

\$50,639,000, an increase of \$9,934,000, which is fully warranted by the large additional manufacturing power of the country. At the same time I notice a reduction in overdue debts during the year, from \$460,000 to \$383,000, which is a pleasing commentary upon the vigilance exercised by the Bank's executive, and the inference to be drawn therefrom is that the management which is careful enough to pare down overdue debts will be equally cautious not to increase them by placing its expanding discounts astray. The Bank's deposits during the year have been rolled up to \$21,100,000, an increase of \$2,400,000, while the Rest, as previously stated, has been restored to the highest eminence it ever attained, namely \$5,500,000. A most significant change is observed in the Bank's balances due from foreign countries, which have been reduced from \$12,719,000 a year ago, to \$7,636,000 now, which means the transference of funds amounting to about \$5,000,000 previously employed abroad, to the home market, where it finds investment in the growing industries of Canada. The Bank's net profits for the year are \$1,641,000, which, after paying two dividends of 4 and 5 per cent. respectively, and a bonus of 1 per cent., besides adding \$500,000 to Rest account, leaves a balance to be carried forward to the credit of profit and loss account of \$215,403.68. A more gratifying exhibit of the Bank's affairs the most sanguine shareholder could hardly wish, and I do not speak at random when I state that I know of several much less prominent banking institutions in this city, whose progress during the past year compares favorably with that of the leading bank in the Dominion. It is just at such a flush juncture, therefore, as the present, when the tendencies of the times as the inevitable result of business prosperity, are strongly towards extravagance both as regards living and the starting of new trade enterprises, that Mr. Smithers' words of caution become all the more apposite and valuable, as their object is evidently the prevention of a threatened danger, rather than an attempt to avert an existing one. The Captain's injunction to keep a sharp look out for the shoals and quicksands which lurk upon the coast line of our country's trade prosperity has gone forth, and those who heed it well will perform a much needed duty both to themselves and the nation.

The apprehension which obtains in the arena of trade and finance, that the present flush times are the prelude to a crisis similar to that which overtook us in 1875, is no unhealthy sign, as it tends to arouse a spirit of caution among business men generally, which is one of the best safety-valves against a recurrence of such trade depressions as that alluded to. In those times there was a rampant recklessness in speculative trading which acknowledged no limits, and discarded the true principles which are absolutely essential in building up the trade of a country. That such a state of things, therefore, should have ended in the financial wreck and chaos which swept away some of our oldest firms and crippled our weak banks, was a result which ought not to have been unexpected, and a lesson that should not be lost sight of now. That we are in quite a different position at the present time, however, will be understood from the fact that the available resources of our banks are nearly \$12,000,000 in excess of those held by the banks in 1875, deposits have increased since that time by \$28,000,000, while \$10,000,000 has been added to deposits in the savings' banks, thereby demonstrating the largely augmented savings and purchasing ability of the people. Discounts show a large expansion, but only in proportion to the development of the new and growing industries of the country. While we advise caution, therefore, on the part of our merchants, which is always a necessity in trade, we by no means share the alarmist views which some papers have recently pretended to be exponents of.

The Montreal stock market has been characterized during the week by marked inactivity and a general feeling that values are too high for healthy investment. There can be no question that a great many investors in bank stocks are waiting for an opportunity to realize, and are carrying them on the

strength that soon the assurance of a good harvest will enhance values and bring them out with fair profits. It is the opinion of well posted men on St. Francois Xavier-street, however, that the prospects for abundant crops have already been fully discounted. There has been quite an absence of speculative buying in this market of late, and the brokers have made very little out of commissions. Montreal sold down to 237 3/4, but was firmer at the close, with a sale at 208. Ontario was weak, selling down 3 per cent. to 123, with that figure bid at the close. There was some inquiry for Peoples at \$9, but no stock was offered. Molsons was steady at 127 bid, 129 wanted. Toronto changed hands at 180 1/2 to 181. Jacques Cartier during the week has shown considerable weakness and has declined several points. Eastern Townships is steady at 119 bid, and Union at 94 bid. Bank of Commerce was steady at 142, and Merchants is firm at 127 1/2 bid. In miscellaneous securities Montreal Telegraph has receded 2 to 2 1/2 per cent. during the week 140 1/2 being bid at close of to-day's session. There was some demand for Richelieu to-day and several lots changed hands at 75 1/2 to 76. Buyers have recently been picking up Richelieu stock, as there is said to be a big thing in it. City Passenger remains steady at 146, the stock having been taken at that figure to-day. City Gas is still a favorite stock with transactions at 165 1/2 to 166 to-day. In other securities there is little or no change.

The following were the closing prices bid for Montreal Stocks to-day and a week ago :-

	1882.		1882.	
	June 21, Bid.	June 28, Bid.	June 21, Bid.	June 28, Bid.
Bank of Montreal.....	208 1/2	208	Quebec Fire Ass. Co. ....	.....
Ontario Bank.....	126 1/2	123	Rich. & Ont. Nav. Co. . . .	76 1/2 75 1/2
Bank du Peuple.....	88 1/2	89	City Pass. Ry Co.	140 140
Molsons' Bank.....	127 1/2	.....	City Gas Co.	165 164 1/2
Bank of Toronto.....	182	181	Royal Can. In. Co.	50 1/2
Bank Jacques Cartier ..	119	112 1/2	Mont. Loan & Mort. Co	106
Merchants' Bank.....	126	127 1/2	Graphie Printing Co. . .	30
Exchange Bank.....	.....	.....	Bonds.....	80
Quebec Bank.....	115	.....	Dominion 7 p.c. Stock . .	108
Banque Nationale.....	70 1/2	.....	Montreal 5 p.c. Stock . .	.....
East'n Towns'ps Bank..	119 1/2	119	Cor. Bonds.....	.....
Union Bank.....	95	94	Montreal Building Ass. .	67
Canadian Bank of Com.	142	142	Canada Cotton Co . . .	140 135
Federal Bank.....	170	.....	" Bonds.....	.....
Imperial Bank.....	.....	.....	Canada Shipping Co. ....	.....
Dominion Bank.....	.....	.....	Montreal Cotton Co. ....	.....
Bank of Hamilton.....	.....	.....	Dundas Cotton Co.	124
Standard Bank.....	.....	.....	Stornont Cotton Co . . .	125
Hochelega Bank.....	92	.....	Cham & St L Ry bonds .	93
Ville Marie.....	96	.....	Canada Paper Co.	115
Intercolonial Coal Co .	41	.....	Canada Central Bonds . .	.....
Montreal Telegraph Co.	133	130 1/2	St. Paul Min. & Man. Ry	134 134
Dominion Telegraph Co.	96	.....	Guarantee Co. B.N.A. . .	90

TORONTO.

A CHECK TO STOCK SPECULATION.

THE ATTRACTIONS OF THE NORTH-WEST AGAINST BANK SHARES.

OPENING OF THE DULL SEASON ON 'CHANGE.

TORONTO, June 29, 1882.

The mania for speculation in bank shares has been somewhat checked by the high prices and the dog days. It ap-