

In these figures will be seen the accumulations made by the Banks, as well as the condition, these financial institutions are in to undertake the movement of the crops, which must prove an important factor in the showing of the next monthly statement. Specie and Dominion notes in the Banks' vaults, at the end of August, reached nearly 27 3/4 millions, nearly a million more than a year ago. In permanent stocks and Call Loans there has been a general reduction for the month, though the figures are far above those of a year ago. An increase of six millions in the amount due from correspondents and branches in the United States would seem to indicate expectations of a profitable market for money in the West in the near future. To the amount of "Specie and Dominion notes," 1 3/4 millions have been added during August. The Bank of British North America shows a large increase in its figures under the heading of Other Assets, probably representing Yukon gold dust in transit, etc., for which no heading is provided in the Government returns. The banks located in the Yukon ought to find their enterprise profitable.

Altogether, the August statement of the condition of the Canadian chartered banks is most satisfactory, illustrating, as it does, ability to provide all the banking facilities required for the season of harvest in a year which promises to show the greatest growth in trade figures yet recorded in the history of the Dominion.

PUBLIC DEBT OF THE UNITED STATES.

The public debt of the United States differs materially from that of Canada, inasmuch, as whereas, as we recently showed by official tables, the debt of this Dominion was almost wholly incurred in providing the necessary equipments of a country in transportation facilities and public works of service to the commerce of Canada, the debt of the United States was incurred largely by the expenses of civil war. It differs also from our debt, in having as large a proportion of it, represented by issues of notes, which constitute a large percentage of the United States currency. Our Dominion notes amount to about 7 per cent. of the total debt, while the notes of the United States amount to over 26 per cent. of the net debt. The official statements of the Treasury divide the public debt into three sections: (1) the debt bearing interest which amounts to \$922,212,800; (2) the debt upon which interest has ceased, \$1,259,030; (3) the debt bearing no interest, \$383,885,971, the aggregate of these three sections being \$1,307,357,801. These figures are made up to 31st August last. Against these liabilities the Treasury holds cash amounting to \$204,487,084. This cash represents the difference between the amount of the gold and silver certificates and other demand liabilities, the total, which was \$632,657,561, and the gross amount of gold and silver in coin and bars, and other cash assets held by the Treasury, the total amount of which on 31st August was \$927,144,645. As this cash balance between the gold, sil-

ver, and other assets, and the gross amount of the demand liabilities fluctuates, there is an effect produced upon the national credit. In 1893 this reserve had run so low that "Europeans, and even Americans, too, began to doubt the nation's solvency," the obligations to pay gold were so excessively large in proportion to the amount in the Treasury. The Treasury's report for 1st February, 1895, gave the amount of gold on hand as less than 1 per cent. of the liabilities for which gold could be demanded, which was manifestly a position of financial peril. Bonds were then issued, as on other occasions, solely to procure a supply of gold, that is, the debt of the United States was enlarged to obtain gold to protect its note issues, and other demand liabilities, from depreciation; in other words to keep gold from rising to a premium, and so depreciating the national credit and causing grave disturbance to all financial operations. The mixing up of the currency of the country with the public debt of the United States is the great defect in its financial system, and to reforms looking to the severance of the public debt from the currency, the bankers and bearing debt of the States having increased in August their best energies. The financial record of the States for some years past affords striking proof of the wisdom of the bankers of Canada, who successfully resisted the proposal to place the currency of this country on the same basis as that of America. The effect of the war with Spain is shown by the interest bearing debt of the States having increased in August last by \$74,432,580. In the debt returns of the U. S. Treasury, it is not customary to include the bonds issued to Pacific railroads, the net liability of which amounts to \$66,961,570; of these the sum of \$20,236,440 is past due and unpaid, which is not promising for the Government being relieved of this liability. Considering the enormous resources of the United States, the public debt is not excessive, and, if the national currency system were placed on the same basis as that of Canada, we should hear very little of fluctuations in the value of American public securities such as have been so disturbing in past years.

CYCLING AND ACCIDENTS.

Reasons why Special Insurance Rates are being established.

It is generally allowed that accident insurance has a great deal to contend with in the quantity and variety of risks which it undertakes to safeguard. The very nature of the pecuniary provision offered by the accident companies lends temptations to fraud, or at least misrepresentation, which is more insidious and more frequently attempted than the former. The fact of the loss remuneration being in proportion to the injury received leads to an over-representation of the damage done. This in turn necessitates an espionage on the part of the companies to see that they are not being imposed upon. Curious tales are afloat of their dexterity in this way, and of their pouncing on malingers. Their over-zeal has led them, on the other hand, into minimising complaints from under estimating hostile, or over estimating favourable, symptoms.