

may be relied upon to reject it with even more alacrity than the Toronto Board of Trade has shown. Commercial union has an economic and a political side; the political side gathers to itself the greatest force of national sentiment, and it is by the exertion of this force that the question will be decided.

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, Ottawa, 17th June.

CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

LIABILITIES.		Mar., 1887.	April, 1887.
Capital authorized..		\$77,579,999	\$ 77,579,999
Capital paid up....		61,007,475	60,983,101
Reserve Funds....		18,610,296	18,120,296
Notes in Circulation		30,086,803	30,467,891
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits....		5,035,868	5,163,304
Deposits held to secure Government contracts & for Insurance Companies.....		545,267	539,386
Public deposits on demand.....		49,520,635	47,287,741
Public deposits after notice.....		55,476,021	55,894,898
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured....			
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.		1,140,232	1,039,425
Due other banks in Canada		804,706	1,289,420
Due other banks in Foreign Countries		122,149	86,975
Due other banks in Great Britain....		2,722,663	2,670,572
Other liabilities....		604,485	78,792
Total liabilities..		\$146,058,830	\$144,518,405
ASSETS.		Mar., 1887.	April, 1887.
Specie		\$ 5,917,613	\$ 5,931,563
Dominion		9,620,803	9,431,422
Notes and cheques of other banks..		5,823,060	5,026,049
Due from other banks in Canada.		2,798,851	2,378,691
Due from other banks in foreign countries		14,565,374	12,988,058
Due from other banks in Great Britain.....		1,851,355	1,928,537
Immediately available assets.....		\$40,577,056	\$ 37,684,320
Dominion Government debentures or stock.....		3,152,330	3,330,091
Public securities other than Canadian.....		3,580,204	3,387,510
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Gov....		2,652,828	2,628,690
Loans on stocks, bonds or debentures.....		11,909,667	12,107,760
Loans to municipal corporations		2,059,807	1,958,220
Loans to other corporations		14,093,709	14,485,846
Loans to or deposits made in other banks secured....		381,995	355,470
Loans to or deposits made in other banks unsecured..		223,811	234,006
Overdue current unsecured.....		137,755,631	137,874,964
Overdue paper unsecured.....		1,343,773	1,349,713
Other overdue debts unsecured.....		82,343	58,309
Notes and debts overdue secured...		1,669,801	1,647,737
Real estate.....		1,212,514	1,181,865

Mortgages on real estate sold	828,448	876,058
Bank premises....	3,645,165	3,587,515
Other assets.....	3,224,512	3,788,224
Total assets.....	\$228,413,600	\$226,536,302
Average amount of specie held during the month	5,933,880	5,835,148
Av. Dom. notes do..	9,520,396	9,244,040
Loans to Directors or their firms....	8,035,950	8,005,588

It will be observed that circulation which has been running slowly down since the beginning of the year, remained nearly the same in May as in April. Government deposits are a little smaller and those of the public a little larger. While the liabilities are a million and a half larger, the assets immediately available are some three millions larger than in April.

Current discounts (\$187,755,000) have not increased in amount, as a matter of fact they are a trifle less, and the loans of all kinds show a decline of half a million, standing at \$31,322,000.

ABSTRACT OF BANK RETURNS.

31st MAY, 1886. [In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up..	\$ 35,993	\$ 17,952	\$ 8,415	\$ 62,360
Circulation	14,899	9,693	4,308	28,900
Deposits	57,479	43,402	11,209	112,090
Loans & Discounts	85,857	64,824	18,189	168,870
Cash and Foreign balances (Net)...	22,797	7,262	3,235	33,294

31st MAY, 1887. [In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up..	\$ 35,200	\$ 18,292	\$ 7,515	\$ 61,007
Circulation	15,274	10,386	4,427	30,086
Deposits	53,722	45,431	11,425	110,578
Loans & Discounts	86,831	67,915	17,427	172,173
Cash and Foreign balances (Net)...	19,475	6,121	3,514	29,110

BANK MEETINGS.

We present in this issue the annual reports of a number of Canadian banks. Their tenor, it will be observed, is generally of a satisfied and hopeful kind.

The increased earnings of the Ontario Bank sufficed to pay a larger rate of dividend, to make an addition to Rest sufficient to raise that fund to thirty-five per cent. of the capital and to carry forward \$41,000 to the credit of profit and loss account. Some unsatisfactory assets have, we understand, been realized upon, reducing the amount "in suspense," and increasing the proportion of live, earning property. The management has reached the conclusion that the position of the bank and its earnings justify a larger distribution to shareholders, and the dividend has therefore been advanced last half-year to 8½ per cent., with the intention to maintain the annual rate of seven per cent.

Out of the profits of its latest year, which are increased over those of the twelve months preceding, the Federal Bank management has, in addition to providing for management expenses, deposit interest, bad and doubtful debts and six per cent. dividend, added \$25,000 to Rest, and put aside the nucleus of an Officers' Guarantee

Fund. This last mentioned step is an eminently proper one; the like has been done in other banks and it is a system which is likely to become more general as "a provision against error and default." We are unable, for lack of space, to publish the report and statement of the bank before next week, but may note that the business gives signs of activity; deposits are larger, and past due bills, whether secured or unsecured, show a marked decrease on the year.

An increased business is evident from the report of the Central Bank, whose earnings are wit in a fraction of the percentage of the previous year. Out of \$50,201 net earnings, six per cent. dividend has been paid, \$20,000 carried to Rest and \$2,246 carried forward, after writing off a sum from furniture account. Deposits, largely at interest, have passed \$2,000,000 and circulation shows a considerable increase. The expectation of the directors a year ago that the paid capital would reach half a million, appears to have been realized; three branches have been opened. Overdue d bts, secured and unsecured, which were last year \$6,000, have been increased to \$42,000.

The directors of La Banque Jacques Cartier felicitate themselves upon increased profits (\$46,693 against \$27,537 in the previous year,) and upon the realization "by the settlement of important accounts." This realization appears, in part at least, in the reduction of overdue bills from \$169,000 in 1886 to \$105,000 in 1887. Other "slow assets" are reduced from \$97,000 while the current discounts have grown from \$1,043,000 to \$1,255,000. The coal mine debentures, \$200,000, are still held by the bank. Circulation and deposits show a considerable increase. It is explained that the sum of \$21,500 carried to profit and loss account, accrued, not upon the last year's business, which has been very free from loss, but from "old debts."

Advance in price in real estate in Montreal has enabled La Banque Ville Marie to dispose of some \$30,000 worth of its landed assets, and gives promise of a further desirable reduction in its holding of this description of property. The business outlook, in the opinion of the management, is now "all that could be desired," a view which we commend to the doubting Thomases and prophets of evil who are always to be found in the community. The bank, according to its report, earned 8½ per cent. upon its capital during the year and divided 7.

LEGISLATION IN MANITOBA.

Some legislation of decided interest to borrowers and lenders has just been passed in Winnipeg. The operation of the act respecting returns to be made by loan companies to the government of Manitoba, referred to in these columns last month, has through representations made by a deputation of the different loan societies, been suspended for a year, or until proclamation respecting it be made by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The companies will therefore not be obliged to make returns this year, at any rate. This result is the