

beet sugar ; but the wish is father to the thought, if serious thought it be.

In Cuba a bad state of things exists among the sugar producers ; many sugar mills have come to a stand and many planters are in great perplexity and distress. The *Avisador Comercial*, of Havana, tries to inspire hope ; but the writer builds upon the supposed decadence of the beet sugar industry ; he clings to the remedy of fiscal legislation and seems to think that a commercial treaty with the United States may be within reach.

### BANKING REVIEW.

The figures of the August bank statement will be found in condensed form below, and are compared with those for the previous month :

LIABILITIES.		
	Aug., 1884.	July, 1884.
Capital authorized..	\$71,896,666	\$71,896,666
Capital paid up....	61,506,455	61,470,467
Reserved Funds....	18,379,129	18,379,129
Notes in Circulation	29,187,301	28,063,301
Dominion & Provincial Gov't deposits	6,868,662	7,733,079
Deposits held to secure Government contracts and for Insurance Co's ..	507,892	462,251
Public deposits on demand .....	41,063,173	42,530,710
Public deposits after notice .....	51,442,462	51,894,038
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured....	961,768	1,235,172
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured...	1,218,118	972,919
Due other banks in Canada .....	1,113,776	1,049,216
Due other banks in Foreign Countries	100,881	98,920
Due other banks in Great Britain....	931,856	1,618,823
Other liabilities....	207,794	255,962
Total liabilities ..	\$133,568,724	\$135,414,395
ASSETS.		
	Aug., 1884.	July, 1884.
Specie .....	\$ 7,673,109	\$ 7,418,932
Dominion notes....	11,016,905	10,686,310
Notes and cheques of other banks .....	4,296,506	4,568,387
Due from other b'ks in Canada .....	2,526,743	2,475,097
Due from other b'ks in for'gn countries	18,048,750	12,738,645
Due from other b'ks in Great Britain..	3,129,825	4,429,745
Immediately available assets .....	\$ 41,691,838	\$ 42,317,116
Dominion government debent. or stock..	933,229	908,683
Public securities other than Canadian....	1,513,503	1,757,492
Loans to Dominion & Prov. Gov....	2,124,957	2,675,091
Loans on stocks, bonds or debent..	12,104,817	12,511,289
Loans to municipal corporations .....	1,556,486	1,791,418
Loans to other corporations .....	15,801,909	15,725,879
Loans to or deposits made in other banks secured....	1,365,545	1,996,398
Loans to or deposits made in other banks unsecured..	850,896	368,277
Discounts current..	126,441,687	126,890,741
Overdue paper unsecured .....	2,521,672	1,832,334
Other overdue debts unsecured .....	131,073	148,381
Notes and debts overdue secured..	2,844,517	2,734,549
Real estate .....	1,172,454	1,154,350
Mortgages on real estate sold .....	798,299	798,705

Bank premises....	3,184,244	3,123,058
Other assets .....	2,442,195	1,736,005
Total assets .....	\$216,984,320	\$218,464,764
Average amount of specie held during the month.....	7,508,169	6,891,775
Av. Dom. notes do..	10,794,777	10,504,413
Loans to Directors or their firms ....	7,651,712	7,352,687

A comparison between the position in July and August reveals one very noteworthy feature, viz. a very large increase in the circulation of the Bank of Montreal. This increase amounts to nearly \$300,000, which is something phenomenal at this time of the year. The increase of circulation is confined to this bank. It cannot arise from large disbursements for moving the crop, for no such operations are going on in August. The only explanation that is at all reasonable will refer to disbursements for the construction of the Canada Pacific Railway. The works of the Railway are scattered over an enormous territory, and a single month's payroll may amount to a sum quite large enough to account for this exceptional increase of the circulation of the bank carrying the account.

With regard to the circulation of the banks generally no movement can be looked for until after the middle of September. Experience proves that, no matter how early the crops are reaped, and no matter how tempting the price of grain may be, there is no great movement from the farms to the towns until the second week of the month of September has passed. There are rare exceptions, but the exceptions prove the rule. The first crop marketed is invariably barley. Of this grain we have an abundant crop. The price is low as compared with some exceptional years, but when the crop is abundant the price now ruling is profitable. When a farmer can get fifty cents per bushel for a good crop of barley, he is doing well. It is to be hoped farmers will see it to their interest to bring forward their crops during the next four or five weeks. There ought to be 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 bushels before navigation is closed. The great barley district of the country, which stretches about from Gananoque to Trenton, is largely dependent upon the movement of this crop for healthy activity in the fall business. But in every section wherever barley is held it might as well be marketed at once. In former years there has been a good deal of speculation in this article on the part of purchasers. Many grain merchants have been ruined by buying barley too dear or holding it too long. It is well known to be a treacherous article to deal with. There is only one outlet, viz. to the United States. American buyers know this full well, and they are very apt to form combinations against the Canadian speculator.

Many farmers seem disposed in these days to take the risk of the grain-dealer themselves. In our judgment they could not make a greater mistake. Farming is a business by itself, having its own risks and casualties. Grain dealing is a business also by itself and with risks and casualties far beyond the other. If farmers will cast their eyes around and look at the men who have bought their grain during the last twenty years, they will find no reason to envy the lot of these dealers, but the contrary.

Undoubtedly then, the best course is for

the farmer to sell his crop of barley this fall. With what he realizes he can pay his debts at the store and lay by something in the bank against future requirements. To hold his barley is really to speculate in it. The farmer loses interest by holding grain ; he runs also the risk of fire, unless he covers himself by insurance. He might learn from experience, if he would, that on an average of years he loses money by not selling at the outset.

One thing, however, is certain, a farmer need never sell on credit. In former days, when money was scarce, and business only half developed, it used to be common with the farmer to leave grain with a miller or a storekeeper to be settled for at a future day. These are no times for such a practice. There is no need for it. There are abundant cash facilities in every part of the country, and a farmer who sells grain on credit for the sake of one or two cents addition in the price is very unwise. Farmers have to wait long before they have anything to sell. They run the risks of the seasons ; they cannot afford to run the risks of trade too.

We have not yet referred to the wheat crop. In most districts this is large. In some of them it is very large. Taken altogether there is more than an average crop. It is well known that the crop of wheat all over the world is exceptionally large ; and that the area of production is constantly increasing. Countries which were never heard of before producing wheat for export, are sending constantly increasing supplies to the world's market. Canadian farmers sometimes make the mistake of supposing that their good crops or bad crops form an important factor in the general position, and that holding back their grain will have an important influence on the price. It may be as well for them to realize that this is a delusion. The grain crop of the Dominion is of very great importance to Canada ; but our surplus for export counts for the merest bagatelle in the markets of the world. Wheat has now receded to a price such as has never been heard of since Canada grew wheat at all. We generally think of a dollar per bushel as a fair value for wheat ; but seventy to seventy-five cents is a figure we are entirely unused to. Still the price appears to be just as reasonable a one, considering the enormous product of this year, as a dollar a bushel would be in an average year. There is no reason, therefore, to expect any material alteration for the better. It would be good policy, then, to market the wheat also as soon as possible. In this connection, we may refer to Manitoba, whose crop this year is very large. Too much rain in harvest time has prevented its being got in as rapidly, and in as good condition as is desirable, but still there is a good crop, and several millions will be available for export. This export is not necessarily across the Atlantic. Much of the wheat will be bought by millers in Ontario. This quantity, however, is a mere 'earnest' or 'promise' of what is to come by and bye.

Money is quite plentiful for all ordinary business requirements, but bankers are becoming increasingly careful as to the character of their securities. Nothing can be more reasonable. Bankers ought to have