

If we in Canada, in common with the rest of the world, have suffered from the effect of low prices, causing a diminished volume of business, we at least have reason to be thankful that we have come through the crisis as well as could be expected. That our banking institutions, as well as our large mercantile houses, have been conducted on sound lines and with considerable prudence and foresight, is evident from the fact that at no time during the past year did any panic exist, and no failures of any importance have occurred amongst the wholesale houses. I regret that I cannot point to a diminished number of failures amongst traders generally, for I find that with the exception of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and the North-West Territory, every province in the Dominion shows an increase in number of failures, or in amount of liabilities, for the year 1894 compared with 1893. For comparison, I have extracted from Bradstreet's reports the failures for 1893 and 1894, which are as follows:—

	NUMBER.		ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
	1894	1893	1894	1893	1894	1893
Ontario	794	752	\$2,922,633	\$3,049,276	\$6,584,304	\$6,709,822
Quebec	706	599	2,563,262	1,832,641	7,130,066	4,595,805
New Brunswick	90	85	931,977	420,280	1,637,803	823,986
Nova Scotia	111	128	300,338	478,573	561,417	945,925
Prince Edward Island	7	22	31,050	57,840	49,250	126,300
Manitoba	68	69	423,104	403,810	773,367	722,613
North West Territory	12	29	37,190	54,862	67,433	150,473
British Columbia	63	82	590,751	413,750	920,993	687,650
	1851	1766	\$7,800,303	\$6,711,032	\$17,724,633	\$14,762,574

From above statement, it will be seen that there was an increase for 1894 over that of 1893, of 85 in number and \$2,962,059 in liabilities. While the Province of Ontario showed an increase in the number of failures of 42, there was a decrease in liabilities of \$125,518. The Province of Quebec shows an increase of 107 in number, and \$730,621 in liabilities.

New Brunswick and British Columbia show a large increase in liabilities, while Nova Scotia, P.E. Island and N.W. Territory show very gratifying decreases. Manitoba shows a decrease of 1 in number, but an increase of \$50,754 in liabilities.

The failures in the United States were, for

1893	15,560	with liabilities of	\$402,427,818
1894	12,721	"	149,595,434

showing a decrease of 2,839 \$252,832,384

for 1894. As we in Canada generally follow about a year behind the United States, either in prosperity or adversity, I am hopeful that the year 1895 will show a decrease in the number of failures in Canada.

The Section during the past year dealt with various matters of interest; amongst others, the tariff changes were anxiously watched by the Section, and various meetings were held to discuss items of