

uncalled for on the part of the large banking institutions. Legislation is supposed to be in the interest of the masses, not of classes; therefore, bankers, like other professions, should be required mutually to bear a portion of the responsibility resting on each other. They are granted by the Government certain protection and privileges, and in return for these they have certain duties to perform, the least one of which should be to aid each other in strengthening the security to the general public. We claim that the new bill gives protection to the banks now in existence, inasmuch as it so largely increases the amount of paid-up stock necessary to entitle the granting of a charter. There are some clauses in the bill which tend to leniency on the part of the Government, but our space will not permit further detail. We only hope that when the bill comes before the House, it will not appear that the Government has been obliged to make all the concessions, and that the bankers with their friends (who are a strong party in the House) concede very little.

The Bank statement for March, though not remarkably reassuring, shows some tendency to a better state of things. We find Bank Notes circulation increasing, loans to corporations decreasing, and current loans increasing; available assets stands about the same; Directors liabilities show a decrease. We hope that a greater improvement may be noticeable in the April statement, when it appears. Some of the smaller banks have added slightly to their capitals, and the Western Bank of Canada has added \$6,000 to the reserve fund.

The colony of Victoria, Australasia, has in its banking law the following provision:

"No banking company that issues notes, unless the contrary be provided by any Act of Parliament esta-

blishing or regulating the same, shall be entitled to limited liability in respect to such issue, but shall continue subject to *unlimited liability* in respect thereof, and if necessary the assets shall be marshalled for the benefit of the general creditors, and the members shall be liable for the whole amount of the issue, in addition to the sum for which they would be liable as members of a limited company."

The number of vessels of all kinds coming to Canadian ports from the different countries of South America, and going to South America from Canadian ports during the fiscal year of 1889, according to the *Monetary Times*, was as follows:

	Vessels.	Tons.
Canadian craft, coming in.....	89	51,056
Other craft, " "	138	97,788
Canadian craft, going out.....	108	38,020
Other craft " "	56	30,158

From which it will be seen the commerce was a very respectable one as regards Canadian craft.

SIZE OF ANCIENT CITIES.—Niveveh was 15 miles long, 9 wide, and 40 miles round, with a wall 100 feet high, and thick enough for three chariots abreast. Babylon was 60 miles within the walls, which were 75 feet thick, and 300 feet high, with 100 brazen gates. The temple of Diana at Ephesus, according to Pliny, required 220 years to complete it, and was supported by 127 pillars 60 feet high, having been raised by as many kings. The largest of the pyramids is 481 feet high and 653 on the sides; its base covers 11 acres. The stones are about 30 feet in length, and the layers are 208. It employed 330,000 men in building. Thebes, in Egypt, presents ruins 27 miles round, and had 100 gates. Carthage was 25 miles round. Athens was 25 miles round, and contained 250,000 citizens and 400,000 slaves. The walls of Rome were 13 miles round.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE CHARTERED BANKS IN CANADA.

Comparison of Principal Items.

	31st March, 1890.	28th Feb- ruary, 1890.	31st March, 1889.	Increase and Decrease for month.	Increase and Decrease for year.
<i>Assets.</i>					
Specie and Dominion Notes.....	\$15,869,791	\$15,919,205	\$16,981,988	Dec. \$49,414	Dec. \$1,112,197
Notes, cheques and balances due from Canadian banks.....	8,969,963	7,987,499	8,340,002	Inc. 982,464	Inc. 629,961
Due from American Banks and Branches.....	10,393,027	11,023,658	17,702,103	Dec. 630,631	Dec. 7,309,076
Due from British Banks and Branches.....	1,841,256	2,262,339	3,314,046	Dec. 421,083	Dec. 1,472,790
Government Securities.....	8,096,836	8,171,133	6,267,159	Dec. 74,297	Inc. 1,829,677
Loans and Collaterals.....	13,165,822	13,134,244	12,425,527	Inc. 31,578	Inc. 740,295
Loans to Corporations.....	25,354,201	25,709,980	23,450,650	Dec. 355,779	Inc. 1,993,551
Discounts to the Public.....	152,317,486	149,601,334	149,733,539	Inc. 2,716,152	Inc. 2,583,947
Overdue debts, including those secured by mortgage.	3,057,670	2,906,012	2,748,132	Inc. 151,658	Inc. 309,538
Total Assets.....	248,709,510	246,289,761	252,146,304	Inc. 2,419,749	Dec. 3,436,794
<i>Liabilities.</i>					
Notes in circulation.....	31,704,281	30,627,074	32,471,522	Inc. 1,077,207	Dec. 767,241
Government Deposits, Dominion and Provincial.....	6,980,264	6,765,070	11,990,493	Inc. 215,194	Dec. 5,010,229
Deposits from the public.....	123,809,854	123,392,728	120,666,540	Inc. 417,126	Inc. 3,143,314
Loans from other Banks.....	2,428,068	2,689,514	2,944,358	Dec. 261,446	Dec. 516,290
Balances due to American Banks.....	193,921	125,720	153,680	Inc. 68,201	Inc. 40,241
Balances due to British Banks.....	2,291,824	2,072,184	2,946,827	Inc. 219,640	Dec. 655,003
Total Liabilities.....	167,564,544	165,926,624	171,399,015	Inc. 1,637,920	Dec. 3,834,711
<i>Capital.</i>					
Capital paid up.....	60,204,018	60,196,603	60,236,893	Inc. 7,415	Dec. 32,875
Reserve Fund.....	20,565,333	20,559,333	19,211,999	Inc. 6,000	Inc. 1,353,334
Directors' Liabilities.....	7,236,881	7,342,002	8,851,479	Dec. 105,121	Dec. 1,614,598