to the scene rushes an irate farmer, asking with uplifted pitchfork, "which of you two scoundrels shot my calf?" Each pointed to the other as the delinquent, and it cost dollars, jointly, to arrange with the granger.—The City of Toronto has now another claim on the insurance companies for three more stables burned at the Exhibition grounds. This fire occurred on the 24th inst. at 5.45 a.m. Prompt service by the Fire Brigade and favorable weather saved from a large loss. The fire was undoubtedly incendiary in origin, because a fireman discovered another fire in progress in another building, with the materials used in its starting plainly visible. When it is remembered that there is no watchman, or patrol, to overlook the Exhibition grounds and build, firs, at night, which grounds are easy of access and practically open all night, it is no wonder that a fire occasionally happens. Indeed the only protection afforded at all is the proximity of the caretaker's residence. Since writing the above, I learn that the city will at once place a night watchman on guard, and we are to hope for a 12 inch main to the grounds in place of the present 3 inch. Even with these improvements added, if the Companies know their business, they will advance rates on these risks considerably next January when the policies fall due for renewal. With their wonted urbanity and open-handedness the companies will now repeat the former and recent process, and pay \$1400 on each stable, insured as per City Schedule on the Policies for a sum not exceeding \$200 per stable. I wonder if the rate payers fully understand that they pay 50 per cent. of these losses, and that therefore there is evidently not enough insurance placed on them?

Mr. Thomas R. Wood, of Wood & Kirkpatrick, representatives of the Aetna, with his wife and family, has returned home after an absence of some months, which time has been agreeably spent in travel in Europe. Mr. Wood is welcomed home by the insurance men, amongst whom he is deservedly popular, and he