

Financial Review.

We give below a condensation of the figures of the statement of Canadian banks for the month of February. It is compared with the bank statement for the previous month, and shows capital, reserve, assets and liabilities, average holdings of specie and Dominion notes &c.

CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT  
LIABILITIES.

	Feb. 1897	Jan. 1897
Capital authorized	\$73,478,635	\$72,938,684
Capital paid up	61,531,391	61,766,813
Reserve funds	26,728,209	26,728,799
Notes in circulation	\$30,409,197	\$30,208,157
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits	6,081,085	6,136,452
Public deposits on demand	65,605,607	67,023,011
Public deposits after notice	126,937,892	126,428,551
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured	117,654	130,000
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured	2,587,137	3,229,007
Due other banks in Canada in daily balances	77,703	83,406
Due other banks in foreign countries	355,138	375,754
Due other banks in Great Britain	2,489,157	2,780,421
Other liabilities	438,501	623,077
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$234,888,105</b>	<b>\$237,050,124</b>

ASSETS

	Feb. 1897	Jan. 1897
Specie	\$ 8,246,676	\$ 8,530,355
Dominion notes	15,708,201	15,538,601
Deposits to secure note circulation	1,840,218	1,840,218
Notes and cheques of other banks	5,473,393	6,684,120
Loans to other banks secured	19,483	218,977
Deposits made with other banks	\$ 129,878	\$ 837,139
Due from other banks in foreign countries	10,608,177	10,394,262
Due from other banks in Great Britain	0,140,549	9,623,745
Dominion Govt. debentures or stock	2,794,416	2,793,008
Other securities	23,043,562	22,840,919
Call loans on bonds and stock	13,761,862	13,911,561
	\$100,048,195	\$101,619,673
Loans to Dominion and Provincial Governments	386,620	188,631
Current loans and discounts	206,732,374	208,433,919
Due from other banks in Canada in daily exchanges	119,679	117,355
Overdue debts	3,667,939	3,947,434
Real estate	2,022,011	2,079,996
Mortgages on real estate sold	479,413	472,259
Bank premises	5,640,155	5,651,203
Other assets	2,217,616	2,282,900
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$223,303,593</b>	<b>\$224,501,763</b>
Average amount of specie held during the month	8,457,115	8,541,645
Average Dominion notes held during the month	15,750,999	15,377,432
Greatest amount notes in circulation during month	30,974,636	32,916,222
Loans to directors or their firms	3,912,352	7,315,257

The universal cry that comes up from business circles in all directions, in almost all places, is of continued and most monotonous dullness. This condition of things settled down upon the country months ago and has continued ever since with blighting effects upon trade and industry, until the condition has become almost unbearable.

The banks are experiencing the full effect of all this and loudly complain of stagnation, want of enterprise, want of active demand for money and diminished profits. The only thing which has not diminished is the liability to losses. This continues and exhibits no sign of abating. Failures are constantly occurring, many of them where they were least expected, and amongst those who were thought to be prosperous and doing well. The year upon which we have entered has so far been not at all an improvement upon previous years, and if it goes on as it has begun will earn for itself a very unenviable name among the years of depression in Canada. Our readers are well aware of the main cause of this wretched state of things, viz., the uncertainty as to tariff legislation. We will not say a word more about this. We have said as much as can be said already, and fortunately the end of a period of uncertainty will no longer exist. The Government must announce its policy, both general

and in detail, and what they announce and determine upon to be their policy, and to have carried through, is likely to be the legislation on the subject for the present.

The only exception to the general strain of dullness throughout the Dominion, is the feverish activity of gold mining in British Columbia; and not only of the actual gold mining, but of the swarm of speculators and schemers, and those who are drawn into their toils. These are buzzing and circling round the legitimate enterprises of the Kootenay district, as moths flutter round a candle, and it is to be feared that the result in most cases will be the same. This outbreak of speculation is of a character that always accompanies great and sudden developments in the acquirement of wealth, either present or prospective.

The great trouble in this development is the extraordinary smallness of the nets that have been spread to catch the unwary, and the vast numbers of persons who have become entangled therein. A certain percentage of these schemes may have the element of future prosperity in them, but the greater part are lotteries pure and simple. They are based on no sure foundation, they are not the result of solid information, but of a reckless spirit of speculation, which if carried on long enough, and to a sufficient extent, will undoubtedly embarrass thousands of people and ruin not a few.

It has been stated by those in a position to know that a good deal of difficulty that has been lately experienced in making collections in Ontario is owing to the fact that large numbers of people have been sending all the cash they could spare to British Columbia, and that they have left their bills unpaid in numbers of instances. This is a development exceedingly like that which took place in the great Winnipeg boom of fifteen years ago. An enormous drain of money in the aggregate, chiefly made up of a vast number of small amounts, took place while that boom was in progress, with the result that the banks in Winnipeg had an immense aggregate of sums on deposit left by hundreds and thousands of speculators, but which sums were all drawn off when the bubble burst, the people that owned them leaving the country in great numbers, and losses of an untold character being inflicted on the people of the older parts of Canada, the effects of which are being felt to this day.

We have not a word to say in discouragement of legitimate enterprise, and the development of the great mining resources of British Columbia. The development of resources by men who understand their business is a thing to be encouraged in every possible way, especially by men who can afford to take the risk of such enterprises. But what is to be deprecated is the floating of schemes which are mere traps to catch the unwary, and which have no rational or business-like foundation whatever.

The Canadian Pacific Railway people, with their accustomed activity in taking time by the forelock, are already opening up another route through the mountains. This is in furtherance of business. There is no wild cat speculation about this, or the company goes on, taking no notice of carping critics who are denouncing the project.

This also is their habit, and it is not a bad one. Men who have great enterprises on hand learn to go on and mind their own business. The company say that they have the power under their charter to build the road, and they are building it. Doubtless they understand their own position. They are not the men to throw away vast sums of money without having the authority to do so.

The United States tariff has been introduced, and must have dashed to the ground all thoughts of reciprocal arrangements between that country and Canada. There are probably as many Americans who regret

it as there are Canadians. In fact, we may say that a majority of the people of Northern States, who live along and trade with us, are annoyed and indignant at the unreasonable obstacles being put in the way of fair trade. But the legislators of the United States, it is to be supposed, do their own business, and are looking after their own interests.

By this time the Canadian legislators understand the position, and it is certain they are bound to look after the interests in their hands. With regard to some of the duties of the new United States tariff, it will scarcely affect us at all, while others just as unfavorably affect the United States consumer as they will the Canadian producer. If Americans come to buy our hay and horses it is because they want them, and will be the parties to pay their own duties. Be that as it may, Canada in adjusting her tariff must look after her own interests.

The greatest question by far is that connected with lumber. The manner in which the duty is imposed looks like a threat if we impose a certain duty we may lose our market very seriously for it. Now our objection of course is to take no notice of it, but simply consider what is best for the interests of Canada. There is much to be said in favor of a policy which would protect the export of a large quantity of sawlogs from the Dominion, considering that these saws are a part of the capital of this country which cannot be replaced, and must a far distant time come to an end. We know well that saw milling is one of the great developments of manufacturing industry in Canada, and that the sawlogs of our forests are absolutely necessary to the continued development of this industry. We are certainly bound to conserve it and prevent its ultimate extinction, which will assuredly be the consequence, and at no distant day, if sawlogs which are the natural support of our manufactures continue to be exported in immense quantities as raw material for sawmills of the United States.

If there is any form of protection which is justifiable it is surely that of guarding the industry like this from having its source supply exhausted before its time. And means by which this can be averted will place an export duty on logs, so that it will no longer be to the interest of the States millers to feed their mills by saws drawn from our forests. If Americans in this legislation come over here and establish their sawmills and carry their business in our midst, we shall be most glad to welcome them. This is what has already taken place, especially in the Ottawa Valley and such Americans, as we know, generally settle down into most loyal Canadians, and in every way to the stock of business ability and intelligence that characterize our country. — Monetary Times.

Live Advertising.

Shorey & Co., of Montreal may be called the tireless toilers for trade. They are evidently great believers in printers and they also seem to have studied the art of advertising to advantage as they have some new idea to present in their which is sure to attract attention. Their advertisement, we sometimes hear it said, to handle the right class of goods in a manner as will commend them to the purchaser. But how is the purchaser to know you have the goods, unless you tell him to keep overlastingly pounding it into his ears. Mrs. Shorey & Co. think they have the right kind of goods, and they are going to let the people know it. They have a scheme on now, as will be seen in their advertisement, but what is it? We