

## MONTREAL HARBOR COMMISSION.

A copy of the report of the Harbor Commissioners of Montreal is before us, containing information of the transactions of that body for the year 1891. Its figures show the continued growth of our great sea-port. The total receipts of the Trust were \$543,170, which was in the main derived from the collection of wharfage dues. The disbursements on revenue account were \$202,737.35. There was spent on capital account \$188,496.81, all of it for improving the harbor. Of this amount \$102,697.99 was expended upon the new wharves at Hochelaga and Maisonneuve.

The year was a remarkable one in the history of the port, for the tonnage was very large, and the number of arrivals (631) was the greatest since Montreal was founded. The number of sea-going vessels arriving was 725. Although this number is not so large as in 1890 or in 1887, the tonnage exceeds that of both these years. The average tonnage of vessels and steamers arriving is steadily increasing; last year it went up to 1,290 tons. This increase in size is accounted for by the falling off in the number of arrivals of sea-going sailing vessels and an increase in steamships.

Out of the total tonnage of 927,257 tons, some twenty per cent. was consigned to the Allans; 102,767 tons to the Messrs. Torrance & Co., agents for the Dominion Line; 110,312 tons to Robert Reford & Co.; 72,891 tons to the Canada Shipping Co. An interesting table is that compiled by the harbor-master, showing the traffic of the port. Increased export is shown in apples, flour, grain, especially in the last named, while cheese shows a small decline:

## SHIPMENTS.

	Bushels.
Wheat.....	6,136,996
Corn.....	2,194,811
Peas.....	2,000,468
Barley.....	814,382
Rye.....	2,253,460
Oats.....	778,920
Total grain.....	14,179,037

Flour.....	622,388 barrels.
Lumber (to U. K.).....	108,636,320 feet.
Phosphate of lime.....	14,735 tons.
Cheese.....	1,349,993 boxes.
Apples.....	306,935 barrels.
Cattle.....	108,947 head.
Sheep.....	32,157 "

The increase in apple shipments over the previous year amounted to 146,000 barrels; that in flour to 275,000 barrels; in grain, to 5,869,000 bushels.

The more important items of import at Montreal were, first, coal, of which the total brought in was 707,686 tons. Nearly three-fourths of this (504,552 tons) came from Nova Scotia; 184,121 tons from the United States, and 18,718 tons from the United Kingdom. The inspection of cement shows 184,831 barrels brought in, an increase of some 59,000 barrels over the preceding year. The year's repairing of the wharves cost \$49,000, and the total expended thus far on the Maisonneuve and Hochelaga piers is \$335,497.51, of which amount \$102,697.99 was expended last year. There is 1,550 feet of wharf room down there.

## BANKING RETURN.

The figures of the Canadian bank statement for March last will be found in condensed form below, and are compared with those of the previous month. The statement bears date 20th April.

## CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

	Mar. 1892.	Feb., 1892.
LIABILITIES.		
Capital authorized..	\$ 75,904,665	\$75,904,665
Capital paid up....	61,516,824	61,500,966
Reserve Funds....	23,964,849	23,947,508
Notes in circulation	32,483,965	32,711,015
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits....	5,771,717	6,010,618
Public deposits on demand.....	60,352,542	60,029,923
Public deposits after notice.....	93,824,415	93,394,227
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured...	105,000	110,000
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.	2,754,556	2,842,871
Due other banks in Canada in daily balances.....	94,495	137,410
Due other banks in foreign countries	140,634	209,246
Due other banks in Great Britain....	2,852,992	1,685,761
Other liabilities....	203,560	358,512
Total liabilities..	\$198,583,968	\$197,489,682

	Mar. 1892.	Feb., 1892.
ASSETS.		
Specie.....	\$ 6,105,187	\$ 5,996,998
Dominion notes....	10,553,557	10,538,883
Deposits to secure note circulation..	847,927	846,927
Notes and cheques of other banks..	6,335,141	7,182,447
Due from other banks in Canada in daily exchanges	185,954	184,146
Deposits made with other banks....	3,225,364	3,119,497
Due from other banks in foreign countries.....	18,165,638	17,612,793
Due from other banks in Great Britain.....	2,858,549	4,692,633
Dominion Government debentures or stock.....	3,054,034	3,059,034
Canadian municipal securities, &c....	6,580,869	6,449,879
Public securities other than Canadian.....	5,918,759	5,842,569
Call loans on bonds and stocks.....	14,905,269	14,720,222
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Govts..	2,130,161	2,161,170
Current loans and discounts.....	190,647,185	186,116,911
Loans to other banks secured.....	105,000	110,000
Overdue debts....	2,666,707	2,658,891
Real estate.....	1,100,241	1,149,937
Mortgages on real estate sold.....	772,604	779,983
Bank premises....	4,514,213	4,487,244
Other assets.....	1,469,398	1,837,215
Total assets.....	\$281,640,935	\$279,547,605

Average amount of specie held during the month.....	6,051,177	5,987,243
Av. Dom. notes do..	10,263,740	10,447,012
Loans to directors or their firms....	6,506,307	6,194,604
Greatest amount notes in circulation during m'nth	33,870,430	33,363,708

The largest telegraph office in the world is that of London, England. There are 3,000 operators engaged in "slinging lightning" in this great office. Upwards of 30,000 batteries are required to furnish electricity for the multiplicity of wires and instruments.

## HON. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE.

The tributes of respect and admiration so fully paid in the press of Canada and on the floor of Parliament to the character of the worthy statesman who has just passed away, were surpassed, if that be possible, by the remarkable attendance at his obsequies. It seemed that representative Canadians of all ranks had by one impulse come forward to say: Here was a man to be proud of, a man of the people, whose simplicity of life never altered, whose conception of his duty was adhered to in shine and storm, who was not to be wheedled or bullied or bribed, in whom strong common sense, unbending rectitude, skill in debate, practical experience and power of work, were combined. And all these valuable qualities he devoted unsparingly to the service of his country. Indeed it was but too plain that his devotion shortened his life; for the duties of the Premiership and the labors of the Department of Public Works, performed as he performed them, with an overstrained determination to see to the bottom of every transaction and to defend the Treasury of Canada from improper demands upon it by friends or foes, were enough to exhaust the power of any man. He lived to three score and ten, it is true, but for the past ten years the effect of his exhaustive labors upon his physical frame was but too apparent, although his mind was clear and strong almost to the very last.

It happened to the writer of this notice to be made aware, about 1875, of an incident which shows the high view Mr. Mackenzie entertained of his functions as a Minister of the Crown, as well as the contempt in which he held the claims of mere self-seeking politicians when they might seem to interfere with a public trust. A certain manufacturer in an eastern province whose works were situated near the Intercolonial Railway, who was a supporter of Mr. Mackenzie's Government, and who had a very complacent notion of his own influence and importance, made a pilgrimage to Ottawa. His object was to get a spur of the railway built to his factory, and he obtained an interview with the Premier, who was also Minister of Public Works. He made the proposition that if the Government would supply the rails he would furnish the ties and the labor, and he submitted figures showing the amount of traffic his factory would afford to the spur line if built, consisting of raw material inward and manufactured product outward. The proposal seemed quite legitimate and even likely as a business venture. But this enterprising politician did not stop here—he proceeded to spoil his case, desecrating upon the services he had rendered to the party, upon his voluminous labors by tongue and pen, upon the successful efforts he had made to exalt the horn of the Reform party, and he closed with something very like a demand upon the Government that his desire should be complied with as a reward of party fealty. He got an answer without delay. To use his own words: "The Premier of Canada stood up, and placing his hands behind his back, said, 'Sir, the Government declines to entertain your proposition,' and without another word turned his back upon me and left the room. Such was my reward for unstinted service." Had the proposal been left to stand upon a reasonable mercantile basis alone, no one, doubtless, was more willing to entertain it than the deceased public servant. But being coupled with a suggestion that party rewards were to form part of the bargain, Mr. Mackenzie's suspicions were