

873, an increase of tenfold. Of cheese, ten years ago we exported 88,534,837 pounds, valued at \$8,915,684. Last year we exported 189,827,839 pounds, valued at \$16,776,765. This shows an increase of more than twofold in the quantity of cheese, and about twofold in the value. Of bacon our exports ten years ago amounted to 3,879,788 pounds, as against 111,868,938 pounds last year. The value of our exports of bacon ten years ago was \$361,070, as against a value last year of \$9,953,582. This increase in the exports of these three articles of produce is encouraging, and as agriculture lies at the foundation of our Provincial, perhaps of our national, wealth, must be very gratifying to every person interested in the prosperity of the country. (Ministerial applause.) Another instance which shows the activity of business is the fact that the Bank circulation which ten years ago was \$32,207,144 had risen last year to \$41,320,083. Deposits in chartered Banks amounted ten years ago to \$134,650,732. They have now reached a total of \$272,592,086. The railway traffic receipts in 1889 amounted to \$42,149,615; last year they were \$59,715,105. The number of failures ten years ago was 1,747. In 1898 they were 1,305. The liabilities ten years ago amounted to \$14,528,884; in 1898 they were \$10,333,630. Even these items contain much food for reflection. The statement with which I started at the outset there has been a great revival of business, and that enjoying an era of prosperity which must be gratifying to every honorable Member in this House. (Ministerial applause).

COMPANIES INCORPORATED.

Another circumstance, perhaps not so well known as the statements already made, is to be found in the records of the Provincial Secretary's office. In 1898 that department issued 244 charters for the incorporation of joint stock companies. Last year 346 were issued. In 1898 19 supplementary letters patent were issued; last year, 37. In 1898 twelve licenses for extra-Provincial companies were issued; last year, 16. The totals of these three classes were 275 in 1898 and 399 in 1899.