

Canada.....	'009
Metropolitan.....	'001 $\frac{1}{2}$
Provincial.....	'001 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oxford.....	'001 $\frac{1}{2}$
Huron and Erie .....	'000 3-5
Ottawa.....	'000 $\frac{1}{2}$
Civil Service.....	'001 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hamilton Provident.....	'002 $\frac{1}{2}$
Security.....	'006
Building and Loan .....	'001 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ontario.....	'004
Credit Foncier.....	'007
District Iberville .....	No returns.
Average, 1872 .....	'001
do 1871 .....	'003 $\frac{1}{2}$
do 1870.....	'004 1-5

While it is the province of the banks to facilitate commerce and manufactures, the building societies serve the purpose of building up our cities and towns. The conditions on which their money is loaned admit of its expenditure in permanent improvements. It is apparent, therefore, that they serve a most useful purpose in our industrial economy. Legislation will be sought at the present session amongst other objects to relax the restrictive provision of the present law which limits the deposits to three-fourths of the paid-up capital. It is desirable that every legal power necessary to the successful working of these institutions should be granted; and since a precedent was established last session it is most likely they will get all that it is intended to ask; still care must be taken that the door be not opened wide for future trouble. To have a very large proportion of the public savings loaned on mortgage would be unsafe; but unless the total deposits secured by the building societies should greatly exceed the amount so held at present we cannot see any chance of difficulty from that source.

#### A DEFICIENT REVENUE.

The country has been somewhat surprised, not to say startled, to hear by the speech at the opening of Parliament that there is a deficiency in the revenue for the current year. For some years back we have been sailing along on the tide of prosperity, and had apparently concluded that this must last for ever. It is a somewhat rude awakening to be informed of a deficit. It brings back unpleasant reminiscences of former days, when deficiencies were chronic, and one bad harvest followed another in dismal succession. But we have not had a bad harvest. The depression in the lumber and timber trades can scarcely have had anything to do with the deficient revenue. The truth is, we trusted too much to the continuance of prosperity. Our importations went on growing year by year; and,

unfortunately, instead of anticipating a check, as experience might have taught us, we went on increasing our expenditure. The late Finance Minister was warned not to trust too much to a continuance of large imports; and it was, if we mistake not, our present Finance Minister that gave the warning. This did credit to his judgment, though he could not then foresee that the task of making up a deficiency would be his first experience of office.

It is now a matter of much speculation how the deficiency is to be met. It seems to be concluded, though we have had nothing yet but the bare statement, that retrenchment cannot be effected. Why, we know not. We should have thought retrenchment a very natural mode of meeting the case, and more certain than increase of taxation. There is a point beyond which taxation cannot go with profit. Further increase only leads to diminution of consumption, to illicit entries of goods. The taxes imposed in the United States have to be taken into account in some cases, and notably in certain articles which are produced equally on both sides of the line. Our duties cannot be raised beyond theirs without smuggling being the consequence. Still, there are articles which should be taxed, if there are taxes at all. There is, we understand, considerable excitement in the tobacco and spirit trades, and much discussion is going on as to whether additional duties are to be imposed; but all speculation is in the dark. An advance in the duties on various classes of goods manufactured in Canada is anticipated, but how far these anticipations will be realized nothing whatever can be known beyond the merest guess-work.

#### THE POSITIVE LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

—We notice in the *Insurance Times* an attack upon this Company couched in the violent language to which that journal is accustomed, in reference to the disputed point as to the longevity of Europeans in India. This subject we shall not discuss here. The article has been reprinted and circulated amongst the policy-holders in Canada. We do not see that there is anything in the question to cause alarm, inasmuch as they have the following security: 1. \$100,000 Government Deposit held for their benefit; 2. The "Life Fund" in the hands of Canadian Trustees for Canadian policy holders, and composed of the investments in Canadian Government securities of Eighty per cent., of the premiums on Canadian policies, and of the whole of the accumulations thereof; 3. The security of the

"Guarantee Fund" in England, from which the Life Fund must be supplemented should it ever be reduced below what would be sufficient to meet the amount at risk in Canada, independent of the \$100,000 deposit; 4. The Capital and Assets of the Company in England.

**WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS.**—A correspondent, referring to our article on "pawning" goods for advances, gives some facts which are interesting to the public, as they serve well to show the abuses which attach to this kind of business. His remarks relate to the case of Austin & Co., of Montreal! "This man [Austin] obtained advances secretly and solely on the security of the goods, and did not get paper, as in the case of Ritchie, Gregg & Co., which was analogous in some respects. All his goods were pledged to A. Saunders, Moss Bros., and the Exchange Bank, through E. Lyman Mills, a broker, who is as keen as the two Jewish firms just named. No one supposed that Austin was pawning goods. The charges made for the advances by Mills as cover for the Exchange Bank were unique. The Bank charged a straight 18 per cent., with security for 25 per cent. more than the loan. When the estate went into bankruptcy the existing loan from Mills was paid off, and cost just 23 per cent., which, added to the Bank's charge, made a total of 41 per cent., which charge just swept away the margin. I would therefore suggest as two clauses of a new warehouse act, that every warehouseman should keep a register of all goods warehoused, the register to be open for public inspection; and that all warehousemen should be licensed, so as to bring them under control. Also, that it should be a misdemeanor for a licensed warehouseman to sign notes for goods left in his charge, or to make advances in any other way on them. The banks and mercantile agencies would doubtless see that the registers were regularly inspected for pledges of goods, and would know how to act." We should be glad to see the existing law amended so as to remove its present defects; and in making a change, the above suggestion would be entitled to careful consideration.

#### ANCHOR MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Great energy has been shown in organizing this company. We understand that within two months capital to the amount of about \$250,000 was subscribed, and \$20,000 of the first call of 10 per cent. paid in and deposited with the Dominion Government in municipal debentures. Business has already been commenced, and will be confined exclusively to marine. A large number of merchants and shippers have become interested in the company as stockholders.

**DOUBLE LIABILITY.**—The value of the double liability clause in our bank charters is likely to be tested in the case of the insolvent Bank of Acadia in Nova Scotia. The British Colonist