

## BANKING REVIEW.

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

## CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

LIABILITIES.		
	Oct., 1893.	Sept., 1893.
Capital authorized..	\$75,458,685	\$75,458,685
Capital paid up....	62,081,994	62,074,078
Reserve Funds ....	26,135,348	26,131,999
Notes in circulation	36,906,941	35,128,926
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits....	4,893,652	5,247,732
Public deposits on demand.....	62,524,569	61,245,992
Public deposits after notice.....	103,557,733	104,004,598
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured...	48,000	64,000
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured.	2,801,931	2,621,736
Due other banks in Canada in daily balances .....	159,169	120,767
Due other banks in foreign countries	179,695	221,989
Due other banks in Great Britain...	4,966,698	5,312,794
Other liabilities....	228,185	222,623
Total liabilities..	\$216,267,661	\$214,191,254
ASSETS.		
Specie .....	\$ 7,279,292	\$ 7,316,292
Dominion notes....	13,309,643	12,898,359
Deposits to secure note circulation..	1,818,571	1,818,448
Notes and cheques of other banks..	7,231,951	6,939,379
Loans to other banks secured .....	20,385	38,385
Deposits made with other banks ....	3,584,380	3,422,803
Due from other banks in foreign countries .....	14,839,370	13,451,882
Due from other banks in Great Britain .....	3,918,869	4,243,676
Dominion Government debentures or stock.....	3,188,572	3,188,572
Other securities....	15,446,103	15,562,719
Call loans on bonds and stocks .....	14,681,644	14,960,190
	\$85,318,780	\$83,840,705
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Govts..	1,584,010	1,335,120
Current loans and discounts .....	204,854,797	204,654,480
Due from other banks in Canada in daily exchanges	133,139	129,472
Overdue debts ....	2,960,035	2,952,723
Real estate.....	888,010	909,841
Mortgages on real estate sold .....	654,259	652,111
Bank premises....	4,999,851	4,977,733
Other assets .....	1,864,794	1,465,672
Total assets.....	\$303,357,881	\$300,918,049
Average amount of specie held during the month .....	7,274,012	7,369,449
Av. Dom. notes do..	12,960,948	12,953,910
Loans to directors or their firms....	7,784,934	7,762,892
Greatest amount of notes in circulation during month	37,762,590	36,112,480

During the last month banking matters have proceeded quietly. In fact, with regard to the important matter of circulation, the movement has been really sluggish. The amount of increase in circulation during October was only half the increase that took place during the same month last year. This slow movement indicates be-

yond doubt very dilatory movement of our crops to market, and is an index of the small amount of money that has been received so far by the farmers for their grain. Had they not had other resources, the position would have been really serious. It would have indicated such a short crop as must have been a menace to the prosperity of the country. But fortunately the proceeds of our dairy industry and of our cattle are so large, both actually and relatively, that even a heavy decrease in the value of our crop of cereals can be borne without serious results. There can be no doubt that the crop of Ontario cereals was decidedly deficient. The yield of apples, too, was very disappointing in many districts whose returns from fruit have sometimes borne a considerable proportion to the total value of all the produce at the farm. But we have had a really splendid year for the manufacture of cheese. The value of this product is increasing year by year, and the surprising results of the competition at the World's Fair in Chicago will tend still further to enhance the reputation of Canada and enable a steadily higher range of prices to be realized. It is indeed a most remarkable circumstance, considering of how recent origin this cheese industry is, that we have in so short a time attained to such a pitch of excellence as to carry off nearly all the prizes that were offered for certain descriptions of cheese in a competition against all-comers. These remarks have reference largely to Ontario. The backward condition of agriculture in the province of Quebec has long been a matter of notoriety; but a younger generation of men seems to be now coming forward, who are fast unlearning the old methods of their forefathers, and developing modes of farming more in accordance with modern ideas. Certain it is that the products of the farm in that province, taking in products of every description, were never more satisfactory than they have been during the present year.

The grain crops in Manitoba, though most excellent in quality, have generally been very disappointing in quantity. In some districts, indeed, the crops have been so small as almost to amount to a failure. This area of very small yields fortunately has not been wide enough to make any heavy reduction on the amount of the crop as a whole. Moreover, the regions beyond Manitoba are now bulking quite largely in their productive capacity, so that the northwest of Canada, as a whole, will have produced nearly as much as was estimated, and a good many millions of bushels will be available for export. The low price, however, is a very great drawback. The low prices of wheat and barley exert a most depressing influence over the whole area of grain production, and if values are to be permanently on such a low scale, there can be no doubt that wheat culture will much decline. Fortunately, the lands of Canada almost everywhere are well adapted to other modes of cultivation, and we shall probably see a steady enlargement of dairy industries, cattle-keeping, feeding of hogs and of fruit culture, thus securing such a

variety of interests in every part of the country that a general failure of production can hardly ever be looked for. When one crop is short, another will take its place, and so our farmers will have a steady average of prosperity.

The deposits of the banks have continued to run an even course, showing very little change, either in the way of increase or decrease, during the last month. It is fortunate that the drain which was going on during the months of summer and early autumn has been stopped, otherwise a much greater monetary pressure would have supervened than has been experienced. To some this has had the appearance of a recurrence of monetary ease. But there has really been no change in the position in that direction beyond the stoppage of a drain that was steadily bringing about a severe monetary pressure. The danger of this is happily averted for the present, but during the winter it is not at all improbable that pressure may occur again. We should think it the part of prudence for merchants to rather conduct their business under this supposition than in expectation of easy money and continued good collections.

## CAPITAL IS SHY.

How marked the shrinkage is this year in the quantity of English capital going into new loans or commercial ventures may be seen by a comparison of the figures of the present with those of former years. Things seem to have reached high-water mark in this respect in 1889, for while the year previous to it had shown a total of 160 millions of pounds sterling, the year 1889 witnessed the sum of 189 millions of pounds invested in new loans or new companies. Gradually the amount came down, until in 1891 the total was £104,594,000, and last year only £81,137,100 in the whole twelve months. For the forty-five weeks of the present year the new issues, as reported by the *London Economist*, have amounted, to 10th instant, to £42,470,000, which, supposing the same rate to be kept up for the remaining seven weeks of 1893, would make the issues of the year £54,854,000, less than a third of the new capital issues of 1889 or 1890. Evidently capital is at present timid.

## TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

Trade of Canada with Australia is being exploited of late quite freely, not only among ourselves, but among the Australians. A member of the Dominion Cabinet, Hon. Mr. Bowell, has been over there as a sort of honorary commissioner, and Mr. Troop has repeatedly lectured and written about Canada in one, if not two Australian provinces. Now we have gentlemen travelling Canada in the interest of this commerce, which the new steamship line from Vancouver is, let us hope, destined to increase. Mr. Huddart has paid visits to Ontario and Quebec, and made a good impression, and this week Mr. Warren comes from our Pacific coast to tell us more about products interchangeable with the Australians. It is said, indeed, that but for the