Brick Tea—a Commercia Curiosity.

"Brick tea" is one of the curious features of the world wide trade carried on with the tea plant. It is made from tea dust and siftings, which though containing a good deal of foreign substances, makes as strong an infusion as the finest leaves. Brick tea is made in what are called "large green," "small green," and black bricks, all of which find sale in the Russian market. The large green brick is made from the coarser leaves and upper twigs of the plant, and is packed in baskets, each containing nearly 111 lbs. The Mongol buyer tests the soundness of his purchase by placing a brick on his head and pulling the ends with both hands; should it neither break nor bend, it is considered sound; if it bends or fractures, it is tossed aside as worthless. Small green bricks are of better quality and command a higher price, though similarly manufactured. The usual size of the bricks is 8¼ x 5¼ x ⅞ inches. Neither of these two forms of brick tea undergo fermentation. Black brick tea is made into cubes of the same size of small green. It consists or siftings, fannings, and the dust resulting from the preparation of Moning and Kaisow teas for the London market, with an admixture of Bohea and small twigs. Like small green, it is usually packed with 64 or 72 bricks in a basket, and is in request among the Tartars or Khirgis of Western Siberia. Large quantities are also sold to the peasantry residing on the western shores of Lake Baikil. The sales at Ourga, the capital of Mongolia, about 200 miles from Kiachta, are said to be upwards of 50,000 baskets per annum (over 5,000,000 lbs., or more than half the entire produce of the Indian tea gardens), of which nine-tenths are large green brick. The Chinese transport the greater portion of their brick tea overland, by Thansi, whilst the Russians invariably send theirs by Shanghai and Tientsen to Kiachta, whence it is transported to Siberia, Tartary, and Russia, on the backs of camels.

In Mongolia and Tartary the method of preparing brick tea for drinking is unique, and is suggestive of a cheap and admirable substitute for food during times of commercial distress and famine.

It is rubbed to fine powder, boiled with alkaline steppe-water, to which salt and fat have been added, the decoction being carefully decanted. Of this liquid the nomadic races drink from twenty to forty cups per day, mixing it first with milk, butter and a little roasted meal. But even without meal, they subsist upon the beverage, and maintain perfect health and a robust physique for many weeks in succession.

The mode of manufacture is this:—The mass is imply moistened by the application of steam, then compressed in wooden moulds, having the chop of the manufacturer cut in relief on one of the inner surfaces. The bricks are then piled up in stacks, protected from the sun and rain, but having a free current of air circulating through and around them. When quite dry, each brick is enveloped in paper, thirty-six bricks, built into an oblong figure, are covered with dry fragrant leaves, and the whole matted over. Such packages are known as "baskets."

In color this form of tea exhibits a dusky green, and is now made to a large extent by the Russian agents of the Kiachti.

STATEMENT OF BANKS

ACTING UNDER CHARTER, FOR THE MONTH ENDING 30TH APRIL, 1870, ACCORDING TO RETURNS FURNISHED BY THE BANKS TO THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

NAME OF BANK	CAPITAL.		LIABILITIES					ASSETS.							
	Capital authorized by Act.	Capital paid up.	Promissory Notes in circulation not bearing interest.	Balances due to other Banks.	Cash Deposits not bearing Interest.	Cash Deposits bearing interest.	TOTAL LIABILITIES	Coin, Bullion, and Provincial Notes.	Landed or other Property of the Bank.	Government Securities.	Promissory Notes, or Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks.	Notes and Bills Discounted.	Other Debts due the Bank, not included under foregoing heads.	ASSETS.
ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.	$	$	$	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Montreal	6,000,000	6,000,000	217,978	429,094 38	7,308,871 96	12,663,876 22	20,619,820 66	6,939,933 80	350,000 00	2,141,957 44	464,269 14	5,440,245 97	13,951,605 48	157,939 76	29,445,921 59
Quebec	3,000,000	1,498,300	1,128,714	20,882 37	582,941 34	1,231,488 06	2,964,026 77	622,427 50	88,451 46	148,433 33	65,765 46	309,372 12	3,220,985 40	265,282 85	4,720,718 12
City	1,200,000	1,200,000	507,640	4,695 86	500,562 69	890,859 07	1,903,157 62	615,791 92	44,530 60	158,939 99	116,236 18	64,128 48	2,290,909 37	102,508 98	3,323,095 47
Gore	1,000,000	485,568	48,522	329 84	2,004 65	7,606 55	58,463 04	29,523 49	14,047 40	82,733 33	....	7,876 47	271,792 26	101,011 01	576,988 96
British North America	4,866,666	4,866,666	1,386,859	41,328 00	1,421,516 00	2,868,565 00	5,718,268 00	1,017,028 00	243,333 00	751,840 00	165 529 00	20,628 00	6,167,313 00	85,229 00	8,450,900 00
Banque du Peuple	1,600,000	1,600,000	150,357	26,745 16	428,245 97	182,225 64	787,573 77	224,450 68	55,217 51	160,364 44	62,437 78	52,103 00	1,932,024 52	35,566 43	2,522,164 36
Niagara District	400,000	398,361	221,587	59,045 76	193,576 03	135,556 41	609,765 20	68,309 58	12,879 72	46,720 00	19,604 26	131,137 59	647,538 50	40,480 93	966,670 58
Molson's	1,000,000	1,000,000	194,871	263,880 17	210,546 56	398,431 33	1,067,729 06	298,419 74	81,978 23	100,253 32	180,350 09	136,814 42	1,240,272 97	110,784 27	2,148,873 04
Toronto	2,000,000	800,000	1,105,128	184,238 89	529,920 42	1,628,172 95	3,357,460 26	502,304 42	43,788 93	147,155 82	78,182 29	316,313 10	3,521,273 15	56,815 03	4,665,832 74
Ontario	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,347,424	131,801 33	1,153,801 33	980,087 79	3,618,114 45	793,087 31	155,235 07	206,892 69	140,477 74	200,890 07	4,373,874 84	36,409 13	6,047,466 85
Eastern Townships	400,000	400,000	249,136	7,887 21	128,773 93	104,578 65	490,475 19	73,267 63	17,000 00	67,833 33	23,166 62	131,597 04	649,606 19	7,500 00	970,000 81
Banque Nationale	1,000,000	1,000,000	272,388	4,469 02	211,200 11	509,762 58	997,819 71	170,443 90	26,380 47	100,000 00	22,551 11	289,773 38	1,430,880 58	44,036 37	2,084,025 81
Banque Jacques Cartier	1,000,000	1,000,000	164,150	6,139 02	396,858 75	737,245 88	1,304,393 65	132,418 69	....	101,226 67	29,515 67	134,330 65	2,046,994 86	....	2,444,486 54
Merchants'	6,000,000	4,972,229	2,513,429	122,124 32	1,385,664 04	2,746,712 73	6,767,930 09	2,008,475 98	359,538 78	533,606 22	349,926 31	274,955 42	8,090,125 79	1,109,697 92	12,726,321 42
Royal Canadian	2,000,000	1,117,525	617,859	14,680 68	335,297 04	251,212 75	1,218,549 47	317,455 74	12,244 65	116,800 00	43,430 56	195,859 18	1,635,606 36	38,821 94	2,360,272 43
Union B'k Low. Canada	2,000,000	1,215,135	274,358	152,220 99	331,652 50	456,310 78	1,214,542 27	67,145 54	....	125,073 32	44,264 83	40,825 19	2,278,358 32	....	2,555,667 20
Mechanics'	1,000,000	313,894	....	991 14	79,117 70	170,484 59	250,593 43	27,841 41	61,108 19	....	36,203 22	48,509 31	393,360 61	29,521 30	596,544 04
Bank of Commerce	2,000,000	1,585,945	1,802,918	82,486 20	1,154,031 37	2,008,899 27	5,048,334 84	1,349,646 11	85,159 08	163,621 17	200,076 06	692,436 33	4,422,607 50	....	6,833,546 75
Total, Ontario and Quebec	38,466,666	31,363,624	12,220,818	1,462,440 24	16,359,582 39	27,972,175 85	57,997,016 48	15,258,546 44	1,620,888 09	5,153,451 57	2,042,036 27	8,647,755 72	58,495,279 70	2,271,604 92	93,489,562 71
NOVA SCOTIA.															
Bank of Yarmouth	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Merchants' Bank	1,000,000	300,000	95,340	25,105 17	84,454 68	168,045 00	372,945 15	68,654 16	....	25,000 00	8,443 00	47,941 84	408,249 04	153,431 67	712,020 31
People's Bank	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Union Bank	1,000,000	400,000	170,000	6,255 42	192,197 22	326,137 00	694,589 64	266,351 89	24,000 00	115,000 00	15,778 00	30,954 51	524,326 37	191,871 41	1,168,782 18
Bank of Nova Scotia	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
NEW BRUNSWICK.															
Bank of New Brunswick	900,000	900,000	650,160	50,950 55	573,514 04	1,082,196 27	2,356,821 66	305,135 95	12,118 87	....	13,678 00	226,296 10	2,481,213 84	303,858 97	3,342,301 73
Commercial Bank	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
St. Stephen's Bank	200,000	200,000	120,909	23,807 76	36,562 46	42,045 64	223,324 86	22,076 25	4,294 00	....	37,560 23	....	324,615 83	82,194 00	470,749 71
People's Bank	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Totals........$	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

NOTE.—Blanks are left opposite to the names of those Banks from which statements have not been received