

but its justification rests on the fact that such labour is really in demand, and that its employment will tend to increase the public wealth. The machinery for aiding immigration cannot be allowed to get wholly out of gear, because only some of the kinds of labour ordinarily in demand are now required; but this department can, at a time like the present, safely be put on a "peace footing." In the running of this machinery, Talleyrand's aphorism about indiscreet zeal becomes specially applicable, and we trust that its due observance will not be neglected.

BANKING REVIEW.

The following is the last official return of the Banks of Ontario and Quebec, compared with that of the preceding month:—

LIABILITIES.		
	Feb. 28.	March. 31.
Capital authorised ..	\$66,966,666	\$66,966,666
Capital paid up.....	58,807,620	58,782,790
Circulation.....	18,548,000	18,072,000
Government Deposits	6,505,000	6,334,000
Public Deposits on demand.....	32,174,000	31,376,000
do do at notice.	24,483,000	24,817,000
Due Banks in Canada	1,548,000	1,576,000
do not in Canada	1,165,000	1,446,000
Sundries	82,000	61,000
	\$84,505,000	\$83,682,000
ASSETS.		
Specie & Dom. Notes	12,861,000	12,864,000
Notes & Chqs. of other Banks.....	3,205,000	2,805,000
Due from Banks in Canada.....	2,713,000	3,012,000
do not in Canada	6,619,000	6,900,000
	\$25,398,000	\$25,581,000
AVAILABLE ASSETS.		
Government Stock...	2,308,000	2,308,000
Loans to Government	586,000	582,000
Advances on Bank Stock.....	2,282,000	2,352,000
Advances on Bonds..	4,720,000	4,893,000
Loans to Corporations	3,100,000	2,982,000
Discounts current...	107,232,000	106,876,000
Over due notes not secured.....	3,040,000	3,012,000
do Secured..	4,283,000	4,110,000
Real Estate.....	1,219,000	1,482,000
Bank Premises.....	3,102,000	3,101,000
Sundries	1,611,000	1,656,000
	\$158,881,000	\$158,935,000

The apparent increase in capital paid up, as given in the official statement, arises from an error in casting this column, \$1,000,000; the correct figures are as we give them. The diminished circulation amounts to \$476,000. The withdrawal of deposits on demand of \$800,000 is spread over the whole field of the banks' operations in a fair proportion, the only instance in which that is largely exceeded arise from causes which had been foreseen and provided for.

We gladly record an increase in deposits

at notice, arising, not from any specially large deposit in any one or two of the banks, but being distributed over sixteen of them in sums of from \$4,000 up to \$200,000. The other changes are: a decrease in Discounts, \$456,000, decrease in over due notes secured, \$173,000, the rest are too insignificant for notice.

There is beginning to grow up a feeling that times are mending, but the evidences of this so far are not very tangible; still the very growth of feeling like this tends to restore confidence, one of the first conditions of improvement. There is something more solid in the promising look of the wheat crop; it never looked richer, and on the realization of the hopes thus raised and the continued improvement in lumber and timber, the dawn of which we refer to elsewhere, depends to a great degree the question of our emerging into better times.

THE BUTTER TRADE.

The continuous depression in the butter trade, the heavy losses which dealers have sustained during the past season, and the low prices of butter at present, are arousing both farmers and merchants to the necessity of doing something to revive and promote this important branch of our commerce. So ruinous has the butter traffic been this last year and so discouraging are the prospects of improvement in the future, that producers will find a difficulty in obtaining buyers for their butter unless the quality is greatly improved. Our country merchants have learned, by dear experience, that it will pay them better to keep their goods on their shelves than to exchange them for butter on which they may lose eight or ten cents per pound; and many of them have resolved to give up the butter trade entirely, leaving it to regular dealers who buy for cash and discriminate carefully as to quality. The willingness of merchants to give the same price in goods for anything in the form of butter, without regard to quality or cleanliness, has been a principal cause of the poor quality of our butter. There was no encouragement held out to the makers of good butter, to bestow extra labor on making a superior article, for they got no more for it than their neighbors did for inferior quality; and they had not even the satisfaction of sending a choice grade of butter to market, for the finest and the poorest were mixed indiscriminately together. This, then, is one great reform which must be adopted before our butter traffic can be placed on a satisfactory basis. Let the store-keepers in every Canadian town and village, make it a point not to buy a single pound of butter, especially in ex-

change for goods; but to allow the butter as they allow the grain trade, to be carried on by cash buyers who will select carefully, and pay according to its quality. This plan has been adopted already in several towns in Ontario, with the best results; and if it were made more general a great improvement in the quality of our butter would soon be observed.

But another reform, more important still, will have to be carried out before a successful butter traffic can be established. This is the adoption of a more improved system of manufacturing butter, namely, the establishment of creameries. Until many Canadian farms are made dairy farms, or until the creamery system is made general, Western Ontario butter cannot compete successfully with the product of the United States dairy farms and factories, nor, indeed, with the best Eastern Townships. The fact that thousands of packages of sound butter have been sold this season at eight or ten cents per pound, shows that there is something radically wrong in our system of butter making. It has taken just as much milk and just as good milk to make this inferior quality as is would have done to make the finest creamery butter. Yet the latter is in good demand at from twenty to twenty-five cents per pound, while much of the former is hardly saleable at even eight cents, a very large sum is thus lost annually to our merchants and farmers, as well as to the whole country, by the inferior quality of this one article of dairy produce.

In previous years there was always a certain demand for the lower grades of butter for cooking and other purposes, but now that demand is supplied by butterine or oleomargarine. This substitute for butter is made from suet, and is being manufactured in large quantities in the principal American cities. The suet is first melted to oil, and all impurities are strained out. When sufficiently purified it is churned with sweet milk and cream for a few minutes and then allowed to stand in a refrigerator until it becomes firm and hard. The next process is to work it over several times until it has the appearance of butter, when it is packed into neat boxes and tinnets for sale. Butterine, as thus made, is perfectly clean and free from objectionable ingredients, and is purchased by many in preference to inferior butter. As it can be sold at a low price, and is said by chemists to be more nutritious than butter, it is likely to supersede inferior butter for culinary purposes.

In order, therefore, to develop a profitable Canadian butter trade, we must make a specialty of the finer grades of butter. But our farmers have too much other work on