

# THE Commercial & Financial Chronicle

HUNT'S MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE.

A Weekly Newspaper.

REPRESENTING THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES

VOL. 25.

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NO 650.

Financial.

Financial.

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THE  
**National Bank-Note Co.,**  
(INCORPORATED NOVEMBER, 1859.)

OFFICE, No. 1 WALL STREET,  
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ENGRAVERS OF THE

United States Bonds, Notes, Currency  
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ENGRAVING AND PRINTING OF

BANK-NOTES, STATE AND RAILROAD BONDS,  
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CERTIFICATES, DRAFTS, BILLS OF EXCHANGE,  
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- COLUMBUS & INDIANAPOLIS RAILROAD CO. SECOND MORTGAGE.
- COLUMBUS & INDIANAPOLIS CENTRAL RAILWAY CO. FIRST MORTGAGE.

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New York, December 8, 1877.

**OFFICE OF THE ONTARIO SILVER MINING CO.**, 81 BROAD STREET, New York, December 8, 1877.

DIVIDEND No. 15.

The Regular Monthly Dividend of FIFTY CENTS (gold) per share has been declared for November, payable at the office of the Transfer Agents, WELLS, FARGO & CO., 85 Broadway, on the 15th instant.

Also, TWO EXTRA DIVIDENDS (Nos. 16 & 17), each of FIFTY CENTS (gold) per share, have been declared, payable at the same time and place.

Transfer books close on the 16th inst.

H. B. PARSONS,

Assistant Secretary.

**OFFICE OF THE CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY**, No. 52 WALL STREET, New York, December 4, 1877.

A Dividend of THREE AND A HALF PER CENT has been declared on the Preferred Stock of this company, payable at this office on and after the 27th inst. to the preferred stockholders of record at the close of business on the 15th inst.

The transfer-books will close on the 15th and reopen on the 28th inst.

M. L. SYKES, JR., Treasurer.

**AMERICAN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK**, New York, December 8, 1877.

**ELECTION.**—An Election for Directors will be held at the office of the bank on TUESDAY, January 8, from 12 o'clock M. to 1 o'clock P. M.

E. WILLSON, Cashier.

**CANADA SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY**, 18 WILLIAM STREET, New York, November 10th, 1877.—The plan for the exchange of the Bonds of the above-named Company, and for the purchase of the Bonds of the following Companies, to wit:—The Erie & Niagara Railway Company, the Canada Southern Bridge Company, the Toledo Canada Southern & Detroit Railway Company, and the Michigan Midland & Canada Railway Company, is now perfected. Particular information in respect of which will be given on application to this Company.

Holders of the Bonds of the above-named Companies are requested to present the same as early as possible, at the office of the Company, and receive in exchange certificates of this Company, to be countersigned by the Union Trust Company, under which new bonds will hereafter be issued by this Company, as provided for in said plan.

J. TILLINGHAST, President.

**THE TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.**—The coupons of the Consolidated Mortgage Bonds of the TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY, maturing December 1, 1877, will be paid in gold, on and after that date, on presentation at the Farmers' Loan & Trust Company, New York, or at the office of the Company, No. 25 South Fourth street, Philadelphia.

GEO. D. KRUMBHAAR, Treasurer.

**G. T. Bonner & Co.,**  
BANKERS AND BROKERS,  
No. 20 Broad Street, New York.

**WANTED:**

- Virginia State Old Bonds.
- Allegheny City, Pa., Bonds.
- Sacramento City, Cal., Bonds.
- Northern Pacific RR. First Mortgage Bonds.

**FOR SALE:**

- Louisiana State New Bonds.
- Jeff. Mad. & Indianapolis RR. First Mort. Bonds.
- Houston & Gt. Northern RR. First Mortgage bonds.
- Wahash Railway Funded Debt Bonds.

**ISAAC SMITH'S UMBRELLAS.**

SUPERIOR GINGHAM.....	\$1 00
GOOD SILK.....	2 50
PATENTED GUANACO.....	2 00
EX. QUAL. LEVANTINE SILK.....	5 00

**Financial.**

**OFFICE OF THE RECEIVERS OF THE KANSAS PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.,**  
NO. 20 NASSAU STREET,  
NEW YORK November 23, 1877.

By authority of the Circuit Court of the United States for the district of Kansas, the undersigned are empowered to distribute to each of the several classes of First Mortgage Bonds of the Kansas Pacific Railway Company below described, that have heretofore not funded their coupons under the funding arrangement of January, 1874, an amount equal to the interest money received by the bonds that entered into the funding arrangement, including an allowance of six per cent per annum from the time when similar payments were made to the bondholders last mentioned.

The Bonds of which this equalization of interest payments will be made are of the following classes, viz:—

- First Mortgage Bonds, interest payable February and August.
- First Mortgage Bonds, interest payable June and December.
- First Mortgage Bonds, interest payable May and November (Denver Extension).

Accordingly, the National Bank of Commerce of the city of New York will, on and after the 1st of December, 1877, pay for our account to the holders of unfunded Bonds the amount set forth in the explanatory circular, to be had at the Bank.

Holders of Bonds belonging to the several classes above mentioned will be required to present the coupons which matured on the first class from February 1, 1874, to February 1, 1877, both inclusive; on the second class from December 1, 1873, to December 1, 1874, both inclusive; and on the third class from November 1, 1873, to November 1, 1876, both inclusive, in exchange for the Certificate of indebtedness, in accordance with the funding arrangement of 1874.

C. S. GREELEY, } Receivers.  
H. VILLARO, }

**Moller & Co.,**

24 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK,  
DEALERS IN INVESTMENT SECURITIES.  
Negotiate Loans for States, Cities and Counties.

**We Now Offer:**

- Cincinnati City 7 3/8 Currency, and Gold 6 per ct. bds
- St. Louis, Mo., Gold and Currency bonds,
- Cleveland, Ohio, bonds,
- Jersey City Bonds,
- Rahway, Elizabeth and Bayonne bonds,
- Georgia State bonds,
- New Haven, Conn., 5 per cent bonds,
- and other desirable and safe investment bonds of Cities, Towns and Counties, paying from 7 to 9 per cent interest.

Correspondence solicited.

**GERMAN-AMERICAN BANK**

OF  
**FORSTER & Co.,**  
Austin, Texas.

**T. XAS FARM MORTGAGES A SPECIALTY,**  
10-12 per cent interest, payable in New York semi-annually. Absolutely safe loans made on property worth, at present low valuations, 3 to 5 times the amount loaned. Titles perfect and property visited personally. Correspondence solicited.  
Collections made and promptly remitted for.

**R. T. Wilson & Co.,**

BANKERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS  
2 EXCHANGE COURT.

Liberal cash advances made on consignments of Cotton and Tobacco to our address; also to our friends in Liverpool and London.

**Government Securities, Gold, Stocks and Bonds**

Bought and Sold on Commission, and

**LOANS NEGOTIATED.**

Accounts received and interest allowed on balances which may be checked for at sight.

WALSTON H. BROWN. FRED. A. BROWN.

**Walston H. Brown & Bro.**

BANKERS,

34 Pine Street, New York.

SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE NEGOTIATION OF

**RAILROAD SECURITIES.**

**STOCKS and BONDS**

At Auction.

The undersigned hold REGULAR AUCTION SALES of all classes of

**STOCKS AND BONDS,**

OR

WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS.

**ADRIAN H. MULLER & SON,**

No. 7 PINE STREET, NEW YORK.

**Financial.**

**A CARD.**

THE MERCHANTS AGENCY,  
83 1/2 Broadway.

We have long been convinced that a concern styling itself THE BUSINESS MEN'S UNION, and conducted by Fouse, Herzhberger & Co., had possession of, and was constantly using, our Reference Book, in answering inquiries made of them about parties in business. As this was not only a great wrong to us but a fraud upon their subscribers, who certainly could not be supposed to pay them money for simply copying from books prepared and issued by others, we determined to make an effort to test the truth of the aspersion, and if found to be true, to put an end to it. On the 28th of November, having obtained the affidavit of one of their own employes who had seen the book in constant daily use, we obtained a warrant, visited their place of business and seized the book, which was then open and being used, and brought it away. We afterwards ascertained that they obtained the book through a subscriber on Warren street, who informs us that by special arrangement with him he was to obtain the four quarterly books issued (instead of the two semi-annual books usually taken by jobbers), and that they (F., H. & Co.) agreed to pay his entire subscription for him, thus giving him his own agency facilities without cost, in consideration of co-operation in their plan. So much for their possession of the book and the course taken in order to obtain it.

We have had the same suspicion in regard to our Notification Sheets, knowing that they could not, out of their own resources, procure at their own cost all the items they were publishing from time to time. We took a simple method to settle this matter, but one quite as conclusive as that taken in regard to the book.

In our Buffalo List of Judgments of November 22, we inserted (with permission) the name of Arthur Preston, one of our clerks, as having given a chattel mortgage for \$560, and also, in the Sheet of November 23, the name of Henry Hewlett, a bookkeeper in our employ, was inserted as having a judgment against him for \$60. We requested some of our subscribers to watch for these names, both of which appeared in F., H. & Co.'s sheets soon after as veritable items procured from County Records.

We leave these facts to speak for themselves. No comments of ours could add anything to their significance or force. We descend to no controversy with such competitors as these, nor will it be expected of us by our subscribers or the public. Our object in what has been done was two-fold—to prevent spoliation upon ourselves, and at the same time to prevent frauds upon our own subscribers, some of whom have been induced to pay them small sums in the hope of procuring thereby additional security against business losses. Respectfully,

DUN, BARLOW & CO.

New York, December, 1877.

**NINE PER CENT**

**REAL ESTATE FIRST MORTGAGES**

Principal and interest guaranteed. For particulars apply to

**GREGORY & BALLOU,**

6 Wall Street, New York.

We also BUY and SELL, on COMMISSION, STOCKS, BONDS, GOVERNMENT SECURITIES and GOLD.

Correspondence solicited.

CHAS. GREGORY, M. THOMAS BALLOU.

Member New York Stock Exchange.

**WANTED:**

Alabama, South Carolina & Louisiana

State Bonds;

New Orleans Jackson & Gt. Northern,

Mississippi Central, and Mobile

& Ohio Railroad Bonds;

City of New Orleans Bonds.

**LEVY & BORG,**

56 WALL STREET.

**SOUTHERN SECURITIES.**

So. Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia and Alabama Bonds, Cities of Wilmington, Charleston and N. Orleans Bds, Cities of Memphis, Nashville, Vicksburg & Mobile Bds, Atl. & Gulf RR. Bonds, Memphis & Char. RR. Bds, Texas Pacific RR. Bonds, Mississippi Central Bonds, Houston & Texas Central Railroad Bonds, Georgia RR. Bonds, Georgia Central RR. Bonds, Louisville & Nashville RR. Bonds and Stock, Macon & Brunswick and No. Car. Bds to No. Car. RR, Mobile & Ohio and N. Orleans Mob. & Chatt. RR. Bds, So. Car. RR., Northeastern RR., Ala. & Chatta. Bonds, And all other Southern Securities which are salable.

Bought and Sold by  
**WM. H. UTLEY, 31 Pine St., N. Y.**

**UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT,**  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK,—in Equity—Between JOHN G. STEVENS and other Trustees, and the NEW YORK & OSWEGO MIL

LAND RAILROAD COMPANY, and others.

Notice is hereby given that the sale of the property of the defendant, the New York & Oswego Midland Railroad Company, heretofore advertised to take place on Saturday, the 27th day of October, A. D. 1877, at 2 M. of that day, at the Wickham Avenue Depot of said Railroad Company, in Middletown, in the County of Orange, and State of New York, has been further adjourned to FRIDAY, the 11TH DAY OF JANUARY, A. D. 1878, at the same time and place.

Dated October 27th, 1877.

KENNETH G. WHITE, Master.

ALEXANDER & GREY,  
Claimants' Solicitors,  
120 Broadway, New York.

# THE Commercial & Financial Chronicle

HUNT'S MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE,  
A Weekly Newspaper,

REPRESENTING THE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

VOL. 25.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1877.

NO. 650.

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## The Chronicle.

THE COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CHRONICLE is issued on Saturday morning, with the latest news up to midnight of Friday.

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### London Office.

The London office of the CHRONICLE is at No. 5 Austin Friars, Old Broad Street, where subscriptions will be taken at the prices above named.

### Advertisements.

Transient advertisements are published at 25 cents per line for each insertion, but when definite orders are given for five, or more, insertions, a liberal discount is made. No promise of continuous publication in the best place can be given, as all advertisers must have equal opportunities. Special Notices in Banking and Financial column 60 cents per line, each insertion.

WILLIAM B. DANA, } WILLIAM B. DANA & CO., Publishers,  
JOHN G. FLOYD, JR. } 79 & 81 William Street, NEW YORK.  
Post Office Box 4,592.

A neat file-cover is furnished at 50 cents; postage on the same is 18 cents. Volumes bound for subscribers at \$1 50.

For a complete set of the COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CHRONICLE—July, 1865, to date—or of HUNT'S MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE, 1839 to 1871, inquire at the office.

The Business Department of the CHRONICLE is represented among Financial Interests in New York City by Mr. Fred. W. Jones.

### THE PUBLIC CREDIT AND THE TREASURY REPORT.

As will be seen from the full report which we publish elsewhere, Mr. Secretary Sherman has given, on the whole, a more encouraging account of last year's Treasury operations than was in some quarters anticipated. In the first place there is a handsome surplus in the Treasury after paying the year's expenses of the Government. The receipts of the fiscal year were 269 millions, and the disbursements about 239 millions. Hence the surplus is 30 millions, or four millions more than was estimated in the report made to Congress a year ago. Of course it would have been eminently satisfactory if the whole of this surplus could have been devoted to increasing the cash balance in the Treasury. This, however, was impossible. Fourteen millions were wanted for the redemption of fractional currency, and ten millions for the redemption of greenbacks, so that the

net increase of the Treasury balance was reduced to \$5,778,002.

After the surplus, the Secretary naturally speaks of the sinking fund. He shows that the requirement of this fund, as prescribed by the terms of the act of February 25, 1862, has not only been fully complied with, but that instead of having reduced the debt up to July 1, 1877, by \$475,318,888 as a literal obedience to the law demanded, we have done much more, the actual reduction of the debt having amounted to \$696,273,348, or \$220,954,459 in excess of the reduction stipulated in the sinking-fund act. It will be remembered that some years ago Mr. Bristow, when Secretary of the Treasury, contended that the act of February, 1862, above referred to ought to be otherwise interpreted, and that by its terms the Secretary of the Treasury was bound every year to purchase or to pay off one per cent of the whole debt of the United States. For the first time in the history of our finances the theory was then officially set up that the sinking-fund obligation was not modified or capable of set-off from the fact that, in former years, an excess over and above this sum of one per cent might have been purchased and set apart with the sinking fund. Mr. Bristow's theory was not accepted either by Congress or by the public, and a multitude of legal and financial authorities contended that the old view was the true one, and that the spirit and letter of the statute would be fully satisfied if an average of one per cent of the public debt were annually paid off, though in some years we might pay more, and in others less. On Mr. Bristow's retirement from the Treasury, his theory was dropped, and the opposite view was favored by Mr. Secretary Morrill in his Treasury report of last year. The dispute is scarcely referred to by Mr. Sherman in the report before us. He simply states the facts, and shows, without comment, that more than 220 millions in excess of the amount required by law for the sinking fund have been paid off since the public debt reached its highest point in August, 1865.

The next topic of the Secretary is the refunding of the public debt. Two Syndicate contracts have been running during the year, one for four-and-a-half per cent bonds, which closed last May, when the sales had reached 200 millions, of which 185 millions were applied to pay off six per cents, thus reducing the interest burdens of the country to the extent of \$2,775,000 a year. The remaining 15 millions were sold for resumption purposes, in accordance with the laws of April 17 and July 22, 1876.

The second contract began 9th June, 1877, and was to terminate 30th June, 1878, with the right reserved to

the Treasury to terminate it at any time after 31st December, 1877, by giving to the Syndicate ten days' notice. The bonds to be sold under this contract were the four per cents authorized in the refunding law. Mr. Sherman reports the sale of 75 millions under this contract, of which 50 millions were applied to the redemption of six per cents, so as to save one million a year of annual interest. Hence, it appears that under the two contracts the yearly saving of interest effected by the Syndicate operations of the year has reached the sum of \$3,775,000. Since the close of the fiscal year the agitation for the repeal of the resumption act and the remonetization of silver, induced the Syndicate to believe that further sales of the four per cents would be prevented, and for this reason, as Mr. Sherman states, they decline to offer them. He adds that if no questions had arisen disturbing the public credit, the whole of the 660 millions of the outstanding sixes could be rapidly paid off by the proceeds of the four per cent funding bonds, sold at par in coin or its equivalent. With a view to sustain the public credit the Secretary earnestly urges Congress to give its sanction to the assurance that, as the Government exacts in payment for its bonds their face value in gold coin, no future legislation of Congress would sanction or tolerate the payment of the principal or interest of these bonds in coin of less value.

Among the subordinate suggestions of Mr. Sherman is that a law be passed authorizing the Treasury to sell its bonds either for coin or for its equivalent in United States notes. For want of some such provision it has become necessary for the Treasury to employ syndicates and other expedients for the sale of its bonds. For, under the present law, coin alone can be received in payment at the Treasury, and the only existing coin that could be received under the law was gold coin, which is not in general circulation, and could not, therefore, be conveniently paid in the Treasury for the bonds. For these and other reasons it was found best, both during the war and since, to conduct the greater part of the sales of bonds through third parties, who could receive bank notes, greenbacks, drafts, certificates checks, and other commercial paper, and convert them into coin. The difficulties pointed out by the Secretary have often been discussed in THE CHRONICLE, and many remedies have been proposed. The expedients suggested by Mr. Sherman are worthy of consideration, but they would have been more likely to commend themselves to the attention of Congress, if he had explained the reasons for them in more full detail. Besides these various questions affecting the public credit, the subjects of resumption and of silver coinage are very fully discussed in the report, and although the views of the Secretary have been often expounded before, they possess a new interest now, and have led him to curtail what he might have had to say in regard to the national banking system, the reduction of taxation, and the protection of the depositors in savings banks. Mr. Sherman's remarks on these topics, though brief, are suggestive, and we reserve them for examination hereafter, when, in all probability, they will come up in some practical shape in Congress.

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF NOVEMBER.

The money market in November showed a decided relaxation, and, contrary to the anticipations of many, the bank reserves increased and the quotations for both call loans and commercial paper declined. The extent of the demand for currency to move the crops had been somewhat overestimated, or rather, we may say that the calculations of the probable demand for money and

its continuance had been based on the course of affairs in previous years, whereas the larger supply held by Western banks and the quicker return of funds to the money centres, have materially altered the currency movement.

The agitation of the silver bill in Congress and its passage by a large majority in the House of Representatives was one of the principal disturbing events in financial affairs. The spirit shown by so large a number of our legislators, and their willingness to seize upon the technical wording "payable in coin" as a pretext for paying government bonds in the present depreciated silver, was hardly less injurious than the apprehension of the damaging effects which would be likely to follow the passage of this particular bill.

Government securities declined on the first prospects and afterwards rallied on the reports that President Hayes would veto the bill.

Gold was also influenced by the silver malaria, and advanced after the House of Representatives had voted for Mr. Bland's bill, but afterwards fell off on the same reports which influenced government bonds.

Railroad stocks were not active, but on a moderate volume of business maintained their prices very fairly till near the close of the month, when there was a decline in some of the speculative favorites, led by Lake Shore. It was reported that a prominent member of the bull party was selling out. Railroad bonds were decidedly strong, and prices advanced materially for most of the first mortgage securities.

Foreign Exchange was dull and much of the time depressed.

CLOSING PRICES OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES IN NOVEMBER, 1877.

Nov.	6s, 1881	5-20s, Coupon	1863	10-40s	5s, '81	4½s, '91	4s	6s
1	110½	108½	107½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
2	110½	105½	105½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
3	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
4	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
5	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
6	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
7	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
8	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
9	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
10	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
11	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
12	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
13	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
14	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
15	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
16	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
17	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
18	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
19	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
20	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
21	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
22	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
23	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
24	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
25	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
26	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
27	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
28	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
29	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
30	110½	108½	108½	107½	103½	105½	102½	121½
Opening	110½	108½	108½	110	107½	103½	105½	121½
Highest	110½	108½	108½	111½	108½	103½	105½	121½
Lowest	110½	108½	108½	110	107½	103½	105½	121½
Closing	110½	108½	108½	111½	108½	103½	105½	121½

CLOSING PRICES OF CONSOLS AND U. S. SECURITIES AT LONDON IN NOVEMBER

Date	Consols for Money	U.S. 5-20, 1867	10-40	5s of 1881	New 4½s	Date	Consols for Money	U.S. 5-20, 1867	10-40	5s of 1881	New 4½s
Nov. 1	96 7-16	108½	108½	108½	105½	Nov. 20	96 11-16	108½	108½	106½	104½
" 2	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	" 21	96 11-16	108½	108½	106½	104½
" 3	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	" 22	96 11-16	108½	108½	106½	104½
" 4	96 11-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	" 23	96 13-16	108½	108½	106½	104½
" 5	96 11-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	" 24	96 13-16	108½	108½	106½	104½
" 6	96 11-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	" 25	96 13-16	108½	108½	106½	104½
" 7	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	" 26	96 13-16	108½	108½	106½	104½
" 8	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	" 27	96 13-16	108½	108½	106½	104½
" 9	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	" 28	96 15-16	109½	108½	107	104½
" 10	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	" 29	97 3-16	109½	108½	106½	104½
" 11	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	" 30	97½	109½	108½	107	104½
" 12	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	Open.	96 7-16	108½	108½	106½	105½
" 13	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	Highest	97½	109½	108½	107	105½
" 14	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	Lowest	96 7-16	108½	108½	106½	104½
" 15	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	Closing	97½	109½	108½	107	104½
" 16	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	Jan. 1	H 97½	110½	110½	109	106½
" 17	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½	" L 93	106	107	105½	102½	
" 18	96 9-16	108½	108½	106½	105½						
" 19	96 7-16	108½	108½	106½	104½						

BANKERS' STERLING EXCHANGE FOR NOVEMBER, 1877.

Nov. 1	60 days	8 days	Nov. 17	60 days	8 days
4.80½ @ 4.81	4.85	@ 4.85½	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.81	@ 4.81½
2.4.80½ @ 4.81	4.85	@ 4.85½	18	S	
3.4.80½ @ 4.81	4.85	@ 4.85½	19	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.84½
4	S		20	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.85
5	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84½ @ 4.85	21	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.85
6	Holiday		22	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.85
7	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.84½	23	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.85
8	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.84½	24	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.85
9	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.84½	25	S	
10	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.84½	26	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.85
11	S		27	4.81½ @ 4.82	4.85½
12	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.84½	28	4.81½ @ 4.82	4.85½
13	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.84½	29	Holiday	
14	4.80 @ 4.80½	4.83½ @ 4.84	30	4.81½ @ 4.82	4.85
15	4.80 @ 4.80½	4.83½ @ 4.84	Range	4.80 @ 4.82	4.83½ @ 4.85½
16	4.80½ @ 4.81	4.84 @ 4.84½			

COURSE OF GOLD IN NEW-YORK, 1877.

Table showing gold prices in New-York from Thursday to Saturday, including columns for Date, Opening, Lowest, Highest, and Closing.

The following table will show the opening, highest, lowest and closing prices of railway and miscellaneous stocks at the New York Stock Exchange during the months of October and November:

RANGE OF STOCKS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER.

Large table showing stock prices for various companies like Railroad Stocks, Chicago & Alton, and Miscellaneous, with columns for Open, High, Low, and Close for both October and November.

The sizes or denominations of each issue of bonds are as follows: (a) Coupon \$1,000, registered \$5,000. (b) coupon \$1,000, registered \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000. (c) \$50, \$100 and \$500. (d) coupon, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1,000, registered, same and also \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Table titled 'Debt Bearing Interest in Lawful Money' showing Principal and Interest for Navy pension and other bonds.

Debt on Which Interest Has Ceased Since Maturity. There is a total amount of over-due debt yet outstanding, which has never been presented for payment, of \$24,702,050 principal and \$765,269 interest.

Table titled 'Debt Bearing no Interest' showing Character of Issue, Authorizing Act, Issues, Amount, and Total for various bond types like Old demand notes and Legal-tender notes.

Table titled 'Recapitulation' showing a summary of Debt Bearing Interest in Coin, Debt Bearing Interest in Lawful Money, and Debt on Which Int. Has Ceased Since Maturity.

Table titled 'Bonds Issued to the Pacific Railroad Companies, Interest Payable in Lawful Money' showing Character of Issue, Amount Outstanding, Interest paid by United States, Interest repaid by Transp'n, and Balance of Int. paid by U. S.

Table titled 'THE DEBT STATEMENT FOR NOVEMBER, 1877' showing the following is the official statement of the public debt as appears from the books and Treasurer's returns at the close of business on the last day of November, 1877.

THE DEBT STATEMENT FOR NOVEMBER, 1877.

The following is the official statement of the public debt as appears from the books and Treasurer's returns at the close of business on the last day of November, 1877:

Table titled 'Debt bearing interest in Coin' showing Character of Issue, Authorizing Act, When Payable, Interest Periods, and Bonds Outstanding (Registered and Coupon).

The following is a comparison of the condition of the Treasury Dec. 1, 1876, and Dec. 1, 1877:

Table comparing Treasury balances for 1876 and 1877, showing Currency, Special fund for redemption of fractional currency, Special deposit of legal tenders, and other financial items.

\* Coupons of \$50 and \$100 bonds are paid annually in March.

\* Increase, November, 1876.

Department Reports.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 3, 1877.

To the Hon. The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sir: In obedience to law, I respectfully submit the following report:

The ordinary revenues, from all sources, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, and the ordinary expenditures for the same period, were—

Receipts.		Expenditures.	
Customs.....	\$130,964,931 07	Civil expenses.....	\$13,794,188 34
Internal revenue.....	118,620,407 83	Foreign intercourse...	1,229,754 79
Sales of public lands.....	978,253 48	Indians.....	5,277,007 22
Tax on circulation and deposits of national banks.....	7,078,550 56	Pensions.....	27,968,753 27
Repayment of interest by Pacific Railway Companies.....	1,661,693 61	Military establishment, including river and harbor improvements and arsenals.....	37,082,735 50
Customs' fees, fines, penalties, &c.....	1,044,712 54	Naval establishment, including vessels, machinery and improvements at navy yards.....	14,959,935 36
Fees—consular, letters-patent and lands.....	1,227,611 97	Miscellaneous expenditures, including public buildings, light-houses and collecting the revenue.....	39,228,119 47
Proceeds of sales of government property.....	233,954 98	Interest on the public debt.....	97,171,511 58
Premium on sales of coin.....	249,590 78		
Profits on coinage, &c.....	3,273,219 08	Total ordinary expenditures.....	\$218,660,008 93
Miscellaneous sources.....	3,047,782 81		
Total ordinary receipts.....	\$269,000,586 62		

Leaving a surplus revenue of... \$30,340,577 69

Which was applied as follows:

To the redemption of United States notes, &c.....	\$10,011,417 00
To the redemption of fractional currency.....	14,013,458 05
To the redemption of six per cent bonds for the sinking fund.....	447,500 00
To increase of cash balance in the Treasury.....	7,778,002 64
	\$30,340,577 69

The amount due the sinking fund for the year was \$33,729, 833 20, leaving a deficiency on this account of \$3,389,255 51.

Compared with the previous fiscal year, the receipts for 1877 have decreased as follows: In customs revenue, \$17,115,491 54; in proceeds of sales of public lands, \$153,213 27; in sales of coin, \$3,473,965 03; in semi-annual tax on banks, \$250,022 33; in prize-money, \$321,370 92; in sales of public property, \$1,288,212 73; and in miscellaneous items, \$934,512 81. There was an increase in the following items: In internal revenue, \$1,920,675 80; in profits on coinage, \$1,532,121 27; and in miscellaneous items, \$1,593,539 01—making a net decrease in the receipts from all sources, for the year, of \$18,481,453 54.

The expenditures show a decrease as follows: In the War Department, \$983,752 74; in the Navy Department, \$4,008,374 46; in the Interior Department, \$983,194 37; in civil and miscellaneous, \$10,706,307 18; and in the interest on the public debt, \$3,118,759 65—due to the funding of six per cent bonds in new five and four-and-a-half per cent bonds—making a total reduction in all of the Departments of \$19,799,788 40.

The large apparent reduction in the expenses of the Navy Department, however, is not real; for, by reason of insufficient appropriations to pay the current liabilities of that Department, Congress has, by deficiency bill, during the recent session, appropriated the sum of \$2,603,831 27, which is properly chargeable to the expenditures of the last year; but, including such deficiency, the reduction in receipts has been nearly met by the reduction of expenditures.

It will also be noticed that more than one-half of this reduction has been made in the civil and miscellaneous expenditures, and is in part due to the reduction of the salaries and office expenses of the civil officers and employes of the Government.

FISCAL YEAR 1879.

For the present fiscal year the revenues, actual and estimated, will be as follows:

Receipts.	For the quarter ending Sept. 30, 1877.		For the remainder of the year, estimated.	
	Actual.	Estimated.	Actual.	Estimated.
From customs.....	\$31,981,531 56	\$92,516,463 44	28,318,332 53	89,606,617 42
From internal revenue.....	218,791 19	781,208 61	3,449,926 81	3,550,063 16
From sales of public lands.....			226,162 13	669,327 82
From tax on circulation and deposits of national banks.....			29,310 32	704,659 68
From repayments of interest by Pacific Railway Companies.....			441,604 25	1,308,395 65
From customs' fees, fines, penalties, &c.....			65,583 36	284,411 64
From fees—consular, letters-patent, and lands.....			130,432 67	399,567 33
From proceeds of sales of government property.....			427,777 10	1,272,232 90
From premium on sales of coin.....			895,022 67	2,704,977 33
From profits on coinage, &c.....				
From miscellaneous sources.....				
Total receipts.....	\$31,981,531 56	\$193,963,430 18		

The expenditures for the same period, actual and estimated, will be:

Expenditures.	For the quarter ending Sept. 30, 1877.		For the remainder of the year, estimated.	
	Actual.	Estimated.	Actual.	Estimated.
For civil and miscellaneous expenses, including public buildings, light-houses, and collecting the revenue.....	\$15,221,378 05	\$36,168,623 95	1,653,512 95	3,191,427 04
For Indians.....	7,418,783 39	21,063,216 41		
For military establishment, including fortifications, and river and harbor improvements and arsenals.....	2,072,037 43	35,927,962 52		
For naval establishment, including vessels and machinery, and improvements at navy yard.....	3,895,545 51	12,604,454 49		
For interest on the public debt.....	40,463,559 96	52,694,053 78		
Total ordinary expenditures.....	\$70,330,905 63	\$131,099,739 17		

From the actual receipts for the first quarter of the fiscal year and the estimates for the remaining three quarters, based upon existing laws, the total revenues for the current year will amount to \$265,500,000, and the expenditures to \$232,430,643 72, which will leave a surplus revenue of \$33,069,356 28; and as the amount required for the sinking fund is \$35,424,304 80, there will be a deficit on this account of \$2,355,448 52.

FISCAL YEAR 1879.

The revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879, estimated upon existing laws, will be:

From customs.....	\$133,020,000 00
From internal revenue.....	120,000,000 00
From sales of public lands.....	1,000,000 00
From tax on circulation and deposits of national banks.....	7,100,000 00
From repayment of interest by Pacific Railway Companies.....	1,100,000 00
From customs' fees, fines, penalties, &c.....	1,000,000 00
From fees—consular, letters-patent, and lands.....	1,750,000 00
From proceeds of sales of government property.....	500,000 00
From premium on sales of coin.....	500,000 00
From profits on coinage, &c.....	1,000,000 00
From miscellaneous sources.....	2,750,000 00
Total ordinary receipts.....	\$269,250,000 00

The estimates of expenditures for the same period, received from the several Executive Departments, are as follows:

Legislative.....	\$2,843,256 16
Executive.....	18,285,462 25
Judicial.....	321,900 00
Foreign intercourse.....	1,214,337 50
Military establishment.....	31,587,270 63
Naval establishment.....	16,233,334 04
Indian affairs.....	5,415,831 23
Pensions.....	28,000,000 00
Public works:	
Treasury Department.....	5,076,616 60
War Department.....	7,953,077 76
Navy Department.....	2,314,231 00
Interior Department.....	326,244 00
Department of Agriculture.....	15,750 00
Postal service.....	8,093,672 72
Miscellaneous.....	15,143,555 22
Permanent annual appropriations:	
Interest on the public debt.....	92,680,802 51
Sinking fund.....	37,198,045 04
Refunding acts—customs, internal revenue, lands, &c.....	5,443,000 00
Collecting revenue from customs.....	1,500,000 00
Miscellaneous.....	1,161,300 04
Total estimated expenditures.....	\$280,683,796 38

It will appear that if Congress shall make appropriations based upon the foregoing estimates, including \$37,196,045 04 for the sinking fund, there will be a deficiency at the close of the year of \$11,423,796 38. The following estimates are in excess of the expenditures, for the same purposes, for the last fiscal year:

Judicial.....	\$3,654 39	Public works:	
Military establishment.....	4,040,790 21	War Department.....	\$2,941,417 52
Naval establishment.....	2,246,783 61	Navy Department.....	1,526,228 65
Indian affairs.....	133,883 93	Interior Department.....	221,744 00
Pensions.....	36,247 73	Dept of Agriculture.....	8,910 00
		Postal service.....	2,053,112 28

Assuming that Congress will not increase the aggregate national taxation at a time when all industries are oppressed by the weight of local taxation, the Secretary recommends that the aggregate appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879, exclusive of interest and sinking fund, should not exceed \$140,000,000. This will require the appropriations to be reduced at least \$11,000,000 below the estimates submitted above—a reduction that, in the opinion of the Secretary, can be made without crippling any branch of the public service.

Reduction in public expenditures cannot be secured merely by a reduction of appropriations. It must be accompanied by a careful revision of the laws which fix the salary and number of employes; by a reduction of the amount expended on public works now in progress; by postponement of all new works not indispensable for the public service; and by judicious scrutiny of disbursements.

The rapid appreciation of our current money to the coin standard should be accompanied by diminished expenses in the public service. The revenue from duties on imports having largely diminished, the expenses of its collection should be reduced. Old claims should be closely scrutinized; and any increase in any branch of public expenditure should be arrested.

The Secretary will not undertake, in this report, to revise the estimates of the different departments—many items of which are submitted without recommendation—but urges that the appropriations based upon them, including the amount estimated for the sinking fund, should not, in any event, exceed in the aggregate the estimated revenues of the Government.

SINKING FUND.

In the last annual report (page 10) my predecessor stated that, had the resources of the Treasury during each fiscal year, commencing with 1862, been sufficient to make a literal compliance with the conditions of the sinking-fund law practicable, a total of \$433,843,215 37 would have been applied to that fund July 1, 1876, whereas the actual reduction of the debt, including accrued interest, less cash in the Treasury at that date, amounted to \$653,992,226 44. On the same basis the amount in the sinking fund would have reached \$475,313,885 78 on the 1st of July, 1877, on which date the reduction of the debt, including accrued interest, less cash in the Treasury, since its highest point in 1855, amounted to \$696,273,343 17, or \$220,951,459 39 in excess of the amount required by law to be provided for that fund.

FUNDING, ETC.

The contract of August 24, 1876, made by the Secretary of the Treasury with certain parties, for the negotiation of \$300,000,000 four-and-one half per cent bonds, had so far been executed on the 1st of March, 1877, that \$90,000,000 had been sold to the associated contractors, and calls had been made for the redemption of a like amount of five-twenty bonds.



While the contract expired in terms on the 30th day of June, 1877, it contained a stipulation that it might be terminated by the Secretary of the Treasury, upon ten days' notice, after the 4th of March, 1877.

In May last it became apparent to the Secretary that, by a favorable change in the money market, four per cent bonds could be sold at par, in coin, with great advantage to the Government; and, availing himself of the privilege secured by the contract, he gave notice that he would limit the sale of four-and-one-half per cent bonds to \$200,000,000.

On the 11th day of May it was agreed that a portion of the latter should be sold under the authority of the resumption act for resumption purposes, and subscriptions were rapidly made until the aggregate reached \$200,000,000, of which \$185,000,000 were applied to the redemption of an equal amount of six per cent bonds.

On the 9th day of June, 1877, the Secretary entered into a contract with a portion of the previously-associated parties for the sale at par, in coin, of the four per cent bonds of the United States, authorized to be issued by the refunding act. This contract was, in substance, similar to previous contracts, but was to terminate on the 30th day of June, 1878, with the right reserved to the United States to terminate it at any time after the 31st of December, 1877, by giving ten days' notice thereof to the contracting parties. This contract also contained a stipulation, as follows:

"It is also agreed that the parties of the second part shall offer to the people of the United States, at par and accrued interest in coin, the four per cent registered consols and four per cent coupon consols of the denominations of \$50 and \$100 embraced in this contract, for a period of thirty days from the public notice of such subscriptions, and in such cities and upon such notice as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe prior to the opening of the lists; and further, to offer to the subscribers the option of paying in installments extending through three months."

Under this contract, invitations having been published, subscriptions to this loan were opened on the 16th of June, 1877. Within the period of thirty days thereafter the subscriptions had reached the sum of \$75,496,550, which were payable within ninety days from the date of subscription, or on or before the 16th of October. Every subscription to these bonds has been paid, and of the proceeds \$50,000,000 have been applied to the redemption of an equal amount of six per cent bonds. The residue has been applied to resumption purposes, as hereafter stated. The annual reduction of interest on the public debt thus made is as follows:

By the sale of \$185,000,000 four and one-half per cent bonds.....	\$2,775,000
By the sale of \$50,000,000 four per cent bonds.....	1,000,000

Aggregating..... \$3,775,000

In October last, after the payment of the popular subscriptions, arrangements were perfected to open further subscriptions to the four per cent loan, and a call was about to issue for ten millions of six per cent bonds, but it was temporarily postponed by reason of the agitation of the repeal of the resumption act and the remonetization of silver, which the associates believed would prevent further sales of these bonds. For this reason they declined to offer them, and no further call of six per cent bonds was therefore made.

On the 19th of June, pending the subscriptions, the Secretary informed the associates, in an official letter, that, as the Government exacts in payment for these bonds their face value in gold coin, it was not anticipated that any future legislation of Congress, or any action of any department of the Government, would sanction or tolerate the redemption of the principal of these bonds, or the payment of the interest thereon, in coin of less value than the coin authorized by law at the time of their issue—being gold coin. The general confidence of the public that so just a principle of good faith would be observed by the government, no doubt, largely contributed to the success of the loan. Whatever policy the Government may adopt at any time, in its system of coinage, it should not reduce the value of the coin in which it pays its obligations below that it demanded and received. The Secretary earnestly urges Congress to give its sanction to this assurance.

The high credit of the United States, the faithful observance of its public obligations, the abundance of its wealth and resources, the rapid reduction of its debt, the great accumulation of savings among the people, the favorable state of foreign trade—all contribute to enable the United States to borrow both from its own people and in foreign markets on the most favorable terms.

The Secretary does not doubt that if no questions had arisen disturbing the public credit, the six per cent bonds would be rapidly paid off by the proceeds of the four per cent bonds, sold at par in coin or its equivalent.

The highest public credit can be secured only by a constant observance of every public engagement, construed according to its letter and spirit. Thus far this course has been faithfully pursued by the United States. Without it, our ample resources and ability to pay are of no avail. At a time when we are enjoying such credit, and rapidly securing the benefit of it by the reduction of the rate of interest from six to four per cent, it would seem to be a grievous error to raise a question about the coin in which the interest is payable. Self-interest alone, without respect to pride in public credit, would lead us to secure so great a benefit as would be the saving of one-third of the interest of the public debt.

Of the six per cent loans, about \$650,000,000 are now redeemable at the pleasure of the United States, and of the whole debt \$1,452,000,000 are redeemable before or on the 1st of May, 1881. By the reduction of the interest, from six to four per cent, on the public debt now redeemable, there would be a saving of \$13,200,000 annually, and by the reduction to four per cent of the interest on the total debt redeemable by the 1st of May, 1881, there would be a saving of \$32,006,205 50 per annum.

Any measure that creates distrust or doubt will arrest this process, and, by disabling the United States from borrowing, will compel the continued payment of the high rate of six per cent.

If, therefore, the public interest demands the issue of silver dollars—a subject hereafter discussed—it is respectfully submitted to Congress that an express exception be made requiring that gold coin alone shall be paid for principal or interest on bonds issued to public creditors since February 12, 1873, the amount of which is \$592,990,700. These bonds have entered into the markets of the world. If the market value of the silver in the new coin is less than the gold dollar, a forced payment in the new coin is a repudiation of a part of this debt. The saving that would thus be made is utterly insignificant compared with the injury done to the public credit.

And even as to bonds issued prior to February 12, 1873, public policy and enlightened self-interest require us to pay them in the coin then in circulation and contemplated by both parties as the medium of payment. Silver dollars have not been in circulation in the United States since 1837, and since 1853 fractional silver coins have been in circulation and a legal-tender only for limited sums, and have not been contemplated as the medium of payment since any considerable portion of the outstanding bonds were issued. The silver dollar was, in fact, more valuable than the gold dollar. It does not become a nation like ours to avail itself of the market depreciation of silver to gain a small saving by the payment of silver dollars instead of the coin contemplated when the bonds were issued. A far greater saving and higher public honor can be secured by the sale of four per cent bonds under the refunding act and the payment of outstanding bonds in gold coin. An assurance given by Congress of such payment would at once secure the complete success of the refunding process and greatly advance the present high credit of the United States.

Another practical impediment in the sale of bonds was that, under the law, the Secretary could receive coin alone in payment for them, and the only existing coin that could be received, under the law, was gold coin. As this was not in general circulation, it was impracticable for the people to pay it into the Treasury for these bonds. Therefore, it became necessary to conduct all sales through third parties, who could receive bank bills, United States notes, drafts, certificates and other forms of commercial paper, and convert them into coin. The Secretary, therefore, recommends that he be authorized to sell such bonds either for coin or for its equivalent in United States notes.

#### RESUMPTION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS.

By the resumption act approved January 14, 1875, the Secretary of the Treasury is required to redeem legal-tender notes to the amount of eighty per centum of the sum of national bank notes issued, and to continue such redemption, as circulating notes are issued, until there shall be outstanding the sum of \$300,000,000 of such legal tender United States notes, and no more.

In obedience to this act, there have been issued, since March 1, 1877, to national banks, \$16,123,995 of circulating notes, and there have been redeemed, retired, and cancelled, \$12,899,196 of United States notes, leaving outstanding, on the 1st instant, the sum of \$351,340,288.

By the same act it is provided that, on and after the first day of January, 1879, the Secretary of the Treasury shall redeem, in coin, the United States legal-tender notes then outstanding, on their presentation for redemption at the office of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States, in the city of New York, in sums of not less than fifty dollars. "And, to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to prepare and provide for the redemption in this act authorized or required, he is authorized to use any surplus revenues, from time to time, in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and to issue, sell, and dispose of, at not less than par, in coin, either of the descriptions of bonds of the United States described in the act of Congress, approved July 14, 1870, entitled 'An act to authorize the refunding of the national debt,' with like qualities, privileges, and exemptions, to the extent necessary to carry this act into full effect, and to use the proceeds thereof for the purposes aforesaid."

In obedience to this provision, the Secretary has sold at par, for coin, \$15,000,000 four-and-one-half per cent bonds, or \$5,000,000 during each of the months of May, June, and July last, and has sold \$25,000,000 at par, in coin, of four per cent bonds, or \$5,000,000 for each of the months of August, September, October, November, and December. Of the coin thus received, \$4,000,000 have been sold for the redemption of United States notes, and the residue is in the Treasury. The surplus revenue has also, under the same authority, been applied to the redemption of the residue of United States notes, not redeemed by the sale of coin as above stated, and the balance is held in the Treasury in preparation for resumption.

These operations, aided greatly, no doubt, by the favorable condition of our foreign commerce, have advanced the market value of United States notes to 97½ per cent, or within nearly two and a half per cent of coin. They have also conclusively demonstrated the practicability of restoring United States notes to par, in coin, by the time fixed by law, and that without disturbing either domestic or foreign trade or commerce. Every step has been accompanied with growing business, with the advance of public credit, and the steady appreciation of United States notes. The export of bullion has been arrested, and our domestic supply has accumulated in the Treasury. The exportation of other domestic products has been largely increased, with great advantage to all industries. The course adopted under the resumption act, as herein set forth, if pursued, will probably be followed with like favorable results, and a sufficient fund for the maintenance of resumption will doubtless accumulate in the Treasury at or before the date fixed by law. The provision for free banking has aided this process by allaying imaginary fears that would

otherwise have been aroused by the withdrawal of United States notes.

The Secretary cannot too strongly urge the firm maintenance of a policy that will make good the promise contained in the United States notes when issued—a promise repeated in the act "to strengthen the public credit," approved March 18, 1869, and made definite and effective by the resumption act.

Dishonored notes, less valuable than the coin they promise, though justified by the necessity which led to their issue, should be made good as soon as practicable. The public credit is injured by failure to redeem them. Every holder who was compelled by law to receive them has been deprived of a part of his just due. Now, when our national resources are ample, when the process of appreciation is almost complete, when the wisdom of the existing law has been demonstrated, it is the dictate of good policy and good faith to continue this process of preparation, so that at or before the time fixed by law every United States note will have equal purchasing power with coin. To reverse this policy in the face of assured success will greatly impair the public credit, arrest the process of reducing the interest on the public debt, and cause anew the financial distress our country has recently suffered.

The resumption act contemplates the reduction by the first day of January, 1879, of the amount of United States notes to \$300,000,000, by the cancellation of such notes to the extent of 80 per cent of the circulation issued to national banks.

The amount of circulation so issued may not be sufficient to accomplish the reduction contemplated; the Secretary, therefore, recommends that authority be given to gradually fund into four per cent bonds all United States notes in excess of \$300,000,000, the bonds to be issued at par for coin or its market equivalent in United States notes. This will be in harmony with the declared object of existing law, and will open an easy way by which the people may invest their savings in a public security. Or the reduction of United States notes to the maximum of \$300,000,000 may be accomplished if Congress will authorize the coinage of the silver dollar, to be exchanged for United States notes on the demand of the holder, such notes to be retired and cancelled.

Existing laws do not clearly define whether United States notes, when redeemed after January 1, 1879, may be reissued. The first section of the resumption act plainly provides for the permanent substitution of silver coin for the whole amount of fractional currency outstanding. Section 3 plainly provides for the permanent reduction of United States notes to an amount not exceeding \$300,000,000. No distinct legislative declaration is made in the resumption act that notes redeemed after that limit is reached shall not be reissued; but section 3579 of the Revised Statutes of the United States provides that "when any United States notes are returned to the Treasury they may be reissued, from time to time, as the exigencies of the public interest may require."

The Secretary is of the opinion that, under this section, notes, when redeemed after the first of January, 1879, if the amount outstanding is not in excess of \$300,000,000, may be reissued as the exigencies of the public service may require. A note redeemed with coin is in the Treasury and subject to the same law as if received for taxes, or as a bank note when redeemed by the corporation issuing it. The authority to reissue it does not depend upon the mode in which it is returned to the Treasury. But this construction is controverted, and should be settled by distinct provisions of law. It should not be open to doubt or dispute. The decision of this question by Congress involves not merely the construction of existing law, but the public policy of maintaining in circulation United States notes, either with or without the legal-tender clause. These notes are of great public convenience—they circulate readily; are of universal credit; are a debt of the people without interest; are protected by every possible safeguard against counterfeiting; and, when redeemable in coin at the demand of the holder, form a paper currency as good as has yet been devised. It is conceded that a certain amount can, with the aid of an ample reserve in coin, be always maintained in circulation. Should not the benefit of this circulation inure to the people rather than to corporations, either State or national? The Government has ample facility for the collection, custody, and care of the coin reserves of the country. It is a safer custodian of such reserves than a multitude of scattered banks can be. The authority to issue circulating-notes by banks is not given to them for their benefit, but for the public convenience, and to enable them to meet the ebb and flow of currency caused by varying crops, productions and seasons. It is indispensable that a power should exist somewhere to issue and loan credit-money at certain times, and to redeem it at others. This function can be performed better by corporations than by the Government. The Government cannot loan money, deal in bills of exchange, or make advances on property.

The Secretary ventures to express the opinion, that the best currency for the people of the United States would be a carefully-limited amount of United States notes, promptly redeemable on presentation in coin, and supported by ample reserves of coin, and supplemented by a system of national banks, organized under general laws, free and open to all, with power to issue circulating-notes secured by United States bonds deposited with the Government, and redeemable on demand in United States notes or coin. Such a system will secure to the people a safe currency of equal value in all parts of the country, receivable for all dues, and easily convertible into coin. Interest can thus be saved on so much of the public debt as can be conveniently maintained in permanent circulation, leaving to national banks the proper business of such corporations, of providing currency for the varying changes, the ebb and flow of trade.

The legal-tender quality given to United States notes was

intended to maintain them in forced circulation, at a time when their depreciation was inevitable. When they are redeemable in coin this quality may either be withdrawn or retained, without affecting their use as currency in ordinary times. But all experience has shown that there are periods when, under any system of paper money, however carefully guarded, it is impracticable to maintain actual coin redemption. Usually contracts will be based upon current paper money, and it is just that, during a sudden panic, or an unreasonable demand for coin, the creditor should not be allowed to demand payment in other than the currency upon which the debt was contracted. To meet this contingency, it would seem to be right to maintain the legal-tender quality of the United States notes. If they are not at par with coin it is the fault of the Government and not of the debtor, or, rather, it is the result of unforeseen stringency not contemplated by the contracting parties.

In establishing a system of paper money designed to be permanent, it must be remembered that heretofore no expedient has been devised, either in this or other countries, that in times of panic or adverse trade, has prevented the drain and exhaustion of coin reserves, however large or carefully guarded. Every such system must provide for a suspension of specie payment. Laws may forbid or ignore such a contingency, but it will come; and when it comes it cannot be resisted, but should be acknowledged and declared, to prevent unnecessary sacrifice and ruin. In our free Government the power to make this declaration will not be willingly intrusted to individuals, but should be determined by events and conditions known to all. It is far better to fix the maximum of legal-tender notes at \$300,000,000, supported by a minimum reserve of \$100,000,000 of coin, only to be used for the redemption of notes not to be re-issued until the reserve is restored. A demand for coin to exhaust such a reserve may not occur, but, if events force it, its existence would be known and could be declared, and would justify a temporary suspension of specie payments. Some such expedient could no doubt be provided by Congress for an exceptional emergency. In other times the general confidence in these notes would maintain them at par in coin, and justify their use as reserves of banks and for the redemption of bank-notes.

#### NATIONAL BANKS.

In this connection, the Secretary calls the attention of Congress to the report of the Comptroller of the Currency.

The number of national banks in existence on the first day of November last was 2,080. The amount of their circulating-notes retired within the year prior to November 1, 1877, is \$20,681,637. The amount of circulating-notes issued to national banks during the same period is \$16,306,930. The aggregate amount of their circulation outstanding is \$316,775,111. Their loans and discounts amount to \$888,243,290 17.

The general solvency of the national banks, as now organized, and their benefit to the people, have been demonstrated during a period of fourteen years. No one has lost a dollar by receiving their notes. They have been less subject to revulsion and failure than any other corporations or firms. Their organization under a general law containing every safeguard which experience has suggested—the supervision over them by the Comptroller of the Currency, the frequent and unforeseen examinations to which they are subject, the sworn statements required of them of every detail necessary to disclose their condition, the absolute security of their issues—makes this system of banking as safe and efficient as any yet devised. The remaining condition to perfect this system is, that their notes should be readily convertible into coin. While United States notes were irredeemable and depreciated, it was not possible that bank-notes should rise above the par of United States notes. The true test of this system of banking will come when the United States notes are maintained at par with coin; then the banks must redeem their notes in coin or United States notes equal to coin.

The ample statistics given by the Comptroller, and his comparison of the reserves and condition of the national banks with the reserves and condition of other systems of banking in specie-paying times, give assurance that the national banks are able to redeem their circulating-notes in coin at any date fixed upon by the Government. They certainly should not enjoy the franchise of circulating as money their non-interest-bearing notes, unless they are prepared to redeem them. The present system of redemption of bank-notes at the Treasury of the United States can be continued after United States notes are at par with coin, as well as now. If experience should show that additional reserves are necessary they can be required. Then, as now, their notes will be amply secured by the deposit of bonds, and confidence in this security will dispel the fear of failure, which, under former systems, has been the cause of sudden runs or demands on banks for payment of their notes. If the policy of the Government should be to maintain in circulation at par with coin a maximum of three hundred millions of United States notes, and to support them with a reserve of not less than one hundred millions in coin, these notes will be the natural reserves of the banks, and more convenient for that purpose than a deposit of coin in their vaults.

The real danger that in former systems threatened a bank was its liability for deposits. If these were suddenly withdrawn, or greatly diminished, the note-holder was the chief sufferer. The first rumor of weakness about a bank brought a demand from depositors and note-holders alike, but under the national banking system the note-holder is secure and indifferent whether the bank breaks or not, and the depositor, who is a voluntary creditor of the bank, is not likely to hasten its fall. He is usually paid by a transfer of credits, and in most cases is a debtor as well as a creditor of the bank. Scarcely five per cent of deposits are paid by currency.

The capital stock of national banks paid in is now \$479,437,771, and the surplus fund and other undivided profits is now \$168,849,709 96. The banks are exceptionally strong in their cash reserves. Their condition is as favorable to maintain redemption in coin as in United States notes, and the Secretary concurs in the opinion of the Comptroller that they ought to be, can be, and will be prepared for redemption of their circulating notes in coin or in United States notes equal to coin by the time fixed by law, without interfering with their ability or disposition to render their aid, as now, by loans and discounts, in conducting the business and exchanges of the country. The market value of their circulating note is 97½ per cent. The difference is not equal to six months' interest on the bonds deposited for the security of the notes, and not five per cent of their surplus on hand. It is scarcely to be credited that the payment of this will disturb in any way the even course of their business.

Complaint is made by the banks and bankers of the country of the tax on their deposits, and attention is called to what is said by the Comptroller of the Currency as to the repeal of this tax. While the necessity exists for collecting the amount of revenue now required, the Secretary is not prepared to recommend such repeal, but whenever a sufficient amount of revenue for the support of the Government can be derived from the other articles now subject to taxation, a reduction of bank taxation will then be advisable.

The cost of the redemption of bank-notes in United States notes at the Treasury, under the present system, does not exceed one-sixth of one per cent on the amount redeemed, and is refunded to the Government by the banks. The redemption is a great convenience to them and to the public, and should be continued.

The act creating the national banking system recognizes the character of these banks as Government agents or depositories. They could greatly assist in the process of refunding; they are conveniently distributed, so as to be within easy reach of the people of the United States. The Secretary is of the opinion that they can be, under existing law, and ought to be, made the agents of the Government in the sale of bonds, upon conditions that will make it for their interest to promote such sales, and will be safe and advantageous to the Government. Various plans have been submitted to secure their co-operation, and the best will be adopted.

#### SAVINGS BANKS.

The attention of Congress is called to the great value to our fellow-citizens of the organization of some plan for the collection, safe keeping and profitable employment of small deposits by the people. How far this can be done without trenching upon the proper functions of the State governments is a question of difficulty; yet it is important to secure, if possible, a general system throughout the United States. This can hardly be effected by the organization of a multitude of savings banks, depending upon the fidelity, integrity and skill of their officers, but the beneficial object of such banks might be secured by authorizing the deposit of small sums with any postal money-order office in the United States, and the issue of Government certificates, convertible on demand of the holder into four per cent bonds of the United States, of such character, description and amount as will enable and induce prudent persons to convert their earnings into a public security of stable value. The money thus received could be employed in the redemption of outstanding bonds bearing a higher rate of interest. By some such system it is believed that the great body of our public debt, reduced to its smallest possible burden, could be distributed among our own people. With a slight modification of existing law, this beneficial result would be secured. The deposits now held by savings banks throughout the country amount to \$343,154,804, deposited by 2,300,000 persons, and mostly by deserving citizens, who thus wisely seek to preserve small savings for future need. No object could more strongly appeal to the considerate judgment of Congress. The heavy losses that have been sustained through savings banks, whose funds have been imprudently loaned upon insufficient security, have inflicted far greater injury upon the depositors than would a similar loss suffered by persons engaged in banking or commercial pursuits. The Secretary, therefore, recommends that authority be granted to issue certificates for small deposits, convertible into four per cent bonds now authorized by law, the proceeds to be used solely for the redemption of bonds bearing a higher rate of interest, and now redeemable at par.

#### COINS AND COINAGE.

The Secretary calls the attention of Congress to the report of the Director of the Mint. The general management of the mints and assay offices, and the amount, accuracy, and perfection of their work, are highly satisfactory. The coinage of gold and silver, their relative value to each other, and their legal-tender qualities, are now the subjects of discussion and legislation in all civilized countries. These questions are especially important to the United States, now in transition from an irredeemable paper currency to a mixed currency, redeemable in coin, and will justify the Secretary in a fuller presentation of these topics than is usual in his annual report.

The resumption act of Jan. 14, 1875, provided for the exchange and substitution of silver coin for fractional currency. To facilitate this exchange, the joint resolution approved July 22, 1876, provided that such coin should be issued to an amount not exceeding \$10,000,000, for an equal amount of legal tender notes. It is also provided that the aggregate amount of such coin and fractional currency outstanding should not exceed, at any time, \$50,000,000. That limit would have been reached some time since, if the whole amount of fractional currency issued and not redeemed, had been held to be "outstanding." It was well known, however, that a very large amount of fractional cur-

rency issued had been destroyed, and could not be presented for redemption, and could hardly be held to be "outstanding." The Treasurer of the United States, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Director of the Mint concurred in estimating the amount, so lost and destroyed, to be not less than \$8,038,513.

As it was evident that Congress intended to provide an aggregate issue of \$50,000,000 of such coin and currency in circulation, the Secretary directed the further issue of silver coin equal in amount to the currency estimated to have been lost and destroyed.

It is submitted that the limitation upon the amount of such fractional coin to be issued in exchange for United States notes should be repealed. This coin is readily taken, is in great favor with the people, its issue is profitable to the Government, and experience has shown that there is no difficulty in maintaining it at par with United States notes. The estimated amount of such coin in circulation in the United States in 1863, at par with gold, was \$43,000,000. Great Britain, with a population of 32,000,000, maintains an inferior fractional coin to the amount of \$2,463,500,\* at par with gold, and other nations maintain a much larger per capita amount. The true limit of such coin is the demand that may be made for its issue, and if only issued in exchange for United States notes there is no danger of an excess being issued.

By the coinage act of 1873 any person may deposit silver bullion at the mint to be coined into trade dollars of the weight of 420 grains troy, upon the payment of the cost of coinage. This provision was made at a time when such a dollar was worth in the market \$1 02 13-100 in gold, and was designed for the use of trade in China, where silver was the only standard. By the joint resolution of July 22, 1876, passed when the trade dollar in market value had fallen greatly below one dollar in gold, it was provided that it should not be thereafter a legal tender, and the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized "to limit the coinage thereof to such an amount as he may deem sufficient to meet the export demand for the same." Under these laws the amount of trade dollars issued, mainly for exportation, was \$30,710,400. In October last it became apparent that there was no further export demand for trade dollars, but deposits of silver bullion were made, and such dollars were demanded of the mint for circulation in the United States, that the owner might secure the difference between the value of such bullion in the market and United States notes. At the time, the mints were fully occupied by the issue of fractional and other coins on account of the Government. Therefore, under the authority of the law referred to, the Secretary directed that no further issues of trade dollars should be made until necessary again to meet an export demand. In case another silver dollar is authorized, the Secretary recommends that the trade dollar be discontinued.

The question of the issue of a silver dollar for circulation as money has been much discussed and carefully examined by a commission organized by Congress, which has recommended the coinage of the old silver dollar. With such legislative provision as will maintain its current value at par with gold, its issue is respectfully recommended. A gold coin of the denomination of one dollar is too small for convenient circulation, while such a coin in silver would be convenient for a multitude of daily transactions, and is in a form to satisfy the natural instinct of hoarding.

Of the metals, silver is of most general use for coinage. It is a part of every system of coinage even in countries where gold is the sole legal standard. It best measures the common wants of life, but, from its weight and bulk, is not a convenient medium in the larger exchanges of commerce. Its production is reasonably steady in amount. The relative market value of silver and gold is far more stable than that of any other two commodities—still, it does vary. It is not in the power of human law to prevent the variation. This inherent difficulty has compelled all nations to adopt one or the other as the sole standard of value, or to authorize an alternative standard of either, or to coin both metals at an arbitrary standard, and to maintain one at par with the other by limiting its amount and legal-tender quality, and receiving or redeeming it at par with the other.

It has been the careful study of statesmen for many years to secure a bi-metallic currency not subject to the changes of market value, and so adjusted that both kinds can be kept in circulation together, not alternating with each other. The growing tendency has been to adopt, for coins, the principle of "redeemability" applied to different forms of paper money. By limiting tokens, silver and paper money to the amount needed for business, and promptly receiving or redeeming all that may at any time be in excess, all these forms of money can be kept in circulation, in large amounts, at par with gold. In this way, tokens of inferior intrinsic value are readily circulated, but do not depreciate below the paper money into which they are convertible. The fractional silver coin now in circulation, though the silver of which it is composed is of less market value than the paper money, passes readily among all classes of people and answers all the purposes for which it was designed. And so the silver dollar, if restored to our coinage, would greatly add to the convenience of the people. But this coin should be subject to the same rule, as to issue and convertibility, as other forms of money. If the market value of the silver in it were less than that of gold coin of the same denomination, and it were issued in unlimited quantities and made a legal tender for all debts, it would demote our gold and depreciate our paper money.

The importance of gold as the standard of value is conceded by all. Since 1834, it has been practically the sole coin standard of the United States, and since 1815 has been the sole standard of Great

\* As estimated by Mr. Freemantle, deputy master of the Royal Mint, December, 1875.

Britain. Germany has recently adopted the same standard. France and other Latin nations have suspended the coinage of silver, and, it is supposed, will gradually either adopt the sole standard of gold or provide for the convertibility of silver coin, on the demand of the holder, into gold coin.

In the United States several experiments have been made with the view of retaining both gold and silver in circulation. The Second Congress undertook to establish the ratio of fifteen of silver to one of gold, with free coinage of both metals. By this ratio gold was undervalued, as one ounce of gold was worth more in the markets of the world than fifteen ounces of silver, and gold, therefore, was exported. To correct this, in 1837 the ratio was fixed at sixteen to one, but sixteen ounces of silver were worth in the market more than one ounce of gold, so that silver was demonetized.

These difficulties in the adjustment of gold and silver coinage were fully considered by Congress prior to the passage of the act approved February 21, 1853. By that act a new, and it was believed a permanent policy, was adopted to secure the simultaneous circulation of both silver and gold coins in the United States. Silver fractional coins were provided for at a ratio of 14:83 in silver to one in gold, and were only issued in exchange for gold coin. The right of private parties to deposit silver bullion for such coinage was repealed, and these coins were issued from bullion purchased by the Treasurer of the mint, and only upon the account and for the profit of the United States. The coin was a legal tender only in payment of debts for all sums not exceeding five dollars. Though the silver in this coin was worth in the market 3-13 cents on the dollar less than gold coin, yet its convenience for use as change, its issue by the Government only in exchange for, and its practical convertibility into, gold coin maintained it in circulation at par with gold coin. If the slight error in the ratio of 1792 prevented gold from entering into circulation for forty-five years, and the slight error in 1837 brought gold into circulation and banished silver until 1853, how much more certainly will an error now of nine per cent cause gold to be exported and silver to become the sole standard of value? Is it worth while to travel again the round of errors, when experience has demonstrated that both metals can only be maintained in circulation together by adhering to the policy of 1853?

The silver dollar was not mentioned in the act of 1853, but from 1792 until 1874 it was worth more in the market than the gold dollar provided for in the act of 1837. It was not a current coin contemplated as being in circulation at the passage of the act of February 12, 1873. The whole amount of such dollars, issued prior to 1853, was \$2,553,000. Subsequent to 1853, and until it was dropped from our coinage in 1873, the total amount issued was \$5,492,833, or an aggregate of \$8,045,833, and this was almost exclusively for exportation.

By the coinage act, approved February 12, 1873, fractional silver coins were authorized, similar in general character to the coins of 1853, but with a slight increase of silver in them, to make them conform exactly to the French coinage, and the old dollar was replaced by the trade dollar of 420 grains of standard silver.

Much complaint has been made that this was done with the design of depriving the people of the privilege of paying their debts in a cheaper money than gold, but it is manifest that this is an error. No one then did or could foresee the subsequent fall in the market value of silver. The silver dollar was an unknown coin to the people, and was not in circulation even on the Pacific slope, where coin was in common use. The trade dollar of 420 grains was substituted for the silver dollar of 412½ grains because it was believed that it was better adapted to supersede the Mexican dollar in the Chinese trade, and experiment proved this to be true. Since the trade dollar was authorized, \$30,710,400 have been issued, or nearly four times the entire issue of old silver dollars since the foundation of the Government. Had not the coinage act of 1873 passed, the United States would now be compelled to suspend the free coinage of silver dollars, as the Latin nations did, or to have silver as the sole coin standard of values.

Since February, 1873, great changes have occurred in the market value of silver. Prior to that time the silver in the old dollar was worth more than a gold dollar, while at present it is worth about 92 cents. If by law any holder of silver bullion might deposit it in the mint and demand a full legal tender dollar for every 412½ grains of standard silver deposited, the result would be inevitable that as soon as the mints could supply the demand the silver dollar would, by a financial law as fixed and invariable as the law of gravitation, become the only standard of value. All forms of paper money would fall to that standard or below it, and gold would be demonetized and quoted at a premium equal to its value in the markets of the world. For a time the run to deposit bullion at the mint would give to silver an artificial value, of which the holders and producers of silver bullion would have the sole benefit. The utmost capacity of the mints would be employed for years to supply this demand at the cost of and without profit to the people. The silver dollar would take the place of gold as rapidly as coined, and be used in the payment of customs duties, causing an accumulation of such coins in the Treasury. If used in paying the interest on the public debt, the grave questions already presented would arise with public creditors, seriously affecting the public credit.

It is urged that the free coinage of silver in the United States will restore its market value to that of gold. Market value is fixed by the world, and not by the United States alone, and is affected by the whole mass of silver in the world. As the enormous and continuous demand for silver in Asia has not prevented the fall in silver, it is not likely that the limited demand for silver coin in this country, where paper money is now and will be the chief medium of exchange, will cause any considerable advance in its value. This advance, if any, will be secured by

the demand for silver bullion for coin to be issued by and for the United States, as well as if it were issued for the benefit of the holder of the bullion. If the financial condition of our country is so grievous that we must at every hazard have a cheaper dollar, in order to lessen the burden of debts already contracted, it is far better, rather than to adopt the single standard of silver, to boldly reduce the number of grains in the gold dollar, or to abandon and retrace all efforts to make United States notes equal to coin. Either expedient will do greater harm to the public at large than any possible benefit to debtors.

The free coinage of silver will also impair the pledge made of the customs duties, by the act of February, 1862, for the payment of the interest of the public debt. The policy thus far adhered to of collecting these duties in gold coin, has been the chief cause of upholding and advancing the public credit, and making it possible to lessen the burden of interest by the process of re-funding.

In view of these considerations, the Secretary has felt it to be his duty to earnestly urge upon Congress the serious objections to the free coinage of silver on such conditions as will demonetize gold, greatly disturb all the financial operations of the Government, suddenly revolutionize the basis of our currency, throw upon the Government the increased cost of coinage, arrest the re-funding of the public debt, and impair the public credit, with no apparent advantage to the people at large.

The Secretary believes that all the beneficial results hoped for from a liberal issue of silver coin can be secured by issuing this coin, in pursuance of the general policy of the act of 1853, in exchange for United States notes, coined from bullion purchased in the open market by the United States, and maintaining it by redemption, or otherwise, a par with gold coin. It could be made a legal tender for such sums and on such contracts as would secure to it the most general circulation. It could be easily redeemed in United States notes and gold coin, and only reissued when demanded for public convenience. If the essential quality of redeemability given to United States notes, bank-bills, tokens, fractional coins, and currency maintains them at par, how much easier it would be to maintain the silver dollar, of intrinsic market value, nearly equal to gold, at par with gold coin, by giving to it the like quality of redeemability. To still further secure a fixed relative value of silver and gold, the United States might invite an international convention of commercial nations. Even such a convention, while it might check the fall of silver, could not prevent the operation of that higher law which places the market value of silver above human control. Issued upon the conditions here stated, the Secretary is of opinion that the silver dollar will be a great public advantage, but that if issued without limit, upon the demand of the owners of silver bullion, it will be a great public injury.

#### EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The receipts from customs for the year ended June 30, 1876, were \$148,071,984 61, and at the corresponding date of 1877 they were \$130,956,493 07—a decrease of \$17,115,491 54. The receipts for the first quarter of the last fiscal year were \$37,554,728 53, while for the corresponding period of this year they were \$36,983,531 56—a decrease of \$571,196 97.

The embarrassments attendant upon the collection of the revenue at the port of New York—alluded to in the report of my immediate predecessor—growing out of the large number of suits brought to recover alleged excess of duties, have not ceased; but a considerable number of such suits have been pressed to trial, with results in favor of the Government in the majority of cases. Owing to the multiplicity of such suits, a considerable delay necessarily occurs before they can be brought to trial; which delay is adverse to the interests both of the Government and the importers. The recommendation of my predecessor, that a special tribunal be created by law for the trial of customs-revenue cases at the port of New York, is renewed.

In compliance with the fourth section of the act approved August 15, 1876, and since the 4th of March last, commissions have been organized, under direction of the President, to investigate generally the manner in which the customs business has been conducted at many of the principal ports. They were also directed to inquire into the manner in which appointments in the customs service have been heretofore made, and to suggest such changes in existing laws as would more fully meet the necessities of commerce at the present time, and promote economy in the collection of the customs revenue. The action taken by this Department, in pursuance of the recommendation of these commissions, has worked a marked improvement in the conduct of the customs service.

A copy of the sixth report of the commission, appointed to investigate the New York Custom-House, is herewith transmitted and the changes recommended in existing laws are commended to the consideration of Congress. Other changes, recommended by the various commissions, will be presented to Congress, in due time, for such action as may be deemed necessary.

Embarrassment has occurred during the past year in the collection of duties on sugar, under schedule G, title 33, of the Revised Statutes. These duties are assessed by the Dutch standard, according to color; and it has been alleged that sugars have been artificially colored in the country of export, to secure their passage at the custom-house at a less rate of duty than would be charged according to the color acquired in the ordinary process of manufacture.

While the truth of such allegation has not been established in any positive manner, notwithstanding the thorough examination which has been made by the officers of this Department, it has been ascertained that the suspected sugars, which pay the lowest

rate of duty at the custom-house, were of a higher intrinsic grade in many cases than those paying higher rates of duty. Statistics show that, from some cause, a marked increase has occurred in the importation of sugar subject to the lowest rate of duty, and a corresponding decrease in the importation of unrefined sugars paying the higher rates. This is doubtless duo in part to the act of March 3, 1875 (Stat. at Large, vol. 18, page 330), which imposed an additional duty of 25 per cent of the duties prescribed in schedule G, and thus increased the discrimination in favor of the lower grades of sugar.

The Dutch standard is an unsatisfactory basis for the assessment of duty, founded as it is on color alone, which bears no definite relation to the value of the sugar. If, however, the Dutch standard is to be retained, it is recommended that the grades be reduced in number, so that there shall be but three rates of duty, one for sugars not above No. 13, one for sugars above 13 and not above 20, and another for all sugars above No. 20, including all refined sugars. Based upon the quantities of the various grades imported during the past two years, the following rates would yield about the same amount of revenue as was collected during that time: Sugars not above No. 13, per pound, 2 38 100; above No. 13 and not above 20, 3 45-100; above 20, and all refined sugars, 5 cents. This is inclusive of the 25 per cent additional duty imposed by the act of March 3, 1875.

Extensive undervaluations in the entries of silk goods have occurred during the past year, and the persistent efforts of the officers of the Department at the principal ports to prevent and break up such frauds on the revenue have not been attended with entire success. This is due in part to the practice of shipping goods to agents in the United States on consignment for sale on the manufacturers' account, for which goods, it is claimed, there is consequently no market value abroad. It has been suggested, as a preventive for such evils in the future, that the duty on silks be changed to one per pound, instead of the present *ad valorem* duty. The subject is commended to the careful consideration of Congress.

For the reasons already stated, the aggregate revenue from imports cannot be decreased with due regard to the wants of the Government. A revision of the tariff seems desirable, and the Secretary recommends that a duty of two cents per pound on coffee and ten cents per pound on tea be adopted, which would yield a revenue, based on the average annual consumption of the last five years, of over twelve million dollars. By the adoption of such a measure opportunity will be given for a moderate enlargement of the free list, and for the reduction of some internal taxes. A large number of isolated articles are now included in the dutiable list which yield less than ten thousand dollars a year each, and the cost of collecting the duty on these articles is proportionally greater than on the staple articles. The addition of many such articles to the free list, in the event of the duty being placed on tea and coffee, would be beneficial.

The coin values of the exports and imports of the United States for the last fiscal year, as appears from returns made to and compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, are as follows:

Exports of domestic merchandise.....	\$59,670,924
Exports of foreign merchandise.....	12,804,986
Total.....	72,475,910
Imports.....	491,823,126
Excess of exports over imports.....	\$151,352,091
For the fiscal year 1876 there was an excess of exports over imports amounting to.....	79,643,481
Showing an excess for the last fiscal year over the preceding year of.....	\$11,508,618
Exports of specie and bullion.....	\$60,162,237
Imports of specie and bullion.....	40,774,414
Excess of exports over imports.....	19,387,823
Total excess of exports of merchandise and the precious metals over imports.....	\$166,539,917

There was withdrawn from bond for consumption, in excess of that entered for warehouse, during the past fiscal year, merchandise of the value of \$7,020,881. The total exportation of specie and bullion was less than that for the preceding year by \$344,165, while the exports of domestic goods increased in value \$64,087,977. Importations of merchandise decreased to the amount of \$9,418,064, as compared with those of the preceding fiscal year; and of \$81,032,310, as compared with the year ended June 30, 1875. There was an increase in the value of imports of the following articles, which are free of duty: Hides and skins, \$1,927,994; crude India-rubber and gutta percha, \$1,478,507; raw silk, \$1,368,529. The largest increase in the value of dutiable goods was in brown sugar, chiefly for refining purposes, \$25,484,601.

Owing to the fact that there is no law requiring persons exporting merchandise by land conveyance to Canada to file manifests containing the quantities and values thereof, the value of our exports of domestic merchandise to the Provinces of Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba is not fully expressed in the returns made to the statistical bureau. From the detailed statements prepared by the Commissioner of Customs for the Dominion of Canada it appears that the Canadian value of our exports to those Provinces during the last fiscal year amounts to \$13,051,798 in excess of that returned by the Customs officers of the United States. Assuming that the Canadian value is identical with the value taken as a basis for returns by the Bureau of Statistics the value of the total exports of the year, with this addition, amounts to \$615,527,018.

The attention of Congress is called to the defects of law which prevent the collection of accurate returns of our exports to Canada, and the recommendation of my predecessor that remedial legislation may be enacted is renewed.

The effect of the act of June 29, 1874 (Statutes at Large, vol.

18, page 186), entitled an act to amend the customs revenue laws and to repeal moieties, has not been salutary. The proceeds of fines, penalties, and forfeitures recovered for the violation of customs laws and paid into the Treasury from June 30, 1870, have been as follows:

Year ended June 30, 1871..	\$952,579 66	Year ended June 30, 1875..	\$285,670 13
Do.....	674,242 77	Do.....	191,797 89
Do.....	1,169,516 39	Do.....	1876..
Do.....	651,211 76	Do.....	1877.. 146,413 31

It is believed that the decrease of receipts from this source has not occurred in consequence of an increased observance of the law in the entries of goods, but rather to the fact that violations of law have not been detected in as great a number of cases as before the passage of that act. The commission which examined the Custom House at San Francisco, makes the following recommendation in regard to a modification of the law:

1st. That from the gross proceeds of any sale of goods seized in the act of being smuggled, there should be paid all legal and other costs of seizure and sale.

2d. That the Government should receive the amount of duty properly chargeable upon the goods so seized in full satisfaction for its claims.

3d. That the remainder be equally divided between the informer and seizing officer, and where there is no informer, the whole of the remainder, after deducting expenses and duty, shall go to the seizing officer: Provided, That neither seizing officer nor informer shall be entitled to receive exceeding five thousand dollars for any one seizure: And provided further, That no officer of the customs in receipt of a salary or fixed compensation exceeding twenty-five hundred dollars per annum, shall be entitled to a *pro rata* of a seizure for acting as informer.

The collector of customs at New York submitted to the commission which examined that Custom House, a table which shows that, in 1873, seizures at that port amounted to \$773,310 09, and that, in 1877, the total amount was \$120,131 09.

The collector, in submitting that table, remarks that, without any desire to argue in behalf of informers or detective officers, he is yet strongly of the opinion that the above figures represent a loss of many millions to the Government, caused by a comparative safety to those who are undertaking and accomplishing great frauds upon the Government.

It is recommended that such a change be made in existing laws as will offer increased inducements to parties who may be able to secure a knowledge of such frauds to bring the same to the attention of the customs officers. The greatest loss to the revenue from customs arises, not from smuggling, but from undervaluation of goods subject to an *ad valorem* duty. It is, therefore, also recommended, for the purpose of securing simplicity and uniformity in the collection of the revenue from customs, that specific duties be adopted as far as practicable.

ALASKA.

Since the withdrawal of the troops from Alaska, last spring, the management of the Territory has practically devolved upon the Treasury Department. The only officers who could exercise any authority were the collector of customs at Sitka and his deputies stationed at other points within the territory, the duties of the officers at the seal islands being confined exclusively to the protection of the seal interests. It was feared that the sudden withdrawal of the troops might result in a conflict between the whites and Indians; but thus far little disturbance has occurred. The white population at Sitka is very limited, and the expense of maintaining customs officers there, and at other points within the territory, has aggregated, in the past two years, \$17,418 32, while the receipts from customs have, during the same period, been very much less. It is, therefore, recommended that the port of Sitka be abolished.

The receipts from the tax on seal skins taken on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, including the rent paid by the Alaska Commercial Company, have been as follows:

1876.....	\$317,581 09
1877.....	291,155 50

The decrease of receipts from that source is consequent upon the fact that a less number of seals were taken the past year than the maximum allowed by law.

INTERNAL REVENUE.

The following tabular statement exhibits the receipts from the several sources of taxation under the internal revenue laws, for the fiscal years ended, respectively, June 30, 1876, and June 30, 1877:

Statement showing the receipts from the several objects of taxation under the Internal Revenue laws, for the fiscal years ended June 30, 1876, and June 30, 1877, respectively:

Source.	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
Spirits.....	\$56,428,265 13	\$57,469,429 72	\$1,041,164 59	\$.....
Tobacco.....	34,795,339 91	41,104,516 92	1,311,207 01	.....
Fermented liquors.....	8,571,280 66	9,480,739 17	909,458 51	.....
Banks and bankers.....	4,068,604 03	3,849,729 28	.....	178,874 75
Fines, penalties, &c.....	409,281 13	419,090 41	10,714 93	.....
Adhesive stamps.....	6,513,457 51	6,460,120 15	.....	53,337 36
Back taxes under repealed laws.....	509,831 09	232,860 55	.....	276,970 54
Total.....	\$117,237,058 91	\$119,995,181 25	\$2,361,986 58	\$506,689 39

The tabular statement of amounts received includes commissions on sales of stamps paid in kind, which do not appear as cash receipts of the Treasury, and certain sums reported as collected, but not deposited, during their respective fiscal years. Hence there will be an apparent variation between the amounts of collections tabulated and those shown by the covering warrants of the Treasury.

The increase in the aggregate receipts from the sources specified, during the past fiscal year, amounts to a little more than one and three-quarter millions of dollars, and is chiefly derived from spirits and tobacco. The increase in the receipts from spirits is duo in part to the greater quantity of whiskey withdrawn from

warehouse at ninety cents per gallon during the current year than was withdrawn in 1876, and in part to the greater quantity of brandy distilled from fruit the past year. The aggregate quantity of tax-paid spirits withdrawn at seventy cents per gallon, under the act of June 6, 1872, and at ninety cents per gallon, under the act of March 3, 1875, was nearly the same; whereas the number of gallons withdrawn paying ninety cents was greater by 3,795,369 gallons during 1877 than in 1876.

The quantity of manufactured tobacco, on which a tax of twenty-four cents per pound was paid in 1876, was 107,040,234 pounds; in 1877 the quantity amounted to 112,716,534 pounds, the increase being 5,676,300 pounds.

The number of collection districts on July 1, 1876, was one hundred and sixty-five; on June 30, 1877, one hundred and thirty. By consolidation, the number of districts has been further reduced to one hundred and twenty-six. The number of collectors was, on July 1, 1876, one hundred and sixty-five, and is now one hundred and twenty-six.

For further particulars relating to the operations of the Bureau, attention is respectfully invited to the report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, herewith transmitted.

#### ACCOUNTING OFFICES.

The present system of accounting has been the result of many years' experience, and thus far, it is believed, has proven sufficient to protect the Government in all its ordinary and current disbursements.

Your attention is invited to the statements of several officers concerning the crowded condition of the files of their respective offices.

These files include the vouchers upon which the disbursements of the Government in all branches have been made, and the importance of securing them from destruction and providing for them such room as will make them readily accessible can hardly be overestimated. Such action for this purpose as you may deem necessary should be taken as soon as practicable.

#### CLAIMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

The attention of Congress is called to the laws imposing upon this Department the adjudication of a multitude of claims. Its organization is admirably adapted for the investigation and statement of accounts accruing in the ordinary course of current business, but it is not adapted to the investigation of claims long since accrued, and supported in most cases by *ex-parte* affidavits. The Department has no authority to cross-examine witnesses, no agents to send to examine into alleged facts, and no facilities, such as are in common use by courts, to ascertain truth and expose falsehoods. It is respectfully suggested that this class of claims, not already acted upon, be transferred from the Treasury Department, and its business of accounting be confined to current accounts, payable from appropriations made within a short period of time.

Most of these claims are paid out of what are classed as "permanent annual appropriations," contained in section 3689, Revised Statutes, which do not come under the annual supervision of Congress. These appropriations, though declared to be annual, have been used for the payment of claims, however old, including nearly every case of fraudulent or exaggerated claims paid by this department. It is respectfully urged that this important section be carefully revised; that the appropriations contained therein be made annually; and that only such claims as accrue within a brief period be paid by the Department, unless proper evidence in their favor appears upon the public records, as in the case of the principal or interest of the funded debt.

By the act approved June 20, 1874, (18 Stats., 110, sec. 5) it was provided: "That from and after the first day of July, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, and of each year thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause all unexpended balances of appropriations which shall have remained upon the books of the Treasury for two fiscal years to be carried to the surplus fund and covered into the Treasury," &c.

Under a construction of this act, placed upon it after a full examination by the Department, it was held that most of the appropriations made by this section, and which accrued prior to July 1, 1874, are not within the exceptions stated in the act, and they were accordingly covered into the Treasury, and are not available, except for current purposes and for claims accruing within the time fixed by that act. It seems to be the clear purpose of this act to include permanent annual appropriations within its operation, and to thus include them is a wise public policy.

Among the permanent annual appropriations, made in the section referred to, is that to repay to importers the excess of deposits for unascertained duties, or duties or other moneys paid under protest, from which the greater part of the refunds of customs duties are made. These include a class of claims commonly known as the "charges and commissions cases," which arose under the act of March 3, 1851. About fourteen hundred suits were brought by importers against the collector of customs at the port of New York, to recover alleged excessive duties collected by him in obedience to the decision of the Secretary of the Treasury, that, to ascertain the dutiable value of imported goods at the port of entry, there should be added to the actual market value of the goods at the port of exportation a commission of two and one-half per cent, and certain costs and charges. This act was repealed June 30, 1864, so that all these claims accrued prior to that date.

Over two million dollars have been paid on these claims, the items of interest and costs forming a very large proportion of that amount. The remaining cases are still pending in various stages of progress, and, to satisfy these, two million dollars more will probably be required.

Upon full consideration, the Secretary is of the opinion that no money should be appropriated for the payment of these claims until after a thorough investigation has been made into the nature,

character and justice, not only of those still pending, but also of those paid. Full details of these claims, as far as it is possible for the Department to ascertain them, will be submitted to Congress.

#### BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.

Of the appropriation of \$300,000 for the payment of labor and expenses in this Bureau for the present fiscal year, \$600,000 will remain unexpended at the close of the year. The internal revenue stamps for cigars, liquors, snuff and tobacco, printed under contract by the New York bank-note companies last year, will be printed in the Bureau the current year, at a reduction in cost to the Government of \$68,841 89. The printing of the backs of legal-tender notes and of the five dollar national currency notes, last year done by the Columbian Bank-Note Company, of this city, will also be executed in the Bureau, and at a reduction in cost, as compared with the rates paid last year, of \$40,254 30. The act making appropriations for the legislative, executive and judicial expenses of the Government, for the present fiscal year (19 Statutes at Large, p. 152), appropriates for dies, paper and stamps for the internal revenue \$466,000, the engraving and printing to be done in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing of the Treasury Department, provided the cost does not exceed the prices paid under existing contracts. The contracts referred to were made in 1874 with the American, National and Continental Bank-Note Companies, and were terminable on ninety days' notice. On the 20th day of June last, the Secretary requested the Chief of the Bureau to make such observations as he desired upon the comparative cost of printing internal revenue stamps by private companies and by the Bureau, and in reply, received, on the 23d of June, a statement that the stamps referred to could be done by the Bureau for \$227,590, as against \$296,431 89 paid to the bank-note companies last year, all of the printing to be done by plate and surface-printing from steel plates. Being satisfied that this saving could be effected, and the law preferring that the work be done in the Treasury Department, the Secretary, on the 25th of June, gave the required ninety days' notice, and on the 1st of October authorized the work to be done in the Bureau. The adhesive and proprietary stamps used by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue are still printed by the National Bank Note Company, under a contract made August 15, 1875, which took effect September 1, 1875, and is still in force. As these classes of stamps have never been executed by the Bureau, and may not have been intended to be included by Congress in the provision referred to, no disturbance has been made of the previously-existing arrangements.

On the accession of the present Secretary to the Department, all the printing upon the notes, bonds and securities of the United States, and the notes of the national banks, was done in the Bureau and Department, except the green backs of the legal-tenders and the black backs of the national bank fives. These were executed by the Columbian Bank-Note Company, of this city, under a contract made February 21, 1877, and terminable on ninety days' notice. Inasmuch as the prices named in this contract were fixed in the original contract, dated June, 1874, when the cost of labor and material was much higher than now, the Secretary deemed it for the interest of the Government to terminate it, so that the whole subject of engraving and printing by private companies would be within the power of the Government, at the meeting of Congress.

The act providing for the expenses of the Bureau for the current fiscal year requires that the work shall be performed at the Treasury Department, if it can be done as cheaply, as perfectly and as safely as elsewhere. (19 Statutes at Large, p. 353) To determine the question of the cost of executing work in the Bureau and elsewhere, the Secretary issued an advertisement, September 6, inviting proposals, on the 25th of that month, for printing the green backs on legal-tender notes and the black backs on national currency notes, for the period of one year from the 1st of October. The estimate of the Bureau on both classes of work being an average of \$8 71 per thousand perfect sheets, as against \$18 per thousand paid the bank-note company last year, and less than the bid of any of the companies, the Secretary deemed it to be his duty, under the law, to bring this work within the Bureau, at least for the present. After careful examination, the Secretary is satisfied that the work as done in the Bureau is more perfectly done than that heretofore done in private establishments, even at the high rates paid. Upon the question of safety, the Secretary cannot see how it is possible for the Government to be better protected from fraud or mistake than it now is. But the question of safety being one of public policy, the consideration of which properly belongs to Congress, the Secretary respectfully submits it to that body, with the remark that, as the Government has been able with absolute safety by its own agents to make and issue its gold and silver coin, analogy would indicate a similar course as to its paper circulation, and experience shows its practicability.

On the 20th of March last, the Secretary appointed a committee consisting of three experienced officers of the Department to make a thorough examination of the Bureau as then organized and conducted. Upon the report of that committee there were discharged, April 18 and April 30, five hundred and thirty-eight persons, whose annual pay was about \$390,000. On the first day of May the Bureau was put in charge of new officers, who have reorganized it in every branch, and have transformed it into an admirable workshop—as it was the purpose of the law it should be—where the public work can be done with cheapness, safety and excellence. All the papers relating to the various transactions referred to are transmitted herewith.

The Secretary respectfully recommends that Congress appropriate a sum sufficient to erect a substantial fire-proof building for the work performed by this Bureau, and for such other service of a mechanical nature as may, from time to time, be required.

For considerations which justify this recommendation, and for details, the Secretary refers to the accompanying report of the Chief of the Bureau.

**PUBLIC MONEYS.**

In the report of the Treasurer of the United States, herewith submitted, there is set forth a detailed statement of the monetary transactions of the Government during the past year. It will be seen that the coin resources of the Treasury, on all accounts, from September 30, 1876, to September 30, 1877, had increased from \$67,587,705 95 to \$133,585,072 24, and the currency resources from \$100,437,766 44 to \$110,096,939 01.

Since the issue of silver coin commenced there has been returned to the Treasury for redemption a largely-increased amount of minor coins for which there is no demand. On September 29, 1877, there was on hand of these coins an amount of \$870,140 54, constituting a portion of the currency balance of the Treasury practically unavailable for current use, and occupying the Treasury vaults to an inconvenient extent. The necessary legislation for their proper disposition is recommended.

**SPECIAL AGENTS.**

The Secretary calls attention to the accompanying report, showing the transactions in the Division of Special Agents of Customs. Only twenty agents are now authorized to be employed. Until recently the number was fifty-three, and, in view of the extent and character of the duties devolving upon them, it is recommended that the number be increased to at least thirty.

**COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION.**

The Register of the Treasury reports the total tonnage of vessels of the United States to be 4,242,600 tons, a decrease of 36,858 tons from that of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1876.

The actual decrease is believed to be about 13,563 tons, this amount being the excess of the losses over the gains during the last fiscal year, the balance being accounted for by dropping canal boats, exempt under the act of Congress approved April 18, 1874.

The following table exhibits the total tonnage for the last two years:

	1876.		1877.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Registered, engaged in foreign trade.	3,609	1,592,821	2,938	1,611,193
Enrolled and licensed, engaged in domestic commerce.....	32,925	2,638,637	22,393	2,631,407
Total.....	25,934	4,279,458	25,331	4,242,600

The tonnage of vessels built, as given by the Register, is 176,592 tons, being a decrease from that of the previous year of 26,994 tons, or over 15 per centum.

The number of vessels built is 1,029.

Official numbers have been awarded by the Bureau of Statistics during the fiscal year to 1,291 vessels, whose carrying capacity amounts to 217,541 tons, and since July 1, 1877, to 563 vessels, of the aggregate tonnage of 119,639, as the following statement more fully shows:

*Statement showing the number, class and tonnage of vessels officially numbered during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1877.*

Class and character of vessels.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels.....	710	114,236.43
Steam vessels.....	372	66,675.76
Unrigged vessels.....	209	37,415.25
Total.....	1,291	218,327.35

*Vessels numbered and registered from July 1 to November 16, 1877.*

Class and character of vessels.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels.....	264	66,849.29
Steam vessels.....	151	34,116.32
Unrigged vessels.....	192	19,494.22
Total.....	610	120,439.39

In this connection, I would call attention to the fact that a large number of vessels, as defined by section 3 of the Revised Statutes, propelled neither by steam nor sails, go to make up the tonnage of enrolled and licensed vessels, while a large class of vessels with no internal appliances for propulsion is exempt from enrollment and license under the act of April 18, 1874. These vessels consist mainly of barges and open flats engaged in the transportation of coal and lumber on the large navigable rivers of the country. For many years this class of vessels has been increasing, and the water transportation of merchandise upon such rivers has been gradually passing from steam vessels to barges and other craft of temporary structure, which are towed or propelled by steam or sail vessels. The act of 1874 exempted canal boats and boats employed on the internal waters of States from enrollment, so that a discrimination now practically exists between vessels propelled neither by steam nor sails, as regards their liability to enrollment, dependent simply upon the question whether they are or are not usually employed on the internal waters of a State, in connection with their employment on navigable waters of the United States. The purely temporary character of many of these vessels renders it difficult to apply to them the provisions for enrollment that are applicable to vessels propelled by steam or sails, especially as they are so constructed as to admit neither of a permanent crew nor of a master who remains on board.

The discrimination as regards enrollment is, besides, a gratuitous cause of dissatisfaction among that portion of the mercantile community which makes use of craft not propelled directly by steam or sails. All these vessels should be subjected to a system of license and enrollment different from that now in force, or all should be exempted from enrollment. It is believed that the mercantile community would prefer enrollment, if the fees for the preliminary admeasurement were moderate, and the system of enrolling now in force were less complex. An entire abandonment of enrollment deprives the Government to a large

extent of the means of ascertaining the statistics of the trade carried on in this class of vessels.

The number of entries of American vessels into ports of the United States from foreign ports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, was 10,660; the number of clearances of American vessels, foreign, for the same period was 10,790. The number of entries of foreign vessels into ports of the United States from foreign ports during the same period was 18,379; the number of clearances of foreign vessels, foreign, for the same time was 18,174.

The preponderance of foreign tonnage over domestic, in carrying on the foreign commerce of the country, is certainly not in accordance with the national desire. Such an increase in our shipping as will restore this commerce to American citizens should, as far as possible, without burdening other industries, be encouraged by legislation. The increase of the means and appliances for transportation, whether by shipping or land carriage, is a tax upon the industries that produce the commodities to be conveyed. Subsidies drawn from the revenue in support of the transit industries are charges upon the productive industries, and can be discreetly granted only in the sure prospect of a large expansion in the market demand for the commodities to be transported by shipping or railroads, or where the vital necessities of the country require free and speedy communication between its different sections.

The high price in our depreciated paper money of the chief materials for shipbuilding has rendered us unable, since the war, to compete with other nations in this great industry. The demand for iron in building railroads, and the diversion of capital and labor from other industries to that, has, however, at present largely ceased. The appreciation of our currency to nearly the coin standard, the rapid development of the coal and iron industries, and the falling off in the demand for railroads, will tend to direct capital and labor to shipbuilding. Every encouragement may, at least, be given to the increase of commerce in vessels of American ownership that can be prudently afforded by modifying existing law in those respects in which it is a burden upon such commerce.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS.**

The reports of heads of bureaus and divisions, and the various tables referred to, are herewith transmitted as a part of this report.

The Secretary takes pleasure in commending to Congress the industry and ability of the heads of bureaus and other officers of this Department, many of whom by long experience in the discharge of difficult duties have made their services of the greatest value to the Government. The manner in which their complicated duties have been performed, the faithful observance of the trust reposed in them in the receipt and disbursement of large sums of money, and the accuracy and skill with which it is accounted for, entitle them to his grateful acknowledgments.

JOHN SHERMAN, Secretary.

**REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY.**

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY,  
Washington, D. C., December 1, 1877.

To the Hon. The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SIR: I have the honor to submit for the consideration of Congress, in compliance with section three hundred and thirty-three of the Revised Statutes of the United States, the fifteenth annual report of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Carefully-prepared tables accompany this report, showing the average amount of capital and deposits of national banks, State banks, savings banks and private banks of the country, by States and geographical divisions, at two different dates, for each of the years 1876 and 1877; the items of the public debt of the United States at the date of its maximum, August 31, 1865; the amounts and kinds of circulating notes of the United States and of the national banks, yearly, from 1865 to 1877; the specie held by the banks, and the estimated amount in the country, on June 30, 1877; the issue and retirement of bank circulation, by States, under the operation of the acts of June 30, 1874, and January 14, 1875; the amounts and kinds of United States bonds held as security for national-bank notes on November 1, 1877; the number and denominations of legal-tender notes and national-bank notes outstanding on the same date; a classification of the loans of the national banks in New York City and in the other reserve cities in October, for the last three years; together with the average rate of interest in New York and London for those years; the number and amount of national-bank notes issued, redeemed and destroyed, from 1863 to 1877; the amount of circulation and deposits of the banks, and a classification of the reserve required and held at five different dates in each year, from 1871 to 1877; of the weekly movement of legal-tender reserve in the New York City national banks, in the month of October, from 1872 to 1877; the operations of the clearing-house in New York City, for the last twenty-four years; the capital, and amount and rate of taxation, of the national banks, State banks and private bankers, by States, for a series of years; the amount of losses charged off by national banks in the several States and Territories during the years 1876 and 1877; the capital, surplus, dividends and earnings of the national banks, by States and geographical divisions, semi-annually, from 1869 to 1877; the national banks in voluntary liquidation, and insolvent national banks, with their capital stock, claims proved and dividends paid, since the establishment of the national system. The report also contains statements of the State banks and savings banks organized under the laws of the different States, so far as they could be obtained from official sources.

Tables are also given showing the aggregate resources and

liabilities of all the national banks at all the dates for which reports have been made during the past fifteen years, and by States and reserve cities at five different dates for the present year; together with separate statements of the condition of every national bank in the Union on the first day of October of the present year.

The total number of national banks organized since the establishment of the national banking system, on February 25, 1863, is 2,372; of these, two hundred and thirty-three have gone into voluntary liquidation, by vote of shareholders owning two-thirds of their respective capitals, and fifty-nine have been placed in the hands of receivers for the purpose of closing up their affairs, leaving 2,080 in existence on November 1 of this year. Included in the aggregate number organized are nine national gold banks, located in the State of California, which redeem their circulating notes at their places of issue, and in the City of San Francisco, in gold coin. These have an aggregate capital of \$4,300,000, and an aggregate circulation of \$1,432,120.

During the past year twenty-nine banks have been organized, with an authorized capital of \$2,589,000, to which \$1,244,520 in circulating notes have been issued. Ten banks have failed within this period, having an aggregate capital of \$3,344,000; and twenty-six banks, with a total capital of \$2,589,500, have voluntarily discontinued business.

The following table exhibits the resources and liabilities of the banks at the close of business on the first day of October, 1877—the date of their last report; the returns from New York, from Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, from the other reserve cities, and from the remaining banks of the country, being tabulated separately:

Table with 6 columns: Resources, Boston, Phil. and Baltim're, Other reserve cities, Country banks, and Aggregate. Rows include Loans and discounts, On U. S. bonds, On other stocks, Payable in gold, All other loans, Bonds for circulation, U. S. bonds on hand, Other stocks and bonds, Due from reserve agents, Due from other national banks, Real estate, Current expenses, Premiums, Checks and clearing-house, Bills of other national banks, Fractional currency, Specie, Legal-tender notes, U. S. certificates of deposit, Three per cent redemption fund, Due from U. S. Treasury, and various Liability items like Capital stock, Surplus funds, National bank notes, State bank notes, Deposits, and Bills payable.

\* The reserve cities, in addition to New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, are Albany, Pittsburg, Washington, New Orleans, Louisville, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, St. Louis and San Francisco.

THE BANKS AND RESUMPTION.

Sec. 3 of the act of January 14, 1875, provides that "on and after the first day of January, anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, the Secretary of the Treasury shall redeem, in coin, the United States legal tender notes then outstanding, on their presentation for redemption at the office of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States, in the city of New York, in sums of not less than fifty dollars." This legislation is not without precedent, for Congress, on April 30, 1816, by resolution declared that "from and after the 20th day of February next, no duties, taxes, debts or sums of money, accruing or becoming payable to the United States, ought to be collected or received otherwise than in the legal currency of the United States, or Treasury notes, or notes of the Bank of the United States, or in notes of banks which are payable and paid, on demand, in the said legal currency of the United States."

The New York Legislature took similar action at about the same time; and again, on March 23, 1875, it passed an act providing that "all taxes levied and confirmed in this State, on and after January 1, 1879, shall be collected in gold, United States gold certificates, or national bank notes which are redeemable in gold on demand," and that "every contract or obligation made or implied after January 1, 1879, and payable in dollars, but not in a specified kind of dollars, shall be payable in United States coins of the standard of weight and fineness established by the laws of the United States at the time the contract or obligation shall have been made or implied."

The banks in this country, with the exception of those in the New England States, suspended specie payment in September, 1814. The New York banks resumed specie payment on February 20, 1817, but resumption was not general throughout the

country until about the close of the year 1819. There was also a general suspension in May, 1837; but in May of the next year the New York and New England banks again resumed specie payment. The banks in Pennsylvania finally resumed, under the coercion of the State Legislature, in March, 1842. Banks in other portions of the country resumed at about the same date. A general suspension again occurred in October, 1857, the banks resuming specie payment in the following year.

It would be instructive to compare the condition of the banks during previous periods of suspension and resumption with that at the present time; but detailed statements of the assets and liabilities of the banks during the first period of suspension, which continued for five years, cannot be obtained. The published statistics of the State banks during the later periods mentioned are not wholly satisfactory for the purpose desired, for the reason that the bank reports were not of uniform date in the several States, while the items of specie, circulation and deposits vary greatly in amount throughout the country at different dates in the same year. The specie as reported was not separated from checks payable in coin, and it is known that in some instances the same specie was more than once returned.

From such data as are now obtainable the following table has been prepared, giving the items of circulation, deposits and bank balances of all the State banks, and of the specie held by them, for a series of eight years, covering both of the periods of suspension and resumption:

Table with 5 columns: Years, Circulation, Deposits and bank balances, Total, and Specie. Rows list years from 1835 to 1858 and averages.

The subjoined table gives similar information in reference to the national banks for the last eight years:

Table with 5 columns: Years, Circulation, Deposits and bank balances, Total, and Legal Tender funds. Rows list years from 1870 to 1877 and averages.

By reference to these tables it will be seen that from 1835 to 1842 the average ratio of specie to circulation held by the State banks was 31.67 per cent, and to circulation and deposits 18 per cent; and that from 1850 to 1858 it was 32.1 and 16.01 per cent, respectively. The ratio of specie and legal tenders to circulation of the national banks, for the eight years named, was 45.5, and to circulation and deposits 16.7 per cent.

The yearly average circulation of the banks of the State of New York for the ten years from 1851 to 1860 was \$29,698,094, and of deposits \$82,364,349. The average amount of specie held by those banks yearly during the same period was \$16,237,377, of which about one-eighth only was held by the banks outside of the city of New York, and the remaining seven-eighths by the banks in that city. The average ratio of specie to circulation for the ten years named was 54.8 per cent, while to circulation and deposits the ratio was only 14.5 per cent.

The following tables, the first of which has been prepared from information furnished by the manager of the New York Clearing-House, show the strength of the State banks of New York City for the six years from 1855 to 1860, compared with that of the national banks of the same city, at nearly corresponding dates for the last six years:

Table titled 'State Banks of New York City' with 5 columns: Dates, Number of banks, Circulation, Deposits, and Total liabilities. It compares State banks with National banks at various dates from 1855 to 1860, including ratios of legal-tender funds to circulation and deposits.

\* "Legal-tender funds," in the case of the State banks represents specie.



National Banks in New York City.

	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Oct. 3, 1872.	50	28,070,951	153,004,124	186,103,072	45,391,832	161.7
Sept. 19, 1873	48	27,482,312	172,710,514	200,193,186	46,894,341	170.3
Oct. 2, 1874	48	25,311,791	201,630,288	233,912,094	66,835,862	204.3
Oct. 1, 1875	48	18,307,317	202,263,062	230,672,969	59,305,715	324.4
Oct. 2, 1876	47	14,832,764	197,917,056	212,741,449	53,813,853	403.5
Oct. 1, 1877.	47	15,396,297	174,933,155	190,833,412	47,260,251	397.0
Averages. . . .	48	21,563,730	185,078,852	216,642,591	54,268,827	251.7

The national banks are required by section 5172 of the Revised Statutes of the United States to pay their circulating notes on demand, and by section 3 of the act of June 20, 1874, to "keep and have on deposit in the Treasury of the United States, in lawful money of the United States, a sum equal to five per centum of their circulation, to be held and used for the redemption of such circulation." When the legal-tender notes shall be redeemed in coin, the banks will also be required to redeem in coin or in such notes. These notes will then become *coin certificates*, and will be more convenient and desirable for general use than coin, for the reason that the cost of their transportation will be less than that of specie.

The banks of New York City, during the month of December in the last eight years, have held in lawful money an average of 23.4 per cent upon their circulation, and of 26.8 per cent upon their circulation and deposits combined. The average amount of lawful money held by the banks in the principal cities during the same periods has equaled 59.2 per cent of their circulation, and, including the amount due from their reserve agents, it has equaled 26.5 per cent of both circulation and deposits. The national banks of the whole country have held during the same periods an average of 43 per cent of their circulation, and including, as before, the amounts due from their agents, an average of 23.2 per cent upon deposits and circulation. \* \* \* \* \*

It will be seen from the various tables given that the average strength of the national banks for the last eight years is fully equal to that of the State banks during periods of suspension and resumption in former times; and, if resumption is to take place upon any fixed date, the national banks will be certain, as a matter of precaution, to strengthen their reserves beyond the averages here given. It cannot be doubted, therefore, that the national banks will be prepared to redeem their circulating notes at any date of resumption which may be fixed upon.

But, while it is admitted that the banks may easily pay in coin their circulating notes, it is said that it will be impossible for them to provide in the same way for their deposits. Those who take this view proceed on the assumption that the banks will be called upon to pay their deposits in specie. This was not true during any former period of specie payment, and is less likely to be true under the national banking system than it was under any previous system of banking. The banks in this country, from their first organization, have, in times of resumption as well as of suspension, received from their dealers current bank notes and have paid out the same. This is true to-day in England, Scotland, Germany and France, in all of which countries the bank note is preferred, as a rule, to either gold or silver. Only a small portion of the bank circulation of the country, at any period prior to 1863, was either sale or convertible, and the losses to the holders of bank notes during such period is estimated to have been not less than five per cent annually upon the whole amount of circulation outstanding. Yet even this circulation, poor and defective as it was, was freely received by the banks, and was paid out by them to their depositors, so closely identified were the interests of the one with the other. The notes which were returned from the commercial centers for redemption were readily paid out and circulated at home, and the demand for specie, wherever it existed, was almost entirely owing either to an excess of currency or to a want of confidence in the institutions which issued it.

The people throughout the country now know what, prior to 1863, they could not know; for it was not then true that every bank note is safe beyond peradventure, and that if these notes are not paid at the counters of the banks which issued them, they will be paid at the Treasury Department, in lawful money, and that the securities held therefor are amply sufficient for that purpose. No reason, therefore, exists why the people—who, in the last fourteen years, have not lost one dollar through the use of bank notes—should decline to receive such notes in payment of their deposits. These notes are not only guaranteed by the Government, but they are received by it in payment of all taxes and other dues, except duties on imports, and are disbursed by it in payment of all demands except interest on the public debt, and in the redemption of national-bank notes.

The national banks hold eight hundred and eighty millions of loans made to the people, and each bank is required, by section 5196 of the Revised Statutes, "to take and receive at par, for any debt or liability to it, any and all notes or bills issued by any lawfully-organized national banking association." There are, therefore, eight hundred and eighty millions of liabilities of the people due to the national banks—a sum largely exceeding the whole amount of deposits—which may be paid in the notes of any or all of the national banks in the country. The national-bank notes are therefore very different in character from the heterogeneous bank notes formerly issued by authority of the several States. Moreover, the deposits of the banks are largely owned by their own shareholders and by their borrowers; and surely business men, who look to the banks for accommodations, and stockholders whose profits depend upon their successful management, will be the last to conspire to injure their credit.

Deposits consist chiefly of bank credits, are derived largely from the discount of commercial paper, and are paid mainly by transfers upon the books—not with either coin or currency. Throughout the country all large payments are made, not with money,

but with checks. In the principal cities these payments are accomplished through the operations of clearing-houses. During the last twenty-four years the exchanges of the New York Clearing-House were 451 thousand millions, while the balances paid in money were less than nineteen thousand millions. The average daily exchanges during this whole period were more than sixty-one millions, while the average daily balances paid in money were but two and one-half millions, or but four and one-fifth cents upon the dollar, as will be seen by a table on another page.

In England, in 1821, after resumption, there was but little demand for gold, nor was there in France after resumption by the Bank of France in 1850, nor has there been in this country at any previous time following the resumption of specie payment. The Bank of France is at present in a state of suspension, but its notes are preferred by the public to specie, and the Bank has found it difficult to reduce the volume of its circulating notes in exchange for coin. All thought of demanding actual payment in specie will vanish as soon as resumption is assured, and those timid bankers who fear that their dealers will demand coin for every dollar of their deposits can reassure themselves by an agreement with their dealers that their deposits shall be payable, as at the present time, "in current funds," which will then consist of legal-tender notes and the notes of specie-paying banks. There is no greater bugbear than the oft-repeated cry, that the Treasury and the banks must provide specie for the payment of two thousand millions of deposits, before resumption can take place.

The coinage act of 1873 provides for the issue of a gold dollar, which shall be the unit of value; but, since the suspension of specie payments, the business transactions of the country have been based upon a false and fluctuating measure of value. This will be seen from the following table, which gives the value of the legal-tender paper dollar on July 1 of each year, from 1863 to 1877, the last column of the table showing, also, its value on November 1 of the present year:

1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877*
Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.
76.6	83.7	70.4	66.6	71.7	70.1	73.5	35.6	89.0	97.5	86.4	91.0	87.2	89.2	91.7

\* November 1 of this year.

The coinage act also provides that the standard weight of this gold dollar, which is the unit of value, shall be twenty-five and eight-tenths grains; but the paper dollar in use since 1863 has represented a gold coin fluctuating in weight from less than ten grains to about twenty-five grains, as follows:

1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877*
Grs.	Grs.	Grs.	Grs.	Grs.	Grs.	Grs.	Grs.	Grs.	Grs.	Grs.	Grs.	Grs.	Grs.	Grs.
19.8	9.9	18.1	17.0	18.4	18.0	18.9	22.0	22.9	22.5	22.2	23.4	22.4	23.0	24.8

\* November 1 of this year.

These tables by no means fully represent the fluctuations in the legal standard of value during the last sixteen years. The variations cannot be counted by the number of years, nor even by the number of days. They have been numerous on each day since the date of suspension, and can only be numbered by tens of thousands. The importers, and other wholesale dealers, have often found, during the last sixteen years, that they could have realized more profit from the purchase and sale of gold than of the commodities belonging to their legitimate trade. The tendency of such fluctuations is either to bankrupt or to demoralize all persons engaged in ordinary traffic; for, under such circumstances, business of every kind becomes simply a game of chance, based upon the ever-changing value or weight of a false but legalized standard, and persons in every portion of the country abandon their legitimate business and embark in speculations, bringing failure and disgrace upon themselves and losses upon those who confide in them.

If the weight of all the produce which has been purchased in the last sixteen years had been determined by a standard pound which varied in weight from six to sixteen ounces, or if the measure of all fabrics had been ascertained by a yard-stick, the length of which at different times ranged all the way from fourteen to thirty-six inches, the evil resulting from the use of such false and varying standards of weight and measure could not be greater than that which has followed the use, during the same period, of so false a standard of value as the paper dollar has been.

Not many years ago it required one hundred large and heavy weights to balance one hundred bushels of wheat. To-day, by the advance in mechanical science, a five-pound weight will balance a much larger amount of produce, while the actual use of the pound weight is confined to the small transactions of the retail trade. It would now be impracticable to weigh the products of the country with the old-fashioned balances; but, by the aid of the modern platform scales, the weight of car-loads of coal and of canal boats of grain, is quickly and accurately determined in pounds, every one of which is exactly sixteen ounces avoirdupois. There is not sufficient gold or silver coin in the country with which to pay for the one-twentieth part of the products of the present year; but the machinery of the bank, with its system of checks, and bills of exchange, and clearing-houses, will pay for it all in dollars, every one of which will be an equivalent of the true standard dollar of twenty-five and eight-tenths grains of gold, nine-tenths fine.

Resumption does not mean the actual use and handling of the gold dollar in every transaction. Coin and currency are but the small change used in the retail trade. Bank checks and bills of exchange are the instruments employed in all large transactions. A single check pays for a whole invoice of goods, for car loads of coal, and for houses and lands. Resumption means only that the dollar represented by the check shall be equivalent to twenty-five and eight-tenths grains of gold, as the pound represented upon

the beam of the platform scale shall be equivalent to sixteen ounces avoirdupois. It means that the millions and billions of business transactions of a single year shall each be measured by a fixed and true, and not by a fluctuating and false, standard of value.

Congress, on March 18, 1869, passed an act in which "the United States pledges its faith to make provision at the earliest practicable period for the redemption of United States notes in coin"; and on January 14, 1875, a day was fixed for that purpose. The paper dollar is now worth 97 1/2 cents in gold, and represents a weight of about twenty-five grains of that metal. It has increased in its representative value and weight forty per cent during the last ten years, more than ten per cent during the past two years, and nearly five per cent within the last six months; and there is no apparent good reason why it should not soon become of the full standard value, when both the paper and the gold dollar will be an equal measure of value, for the rich and poor alike.

The Government, and the banks of the country also, suspended specie payment on December 28, 1861; and it is believed that the national banks will cordially unite with the Government in restoring the true standard of value, whenever the acts of Congress referred to shall be carried into effect.

NATIONAL-BANK CIRCULATION.

The following table exhibits, by States and geographical divisions, the number of banks organized and in operation, with their capital, bonds on deposit, and circulation issued, redeemed and outstanding on the 1st day of November, 1877:

Table with columns: States and Territories, Banks in operation, Capital, Bonds, Circulation (Issued, Redeemed, Outstanding). Rows include Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Eastern States, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Middle States, Dist. of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Southern and Southwestern States, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Western States, Nevada, Oregon, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, Dakota, Pacific States & Territories, Due banks for mutilated notes retired, Grand totals, Add for gold banks, Totals of currency and gold banks.

notes; and the act of January 14, 1875, repealed all provisions restricting the aggregate amount of national bank circulation, and required the Secretary of the Treasury to retire legal-tender notes to an amount equal to eighty per cent of the national-bank notes thereafter issued, until the amount of such legal-tender notes outstanding should be \$300,000,000, and no more.

Nearly all of the \$300,000,000 of national-bank circulation originally authorized was issued during the first six years subsequent to the establishment of the system, the amount outstanding on November 1, 1868, having been \$299,887,875—or within \$112,225 of the authorized limit. The additional fifty-four millions authorized by the act of July 12, 1870, was never wholly issued, the greatest amount of circulation outstanding at any time having been on December 1, 1874, when it was \$352,394,346, or \$1,605,654 less than then authorized by law.

Since the passage of the acts of June 20, 1874, and of January 14, 1875, authorizing the retirement and reissue of national bank notes at the pleasure of the banks, the circulation has been steadily decreasing in amount. This will be seen from the following table, which exhibits the total outstanding circulation, not including mutilated notes in transit, upon the 1st day of January for the last ten years, and also upon November 1 of the present year.

Table with columns: Date, Amount. Rows include Jan. 1, 1868, Jan. 1, 1869, Jan. 1, 1870, Jan. 1, 1871, Jan. 1, 1872, Jan. 1, 1873, Jan. 1, 1874, Jan. 1, 1875, Jan. 1, 1876, Jan. 1, 1877.

The amount of legal-tender notes on deposit for the purpose of retiring national-bank circulation was, on November 1, 1875, \$20,238,642; on November 1, 1876, \$20,910,946; and on November 1, 1877, \$13,111,371; and deducting these amounts respectively from the amount of circulation outstanding at the dates named, the remainder, on November 1, 1875, was \$322,944,586; on November 1, 1876, \$298,965,250; and on November 1, 1877, \$302,770,619—or only \$2,770,619 more than the three hundred millions originally authorized.

Since the passage of the act of June 20, 1874, \$76,221,220 of legal-tender notes have been deposited in the Treasury for the purpose of retiring circulation, and \$63,109,849 of bank notes have been redeemed, destroyed and retired. Since the passage of the act of January 14, 1875, \$34,386,385 of additional circulation has been issued, and legal-tender notes equal to eighty per cent thereof, or \$27,509,108, have been retired, leaving \$354,490,892 of the latter notes outstanding November 1, 1877. The amount of additional circulation issued for the year ending November 1, 1877, was \$16,306,030, of which \$1,244,520 was issued to twenty-nine banks organized during the year, having capital amounting to \$2,589,060; and within the same period \$20,681,637 of circulation were retired, without reissue; the actual decrease for the year being \$4,375,607, and the total decrease since January 14, 1875, \$35,086,339. During the year ending November 1, 1877, lawful money to the amount of \$10,465,756 was deposited with the Treasurer to redeem circulation, of which amount \$2,291,266 were deposited by banks in liquidation. The amount previously deposited, under the act of June 20, 1874, was \$52,853,560, and by banks in liquidation \$9,088,229; to which is to be added a balance of \$3,813,675 remaining from deposits made by liquidating banks prior to the passage of that act. Deducting from the total of the sums named (\$76,121,220) the amount of circulating notes redeemed and destroyed and for which no reissue has been made (\$63,109,849), there remained in the hands of the Treasurer on November 1, 1877, \$13,111,371 of lawful money for the redemption and retirement of circulation.

RESERVE.

It is estimated by the best authorities that the Scotch banks, which have long enjoyed the reputation of being well managed, and the Joint-stock and other incorporated banks of England (not including the Bank of England) hold not exceeding five per cent of their liabilities in ready money. The remainder of their reserves are largely invested in the English consols, bearing interest at the rate of three per cent per annum, the average price of which, since 1850, has been about 92 cents to the dollar.

The French Government issues small coupon bonds, or rentes, in denominations as low as one hundred francs, or about twenty dollars, for the convenience of those who desire to invest their savings in the public funds. The recent failures of savings banks throughout this country, having on deposit large amounts of the people's earnings, has suggested the propriety and policy of the issue by the Government of four per cent bonds of a denomination less than fifty dollars. There is but little doubt that the savings of the people would be largely invested in such bonds, provided they could be readily negotiated by the holders, when desired, without material loss.

The national banks in the reserve cities are required to keep a reserve of twenty-five per cent upon deposits, one-half of which may be on deposit with their reserve agents in the city of New York. The country banks are required to hold a reserve of fifteen per cent upon deposits, three-fifths of which may consist of balances with their correspondents in the reserve cities. An amount equal to more than one-sixth of the capital of the national banks, or about \$87,000,000, is thus continually kept on deposit with the banks in the reserve cities. A considerable portion, probably one half of this amount, is sent by the banks to their correspondents, not for the purpose of legitimate business, but in order to obtain interest upon idle funds which cannot be invested by them in available loans. If authority were given to the national banks to hold, in four per cent bonds of a denomination less than fifty dollars, such portion of their reserve on deposit with their agents

as they might think proper, it would result in a large investment by them in these securities; and the savings bank depositor, if he should so desire, would then find no difficulty in disposing of these small bonds among the twenty-one hundred national banks, one, at least, of which is located in almost every village in the country.

It is estimated that an amount, varying from 200 to 600 millions of dollars, is held in English consols, as a reserve fund, by the banks of the United Kingdom; and there does not seem to be any good reason why the four per cent consols of the United States should not be employed for a similar purpose in this country.

The following tables exhibit the amount of circulation, net deposits and reserve held by the national banks in the States and Territories, together with the total amount held by all the banks, at three periods in each year, from 1871 to the present time:

[Figures are expressed in millions and fractions of millions. Thus, 302.8 means 302,800,000.]

STATES AND TERRITORIES, EXCLUSIVE OF RESERVE CITIES.

Table with columns: DATES, Number of banks, Liabilities (Circulation, Net deposits, Total), Reserve required, R's'rve held (Amount, Ratio to liabilities), Classification of reserve (Specie, Other lawful money, Due from agents).

NEW YORK CITY.

Table with columns: DATES, Number of banks, Liabilities (Circulation, Net deposits, Total), Reserve required, R's'rve held (Amount, Ratio to liabilities), Classification of reserve (Specie, Other lawful money, Due from agents).

OTHER RESERVE CITIES.

Table with columns: DATES, Number of banks, Liabilities (Circulation, Net deposits, Total), Reserve required, R's'rve held (Amount, Ratio to liabilities), Classification of reserve (Specie, Other lawful money, Due from agents).

SUMMARY.

Summary table with columns: DATES, Number of banks, Liabilities (Circulation, Net deposits, Total), Reserve required, R's'rve held (Amount, Ratio to liabilities), Classification of reserve (Specie, Other lawful money, Due from agents).

Previous to the passage of the act of June 20, 1874, the national banks were required to hold a reserve upon circulation and deposits. By that act the provisions requiring a reserve to be kept upon circulation were repealed; but the banks were required to deposit with the Treasurer of the United States lawful money, equal in amount to five per centum of their circulation, as a redemption fund, which fund was authorized to be counted as a part of the reserve upon deposits.

The following table exhibits the amount of net deposits, and the reserve required thereon by the act of June 20, 1874, together with the amount and classification of reserve held, at ten different dates, from October 2, 1874, to October 1, 1877, the date of the latest returns from the banks.

STATES AND TERRITORIES, EXCLUSIVE OF RESERVE CITIES.

Table with columns: DATES, No. of banks, Net deposits, Reserve required, Reserve held (Amount, Ratio to deposits), Classification of reserve (Specie, Other lawful money, Due from agents, Redemption fund).

NEW YORK CITY.

Table with columns: DATES, No. of banks, Net deposits, Reserve required, Reserve held (Amount, Ratio to deposits), Classification of reserve (Specie, Other lawful money, Due from agents, Redemption fund).

OTHER RESERVE CITIES.

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SUMMARY.

Summary table with columns: DATES, No. of banks, Net deposits, Reserve required, Reserve held (Amount, Ratio to deposits), Classification of reserve (Specie, Other lawful money, Due from agents, Redemption fund).

In the above table, as will be seen, the redemption fund is kept separate from the lawful money reserve required to be kept on hand, and from the amount due from reserve agents.

The following table exhibits the movements of lawful money reserve, consisting of specie and legal-tender notes, of the New York City national banks, weekly, during the month of October, for the last six years:

Table with columns: Week ending, Specie, Legal tenders, Total, Ratio to liabilities.

The following table, compiled from weekly returns to the New York Clearing-House, exhibits the average liabilities (consisting of circulation and net deposits) and the reserve held, together

with the average amount of legal-tender notes and specie, and the ratio of each to liabilities, of the New York City national banks, in October of each year, from 1870 to 1877.

Table with columns: Dates, Liabilities, Reserve held (Legal tenders, Specie, Total), Ratio to liabilities (Legal tenders, Specie, Total). Rows for years 1870-1877.

A table showing the average weekly deposits, circulation and reserve of these banks, for the months of September and October, since 1870, will be found in the Appendix. Tables will also be found in the Appendix showing the state of the lawful money reserve of the national banks, as shown by their reports, from October 8, 1870, to October 1, 1877, together with a similar table showing the reserves, by States and principal cities, for October 1, 1877.

CLASSIFICATION OF LOANS OF NATIONAL BANKS IN NEW YORK CITY, AND RATES OF INTEREST IN NEW YORK AND LONDON FROM 1874 TO 1877.

The following table contains a classification of the loans of the national banks in New York City, at the dates of their reports in October, for the last four years:

Table with columns: Loans and discounts, October 2, 1874, October 1, 1875, October 2, 1876, October 1, 1877. Rows include various loan types like 'On paper with two or more names', 'On single-name paper', etc.

By reference to this table it will be seen that the total amount of loans of the national banks in the city of New York on October 1, 1877, was \$169,162,301, which is much less than at the date of any report for the last seven years. On January 22, 1870, the loans were \$163,314,034, and on October 8, of the same year, \$168,082,085.

The average rate of interest in New York City for each of the fiscal years from 1874 to 1877, as ascertained from data derived from the FINANCIAL CHRONICLE and the Journal of Commerce of that city, was as follows:

- 1874, call loans, 3 3/8 per cent; commercial paper, 5 1/4 per cent.
1875, call loans, 3 1/2 per cent; commercial paper, 5 1/8 per cent.
1876, call loans, 3 3/8 per cent; commercial paper, 5 3/8 per cent.
1877, call loans, 3 1/2 per cent; commercial paper, 5 1/4 per cent.

The average rates of interest of the Bank of England for the same years was:

- \* 1874, 3 3/8 per cent.
\* 1875, 3 1/2 per cent.
\* 1876, 2 61 per cent.
† 1877, 2 16 per cent.

The rate of interest in the city of New York on November 27 of the present year, as quoted in the Daily Bulletin, was on call loans from 5 to 6 per cent, and on commercial paper of the best grade from 5 1/2 to 7 per cent. The rate of interest of the Bank of England was reduced from 5 to 4 per cent on November 28.

TAXATION.

The following table exhibits the amount of taxes paid by the national banks to the United States, yearly, from the organization of the system to July 1, 1877, the rate of taxation being one per cent annually upon the average amount of notes in circulation, one-half of one per cent annually upon the average amount of deposits, and a like rate upon the average amount of capital stock not invested in United States bonds:

Table with columns: Years, On circulation, On deposits, On capital, Totals. Rows for years 1864-1877.

The amounts collected by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue... \* Calendar years. † Fiscal year.

enue from State banks and private bankers, during the same period, were as follows:

Table with columns: Years, On circulation, On deposits, On capital, Totals. Rows for years 1864-1877.

The number and value of two-cent check stamps sold by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, yearly, cannot be ascertained. The value of such stamps ordered from contractors during the fiscal years designated was as follows: In 1874, \$1,502,549; 1875, \$1,949,166; 1876, \$1,892,941; and in 1877, \$1,889,334:

From these tables it will be seen that the total amount collected from the national banks, State banks and private bankers, during the last year, was \$10,828,656 12, and from the date of the imposition of this tax to the present time, not including the tax on bank checks, it was \$126,988,461 59. The total amount of tax paid upon circulation by the national banks to July 1, 1877, was \$36,827,770 27; while the whole expense of this office from its organization to the same date was \$4,298,270 34, which, under section 5173 of the Revised Statutes, is payable out of the proceeds of this tax. The tax upon the national banks has been, from the beginning, collected without expense to the Government.

The Comptroller, in August last, issued a circular addressed to the national banks, requesting them to report the taxes paid by them under State and municipal laws for the year 1876, and in reply has received returns from all the banks continuously in operation throughout the year, 2,046 in number, having an aggregate capital of \$488,272,782. From these reports and the returns made to the Treasurer of the United States, under the provisions of section 5215 of the Revised Statutes, a table has been prepared giving the amount of United States and State taxes paid by the national banks in each of the States, Territories and principal cities, together with the rates of taxation upon capital, for the year 1876.

Similar tables for the years 1867, 1869, 1874 and 1875 will be found in the Appendix. Statements of the amount of State and municipal taxes paid by the national banks for the year 1866 were also received, but were not tabulated by States. From the data for the years named, estimates have been made for 1863, 1870, 1871, 1872 and 1873, and a table has been prepared, showing the amount of national and State taxes paid yearly by the national banks, for the last eleven years, as follows:

Table with columns: Years, Capital stock, Amount of Taxes (U. S., State, Total), Ratio of tax to capital (U. S., State, Total). Rows for years 1866-1876.

The unequal taxation imposed upon national-bank capital in the principal cities of the country is shown in the following table, which gives the rates of national and State taxation, in the cities named, for the years 1875 and 1876:

Table with columns: Cities, Rates of Taxation (1875, 1876) (U. S., State, Total). Rows for cities like Boston, New York, Albany, Philadelphia, etc.

The rates of taxation—national, State and total—upon national-bank capital, in those States in which the rate of taxation has been highest for the last three years, are as follows:

States.	1874.			1875.			1876.		
	U. S.	State.	Total.	U. S.	State.	Total.	U. S.	State.	Total.
New York	1.9	2.9	4.8	1.8	2.0	3.7	1.8	3.1	4.9
New Jersey	1.5	2.1	3.6	1.5	2.1	3.6	1.4	2.1	3.5
Ohio	1.4	2.2	3.6	1.4	2.4	3.8	1.3	2.7	4.0
Indiana	1.2	2.6	3.8	1.2	2.6	3.8	1.2	2.5	3.7
Illinois	1.6	2.2	4.0	1.8	2.4	4.2	1.8	2.4	4.2
Wisconsin	1.8	2.3	4.1	1.7	2.1	3.8	1.7	2.1	3.8
Kansas	1.5	3.3	4.8	1.4	3.2	4.6	1.5	3.0	4.5
Nebraska	2.0	3.3	5.3	2.2	2.3	4.5	2.2	2.5	4.7
South Carolina	1.1	3.6	4.7	1.1	3.4	4.5	1.0	2.7	3.7
Tennessee	1.5	2.3	3.7	1.4	2.3	3.7	1.4	2.1	3.5

The following table gives, by geographical divisions, the amount, with the ratio to capital, of State and national taxation, for the years 1874, 1875 and 1876:

Geographical Divisions.	Capital.*	Amount of Taxes.			Ratios to Capital		
		U. S.	St. ate.	Total.	U. S.	State	Tot.
		\$	\$	\$	P. c.	P. c.	P. c.
New England States.	160,517,266	1,896,539	2,980,481	4,877,017	1.2	1.8	3.0
Middle States.....	190,162,123	3,323,425	3,911,371	7,236,796	1.7	2.1	3.8
Southern States.....	34,485,483	436,540	517,792	954,332	1.3	1.5	2.8
West. States and Ter's	109,513,801	1,507,383	2,210,673	3,808,254	1.5	2.0	3.5
United States.....	493,751,679	7,856,659	9,620,320	16,876,409	1.5	2.0	3.5
1875.							
New England States..	161,316,373	1,937,016	3,016,537	4,953,753	1.2	1.8	3.0
Middle States.....	193,585,507	3,200,498	4,062,459	7,362,957	1.7	2.1	3.8
Southern States.....	34,485,483	445,018	476,226	921,284	1.3	1.4	2.7
West. States and Ter's	111,300,868	1,631,960	2,502,890	4,137,850	1.5	2.4	3.9
United States.....	501,687,911	7,317,231	10,058,122	17,375,853	1.5	2.0	3.5
1876.							
New England States.	163,063,379	1,947,970	2,944,803	4,892,773	1.2	1.7	2.9
Middle States.....	192,163,773	3,190,217	4,025,316	7,215,563	1.7	2.2	3.8
Southern States.....	33,439,193	423,731	431,164	854,912	1.3	1.3	2.6
West. States and Ter's	103,116,731	1,514,039	2,320,441	3,834,583	1.4	2.3	3.7
United States.....	501,788,079	7,076,037	9,701,732	16,777,819	1.4	2.0	3.4

\* The capital of the banks which reported State taxes in 1874 was \$476,534,031; in 1875, \$493,738,408; and in 1876, \$483,273,782.

In my report for 1876, a table arranged by States and principal cities was given, exhibiting the losses charged off by the national banks during the two dividend periods, of six months each, ending respectively on March 1 and September 1, 1876, the information having been derived from the dividend reports made to this office under section 5212 of the Revised Statutes. A similar table is now presented, showing the losses charged off, as above stated, during the years 1876 and 1877.

The table shows that the losses for the first six months of the year were \$8,175,960 56, and for the last six months \$11,757,627 43; total, \$19,933,587 99. The losses for the preceding year were, for the first six months \$6,501,169 82, and for the last six months, \$13,217,856 60; total, \$19,719,026 42—showing an increase in the total losses for the current year over those of the preceding year of \$214,561 57. The amount of losses charged off by the banks in the principal cities was as follows:

Cities.	1876.	1877.
New York.....	\$6,873,759 97	\$4,917,941 66
Boston.....	1,593,722 63	2,132,053 81
Philadelphia.....	152,976 14	335,218 47
Pittsburg.....	393,831 70	283,466 59
Baltimore.....	876,207 32	200,347 74
New Orleans.....	519,701 41	286,359 47

The number of banks which made no dividends in the last four periods of six months each, together with the amount of their capital, is shown in the following table, by geographical divisions:

Geographical Divisions.	Six months ending:							
	March 1, '76.		Sept. 1, '76.		March 1, '77.		Sept. 1, '77.	
	No.	Capital.	No.	Capital.	No.	Capital.	No.	Capital.
New Eng. States.	26	\$3,777,000	32	\$7,700,000	25	\$8,150,000	35	\$9,035,000
Middle States....	56	10,700,000	64	16,135,725	73	12,742,000	92	15,573,200
Southern States..	29	4,135,000	31	4,390,000	27	3,720,000	30	4,236,000
Western States..	113	14,773,800	129	13,873,000	106	14,000,000	118	10,737,000
Pacific States and Territories.....	11	900,000	14	1,950,000	14	1,750,000	13	1,525,000
Totals.....	235	34,200,300	273	44,037,725	215	40,152,000	283	41,126,200

The internal-revenue law of July 1, 1863, imposed taxes upon almost the entire property and products of the country. The amount of internal revenue collected during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866, was nearly \$310,000,000. The act of July 13 of that year largely reduced this amount, and a still further reduction was effected by the legislation of the two following years, which exempted from taxation all manufactures and products, except gas, spirits, tobacco and fermented liquors. The entire internal revenue is now derived from taxes upon the three last-mentioned articles, upon such articles as require the use of pro-

prietary stamps, and upon bank deposits, capital, circulation and checks. It is difficult to understand why the tax upon bank deposits, which tax, like the others, was essentially a war tax, was not repealed at the same time, unless because of an unjust prejudice against banks which is peculiar to this country, and which is traceable to the large losses heretofore sustained by the people upon bank currency issued under the authority of injudicious laws of many of the States.

The *London Bankers' Magazine* for April, 1877, in commenting upon this subject, says: "It is easy to understand how, in the midst of that terrible struggle for existence which raged for a time every joint and sinew of national life almost past endurance, the Government of the United States felt compelled to seize hold of every and any available basis for taxation, and hence fixed on the easily-reached resources of the banks as a most valuable source of supply. But now that those dangers are happily passed, no adequate reason can be given for such an impost. There is nothing which conduces more to the prosperity of a country than a sound system of banking, and besides good management, which is of course understood, nothing is more essential to sound banking than sufficient and ample capital—capital large enough to enable depositors to feel they may rest on it in safety; and any measure which imperils the growth of banking capital for the sake of the taxes which may be levied on it is indeed shortsighted."

The deposits of the banks, which at present amount to more than \$2,000,000,000, as may be seen by reference to another page, are considerably more than twice the whole amount of the paper currency and coin in the country. They are not money, but merely represent commodities which, to a great extent, are not subjected to national taxation. The wheat and flour which are shipped from Minnesota to the East are taxed in the banks at St. Paul, if their avails are represented by a bill of exchange upon Chicago. If the same commodities are reshipped from Chicago to New York, a tax is again imposed in the former of these two cities upon their representative bill of exchange, and again in New York when they are exported to a foreign market. The same is true of the avails of cotton shipped from the South, and of manufactures sent from the New England and other States.

According to the Treasury regulations, deductions of amounts re-deposited are not allowable in estimating the taxable deposits. The total individual and bank deposits of each bank must therefore be returned without allowance of such moneys as are deposited by it with its correspondents. A temporary resident in Florida draws his check against his deposit in Boston, which is already subjected to taxation in that city. The bank at Jacksonville transmits the check to its correspondent at Savannah, the Savannah bank transmits it to Philadelphia, the Philadelphia banker to New York, and the New York banker to Boston, where the check is collected. According to the regulations of the Department, this check, which is not money, but which represents the amount on deposit in Boston, is subject to tax five different times while in transit.

The State laws generally authorize the indebtedness of individuals to be deducted from personal property returned for the purposes of taxation; but the tax on deposits is, on the contrary, a tax upon the indebtedness of the banks, and not only upon their indebtedness to private individuals and corporations, but, in the case of disbursing officers of the United States, to the Government itself. The law requires that the banks shall keep on hand, as a permanent reserve fund, from fifteen to twenty-five per cent of their deposits; and these reserves, which are held without profit to the banks, and solely for the security of their billholders and depositors, are also subjected to a tax. The injustice of all this would seem to be apparent.

The losses of the banks have been unprecedentedly large since the panic of 1873. Many banks have paid no dividends, and others have frequently been paid from surplus, which fund the law contemplated shall be held as a reserve fund for the protection of depositors and dealers.

The banks are not a monopoly, nor is their stock very largely held by the rich men of the country. It is distributed quite generally among people of moderate means, who need for their support regular dividends upon the small amounts of stock which represent their accumulated earnings. This fact will be seen by reference to the carefully-prepared tables on this subject given in my last annual report, where it appears that the number of shareholders of the national banks was then 238,456, and that the average amount of stock held by each shareholder was but about \$3,100. More than one half of these shareholders held but ten shares or less, each (not to exceed \$1,000), while the entire number holding more than one hundred shares each was but 10,851, or only about one-twentieth part of the whole number; and of these but 767 held more than five hundred shares each.

The resources of the banks are reported regularly to the Comptroller in sworn statements, and are published in the newspapers of nearly every village in the country. They are also presented annually in the reports of the Comptroller, and are, therefore, accessible to the assessors of every town; so that the banks cannot evade taxation, or deceive the authorities, or resort to any of the devices which other corporations and many private individuals practice with great success. The banks thus pay a large percentage of the taxation which should, in justice, be imposed upon other capital, but which they cannot evade unless they diminish their capital or surrender their business. The State taxes have increased to such an extent in recent years that, in many of the cities, they alone are equal to two and sometimes even three per cent of the capital of the banks; and instances are known where these institutions pay four-fifths of the personal taxes of the communities in which they are situated.

The only plausible reason given for continuing the tax upon the banks is that they enjoy special privileges. But the only real

privilege which they possess is that of issuing circulation, and even that is not a restricted privilege, but is one open to all who see fit to engage in the business of banking. Moreover, the profit upon circulation does not, under the most favorable circumstances, exceed two and one-half per cent, and, if issued upon four per cent bonds, does not exceed one and one-half per cent of its amount. That it is not a great source of income is evidenced by the fact that the banks have, since the passage of the act of January 14, 1875, voluntarily reduced their circulation from \$354,000,000 to about \$300,000,000.

The State taxation upon national banks, as will be seen by reference to the tables accompanying this report, is also oppressive, because of the unjust system of valuation which prevails in almost every State. For instance, the State assessors of New York, in their report for 1873, say: "We are satisfied that less than fifteen per cent of the personal property of the State, liable to taxation, finds a place on the rolls of the assessor, and of mortgages not even five per cent. \* \* \* The amount of personal property assessed in some of the counties is less than the banking capital, and the same is true of thirty towns and cities, among which are some of the most prosperous in the State."

In the report of the assessors for 1876, the total personal estate in the State of New York was returned at \$379,488,140, and of the city of New York at \$218,626,178. The bank assessment in that city for the same year was \$85,145,116. The banks of the city, therefore, paid nearly one-fourth of the whole personal tax of the State, and nearly forty per cent of the personal tax of the city. The Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of the Gallatin National Bank vs. The Commissioner of Taxes, decided that the shares of national banks should be assessed at their full and true value, without regard to their par value. The New York assessors had said that shares of bank stock in that State were then assessed to a greater extent than any other kind of personal property; but, under the Supreme Court decision, the assessment for 1876 of the banks in New York City was increased \$11,754,127. The assessment for that year of the personal property in the whole State was also subsequently increased, but the entire increase, exclusive of the more than eleven millions added to the assessment of New York City bank stock, was but \$9,758,758; and it is probable that even this amount was very largely composed of increased assessments on the stock of the banks outside of New York City.

The commissioners of taxes and assessments for the city of New York, in their report of June 30, 1877, say: "It is unnecessary to reassert at any length the fact, so often stated in previous reports, that the personal property actually assessed in the city and State of New York is small, compared with the actual possessions of their citizens, and that the assessments represent rather the mere provisions of the law than the wealth of the State. \* \* \*

The practical effect of the present law is to exempt foreign banking capital used here, and to tax domestic banking capital." They report the total assessments on personal property in the city of New York for the year 1875 at \$217,300,154, of which \$73,390,989 were upon bank stock. Total assessments for 1876, \$218,626,179, of which \$85,145,117 were upon bank stock. Total assessments for 1877, \$206,028,160, of which \$73,614,274 were upon bank stock. The number of persons assessed in 1875, other than bank shareholders, was 8,920; in 1876, 9,233; in 1877, 10,519. The number of shareholders of banks assessed upon their stock was, in 1875, 25,236; in 1876, 25,698; in 1877, 24,649. The reduction of the number of shareholders and of the assessment upon banks in 1877 was due to the reduction of capital and surplus, caused by excessive taxation.

The actual capital and surplus of fire and marine insurance companies in New York was, in 1874, \$58,670,000, but they were assessed at less than \$7,000,000. The total capital of incorporated companies and associations was estimated in 1871, by a commission appointed by the Governor, at \$856,500,000, exclusive of surplus and undivided profits. The total assessment of these associations in 1874 was only \$130,000,000, of which the banks in New York City alone paid 73 per cent. If the capital of other associations were assessed like bank stock, at its true value, the proportional assessment of the banks would be but eleven per cent of the whole, instead of seventy-three per cent, as at present.

By a decision of the Court of Appeals of the State of New York, foreign capital transmitted to that State, to be loaned and employed in business, is exempt from taxation. A national bank with a capital of \$4,000,000 paid taxes in 1876, amounting to \$200,000—or at the rate of five per cent on its capital, while a foreign agency, employing an equal amount of capital, paid nothing. Ten banks in one of the cities in the State of New York, having a population of 46,000 persons, pay a tax upon \$2,750,000, which is more than their aggregate capital; while the aggregate personal property of all other corporations and individuals in the same city, the true value of which is estimated at \$15,000,000, is assessed at but \$990,000. The bank shareholders of that city, numbering 924, of whom more than one-third are women, hold each an average of \$3,000 of stock. It is estimated that at least 3,000 other persons in that city possess personal property amounting to \$3,000 each. These persons either escape taxation altogether, or are taxed upon a valuation not exceeding \$300 each. The holders of bank stock in that city, therefore, pay a tax at least ten times as great as that paid by the holders of stock in other corporations. The banks in other cities and States are subjected to similar injustice. Even were the United States taxes to be repealed, the banks would still be subject to a tax at least twice as great as that imposed previous to the year 1862. The elaborate tables which are herewith presented furnish convincing evidence in favor of the repeal of the law imposing the tax upon capital and deposits.

The prayer for the repeal of bank taxes proceeds not alone from officers and shareholders of the banks. The most urgent appeals to Congress are from chambers of commerce and boards of trade in the principal cities of the Union. The following extract from the petition of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New York, which represents not only the commercial and business interests of that city, but also to a large extent the public sentiment of the business men of the country, declares "that war taxes, both heavy and unequal in their burden, are imposed on the national banks, State banks, savings banks and private bankers of this country, which taxes have been for several years productive of great commercial injury; that in no other country are such taxes incurred by the business of banking; and that, the exigency having passed away, the war taxes can be taken off without any sacrifice to the Treasury at all commensurate with the benefits which will result to the agricultural, financial, commercial and industrial pursuits of the country; that the continuance of this onerous and discriminating taxation on banking capital is rapidly withdrawing it from that business, leaving the commerce and industries of the country illy prepared to meet a long-hoped-for returning tide of prosperity; that a persistence in this unequal and special tax can lead to but one result, and that is to prolong the present period of depression and inactivity."

The *London Economist*, a high and impartial authority, in discussing the last report of the Comptroller, says: "Now there may be some difference of opinion among economists as to the expediency and equity of a tax upon the circulation of the banks, the right of note-issue being a privilege conferred by the State, from which the banks derive a profit; but there can be no question whatever as to the unjust and injurious nature of the other forms of Government taxation. The Comptroller points out that the amount of tax to which the national banks are subject is much greater than that imposed on any other capital in the country; and it is precisely in such a case as this, where taxes are imposed upon the accumulated savings of the country, gathered together into stores available and necessary for the conduct and development of its commerce, that the taxing of capital engaged in trade assumes its most pernicious aspect."

#### DIVIDENDS.

The law provides, not only that each national bank shall, before the declaration of every dividend, carry one-tenth part of its net profits of the preceding half year to its surplus fund, until the same shall amount to twenty per cent of its capital, but that no association or any member thereof shall, during the time it shall continue its banking operations, withdraw, or permit to be withdrawn, either in the form of dividends or otherwise, any portion of its capital, and that losses and bad debts shall be deducted from its net profits before any dividend shall be declared. The Comptroller has endeavored to carry out the provisions of this law, and the correspondence of the office shows that in many instances he has prevented the declaration of illegal dividends. If a bank suffers a loss greater than its accumulated earnings, there are but two courses open to it, so far as dividends are concerned: one is, to pass the dividend, and the other, to pay an illegal dividend from the capital stock.

The *London Economist*, in commenting upon the proper policy to be pursued in the case of a bank which has suffered loss, says: "One (course) is at once to estimate the whole loss, to largely reduce the present dividend, and to write the necessary sum off the reserve fund; the other, to estimate the possible loss low, to write off but little, and, above all things, to declare as high a dividend as possible. In all companies the rules of morality prescribe the former. It is wrong not to provide for plain losses, and wrong to pay unreal dividends. But in the case of a bank, it is not only wrong but dangerous. Perfect explicitness in such cases is the only means of safety. The credit of a bank is its life, and that credit can only be maintained by deserving the confidence of the public, by telling the whole truth, though it is not favorable, and by acting consistently upon real facts, though they are not pleasant. If the largest of our joint-stock banks—the bank of which it used to be said that it never was known to lose largely, or to be concerned in any but good business—writes so large a sum off its reserve fund, and lessens its dividend by one-half, no other bank need fear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Credit will never be good as long as people believe that anything is kept back. No doubt it needs manliness and fortitude to tell the truth, when the truth is not pleasant; but it is only by manliness and fortitude that confidence can be obtained in common life, or that credit can be preserved in the difficult and trying transactions of business."

During the past six months, 283 banks, with a capital of \$41,166,200, have paid no dividends, and many others have largely reduced the amount of their usual dividends. Associations of high character and standing always refuse to impair their capital stock under such circumstances; and the attention of those banks which are conducted upon the theory that a dividend is always necessary for the maintenance of the credit of their associations is called to the excellent advice of the leading financial journal of England, above quoted.

The subjoined table exhibits the aggregate capital and surplus, total dividends and total net earnings of the national banks, with the ratios of dividends to capital, and to capital and surplus, for each half year from March 1, 1869, to September 1, 1877. From this table it will be seen that the average annual dividends upon capital during the past year were 8.93 per cent, while the ratio of dividends to capital and surplus in the same period was but 7.09 per cent. The ratio of earnings to capital and surplus during the six months ending March 1, 1877, was 3.12 per cent; during the six months ending September 1, 1877, it was but 2.5 per cent. The ratio of earnings to capital for the current year was but 5.63 per cent, from which it is evident that a

large portion of the dividends for such year has been made from surplus.

Table with columns: Period of six months ending, Number of banks, Capital, Surplus, Total dividends, Total net earnings, Ratios (Dividends to capital, Dividends to surplus, Earnings to capital & surplus).

A tabular statement is subjoined, showing, by geographical divisions, the ratios for the last six years and the average ratio for the whole period:

Table showing Ratio of dividends to capital for six months ending (1872-1877) by Geographical divisions (New Eng. States, Middle States, Southern States, West. States & T., United States).

A table exhibiting in a concise form the ratios of dividends to capital, and to capital and surplus, and of net earnings to capital and surplus, of the national banks in every State in the Union and in the principal cities, semi-annually, from March 1, 1873, to September 1, 1877, will be found in the Appendix.

REDEMPTION.

The following table exhibits the amount of national-bank notes received monthly by the Comptroller, for the year ending November 1, 1877, and the amounts received for the same period at the redemption agency of the Treasury, together with the total amount received since the passage of the act of June 20, 1874:

Table with columns: Months, Received by the Comptroller (From national banks for reissue or surrender, From redemption agency for reissue, Notes of national banks in liquidation, Under act of June 20, '74, Total), Received at redemption agency.

During the year ending November 1, 1877, there were received at the redemption agency of the Treasury \$229,308,507 of national-bank notes, of which amount \$71,025,000 (about thirty-one per cent) were received from the banks in New York City, and \$82,659,000 (about thirty-six per cent) from Boston. The amount received from Philadelphia was \$14,859,000; from Baltimore, \$1,461,000; Pittsburg, \$1,146,000; Cincinnati, \$1,603,000; Chicago, \$3,492,000; St. Louis, \$1,024,000; Providence, \$5,496,000. The amount of circulating notes fit for circulation returned by the agency to the banks during the year was \$158,626,000. The total amount received by the Comptroller from the redemption agency, for destruction, and from the national banks, direct, was \$75,850,063. Of this amount \$6,811,790 were issues of the banks in the city of New York, \$6,176,437 of Boston, \$2,469,455 of Philadelphia, \$1,593,920 of Baltimore, \$1,462,517 of Pittsburg, \$603,900 of Cincinnati, \$814,252 of Chicago, \$446,280 of St. Louis, \$575,167 of New Orleans, \$494,050 of Albany, and \$494,600 of Cleveland.

There were, on November 1, \$250,473,911 of national-bank notes outstanding upon which the charter number had been printed, and \$60,301,200 not having that imprint.

The following table exhibits the number and amount of national-bank notes of each denomination which have been issued and redeemed since the organization of the system, and the number and amount outstanding on November 1, 1877:

Table with columns: Denomination, Number (Issued, Redeemed, Outstanding), Amount (Issued, Redeemed, Outstanding).

\* Add and subtract for portions of notes lost or destroyed.

A table showing the number and denominations of national bank notes issued and redeemed, and the number of each denomination outstanding on November 1, for the last ten years, will be found in the Appendix.

NATIONAL-BANK NOTES AND LEGAL-TENDER NOTES BY DENOMINATIONS.

The subjoined table exhibits, by denominations, the amount of national-bank and legal-tender notes outstanding on November 1, 1877.

Table with columns: Denominations, Amount of national bank notes, Amount of legal tenders, Total.

\* Fractions of notes not presented or destroyed. † Legal-tender notes destroyed in Chicago fire; denominations unknown.

Section 5175 of the Revised Statutes provides "that not more than one-sixth part of the notes furnished to any association shall be of a less denomination than five dollars, and that, after specie payments are resumed, no association shall be furnished with notes of a less denomination than five dollars"; and section 5185 prohibits the issue to gold banks of circulating notes of a less denomination than five dollars. The amount of such notes issued to national-banking associations has always been greatly below this limitation. The whole amount of one and two dollar notes in circulation at the present time is but \$6,083,340, which is less than one-eighth of the proportion to which they are legally entitled. The small amount of these issues is attributable in part to the legal limitation; but more especially to the time and labor involved in signing them, as well as to the further fact that legal-tender notes of these denominations can be readily obtained at the Treasury. The amount of such legal-tender notes now outstanding is \$49,407,008. The amount of tens and twenties of national-bank notes outstanding is \$191,817,750, and the amount of outstanding legal-tender notes of the latter denominations is \$123,983,356. The amount of national-bank notes of the denomination of fifty dollars, and over, is \$52,515,600, and of legal-tender notes, \$129,161,385.

Of the entire amount of legal-tender and national-bank notes outstanding, more than eight per cent are of the denominations of ones and twos, nearly twenty-two per cent of fives, twenty-four per cent of tens, and nineteen per cent of twenties. Of these entire issues, less than twenty-five per cent in amount are of the denomination of fifty dollars and upward.

Section 5182 of the Revised Statutes requires that the circulating notes of national banks shall be "signed by the president or vice-president and cashier thereof." The signature of at least one bank officer is necessary, as a check between this Office and the issuing bank; for, if the question of an overissue of notes should arise, the signature of such officer would determine the genuineness of the note. A number of banks, however, issue their notes with printed signatures, and, in some cases, with lithographic ones, which are frequently so badly executed as to excite suspicion as to their genuineness. The Comptroller recommends an amendment of section 5182 of the Revised Statutes, imposing a penalty of twenty dollars for every note issued without the written signature of at least one of the officers of the bank.

STATE BANKS AND SAVINGS BANKS.

Section 333 of the Revised Statutes requires the Comptroller to report to Congress "a statement exhibiting, under appropriate heads, the resources and liabilities and condition of the banks, banking companies and savings banks organized under the laws of the several States and Territories; such information to be obtained from the reports made by such banks, banking companies and savings banks to the legislatures or officers of the different States and Territories; and where such reports cannot be obtained, the deficiency to be supplied from such other authentic sources as may be available." The laws of the United States require returns of capital and deposits to be made to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, for

purposes of taxation, by all State banks, savings banks and private bankers. These returns have been procured from the Commissioner, and the following table compiled therefrom in this office, which exhibits the number of State banks, savings banks, trust companies and private bankers, and their average capital and deposits, by States, for the six months ending May 31, 1877:

States and Territories.	No. of banks.	Capital.	Deposits.	Tax paid.		
				On capital.	On deposits.	Total.
Maine	66	\$173,905	\$26,459,218	\$893	\$4,412	\$4,805
New Hampshire	52	52,333	30,896,324	124	6,900	7,124
Vermont	21	335,000	8,107,445	714	4,198	4,912
Massachusetts	167	819,331	162,477,183	1,473	6,514	7,987
Boston	61	3,127,357	83,716,065	3,516	13,490	22,006
Rhode Island	58	3,894,673	53,031,970	8,811	45,213	53,553
Connecticut	199	2,859,641	82,893,232	5,593	47,932	53,545
New England States..	557	11,272,278	452,630,717	20,153	133,679	153,832
New York	326	11,061,740	118,689,773	22,840	106,553	129,403
New York City	468	45,785,790	271,948,412	69,121	258,215	327,336
Albany	14	687,000	12,529,737	713	9,362	10,075
New Jersey	65	2,170,853	35,457,134	4,482	26,350	30,832
Pennsylvania	346	12,210,783	39,233,675	28,758	97,282	126,039
Philadelphia	67	2,091,732	81,884,453	4,708	63,611	73,459
Pittsburg	41	5,018,824	14,616,633	11,403	24,421	35,826
Delaware	10	747,411	1,770,839	1,768	2,116	3,885
Maryland	15	623,877	666,984	1,196	899	2,095
Baltimore	40	4,104,003	25,033,652	8,708	18,051	26,761
District of Columbia	1	5,917	7,008	15	18	33
Washington	10	595,359	3,637,730	292	8,144	8,506
Middle States.....	1,404	85,023,770	585,566,186	154,108	620,212	774,326
Virginia	75	3,407,110	6,809,538	8,182	16,138	24,320
West Virginia	24	1,455,900	3,917,534	6,632	9,795	15,427
North Carolina	14	574,451	872,237	1,439	2,181	3,617
South Carolina	19	1,003,165	1,095,859	2,598	2,597	5,105
Georgia	66	4,332,147	4,363,519	10,980	10,718	21,698
Florida	5	47,000	271,057	92	678	770
Alabama	20	1,034,733	1,747,031	2,458	4,398	6,826
Mississippi	28	1,234,390	1,413,033	3,274	3,532	6,806
Louisiana	2	54,000	49,915	155	125	260
New Orleans	23	2,538,192	7,310,039	8,640	14,397	22,943
Texas	107	3,491,003	4,891,428	8,233	12,228	20,463
Arkansas	16	238,339	316,619	568	942	1,500
Kentucky	73	7,279,737	6,936,533	17,478	16,558	34,044
Louisville	17	5,494,961	6,641,033	13,373	15,103	28,476
Tennessee	33	1,718,147	3,019,790	3,983	7,549	11,539
Southern States.....	524	34,935,831	43,905,597	83,984	116,822	200,786
Ohio	257	6,334,477	13,640,500	14,051	40,233	54,314
Cincinnati	23	2,068,549	9,016,478	3,486	20,231	23,667
Cleveland	9	826,290	12,767,950	1,653	17,940	19,593
Indiana	146	5,628,855	11,128,880	13,051	23,336	36,387
Illinois	319	5,433,644	17,229,162	12,270	41,903	53,573
Chicago	42	4,839,153	15,136,791	9,558	23,426	32,991
Michigan	145	2,605,763	4,914,536	6,367	12,256	18,553
Detroit	18	1,240,932	5,870,289	2,320	14,676	16,996
Wisconsin	40	1,389,348	3,765,413	3,190	9,414	12,604
Milwaukee	12	672,065	6,328,939	1,406	15,832	17,228
Iowa	279	5,178,619	8,730,477	12,545	21,061	31,307
Minnesota	71	1,168,968	2,508,683	2,757	6,135	8,832
Missouri	180	3,806,220	11,223,423	8,448	28,058	36,526
St. Louis	46	7,580,533	22,691,281	16,947	50,281	73,228
Kansas	114	1,725,224	3,118,289	4,039	7,797	11,830
Nebraska	39	465,661	1,184,732	1,114	2,962	4,076
Western States.....	1,790	50,939,494	152,325,060	113,032	311,615	454,707
Oregon	8	610,724	1,349,112	1,418	3,273	4,791
California	61	12,110,922	41,542,225	39,113	63,587	92,700
San Francisco	38	26,902,567	65,865,076	61,908	123,084	184,342
Colorado	30	588,858	971,933	1,472	2,430	3,902
Nevada	19	417,039	1,645,409	1,013	2,874	4,907
Utah	5	178,521	587,894	419	1,470	1,919
New Mexico	4	5,637	36,312	14	91	105
Wyoming	4	55,486	93,987	139	217	286
Idaho	8	53,507	16,182	141	46	181
Dakota	8	34,167	110,321	85	351	436
Montana	8	103,037	48,900	253	231	492
Washington	4	232,314	317,696	556	799	1,350
Arizona	1	10,000	5,000	25	13	38
Pacific States and Territories.....	226	41,296,810	112,550,090	97,021	304,528	301,549
Totals.....	4,591	293,503,171	1,351,807,650	463,333	1,416,866	1,885,159

In concluding this report the Comptroller takes pleasure in bearing testimony to the industry and efficiency of the officers and clerks associated with him in the discharge of official duties.

JOHN JAY KNOX,  
Comptroller of the Currency.

—The Ontario Silver Mining Company has declared its regular monthly dividend of \$50,000 gold, for the month of November. Also two extra dividends of \$50,000 gold, each, all payable on the 15th instant. Transfer books close on the 10th. After paying the above, the Ontario will have paid since March last, seventeen dividends, aggregating \$350,000 gold.

—The Chicago & North Western Railway Company has declared a dividend of three and one-half per cent on the preferred stock of the company, payable at the office in New York, on and after December 27. Transfer books close on December 15, and reopen December 23.

—Messrs. Gwynne & Day, in their December circular, give interesting tables, showing the rate per cent per annum now realized by purchasers on the different issues of government bonds. Also a table showing the yield per annum of certain railroad bonds at current prices.

Latest Monetary and Commercial English News

RATES OF EXCHANGE AT LONDON AND ON LONDON AT LATEST DATES.

EXCHANGE AT LONDON— NOVEMBER 24.				EXCHANGE ON LONDON.		
ON—	TIME.	RATE.		LATEST DATE.	TIME.	RATE.
Amsterdam	short.	12.2	212.3	Nov. 23.	short.	12.12
Amsterdam	3 months.	12.1 1/2	212.4 1/2	Nov. 23.	short.	12.12
Antwerp	.....	.....	.....	Nov. 23.	3 mos.	20.45
Hamburg	3 months.	20.70	230.74	Nov. 23.	short.	25.18
Paris	short.	25.17 1/2	25.27 1/2	Nov. 23.	3 mos.	118.70
Paris	3 months.	25.32 1/2	25.37 1/2	Nov. 23.	short.	20.46
Vienna	.....	12.17 1/2	12.23 1/2	Nov. 23.	3 mos.	20.46
Berlin	.....	20.70	20.74	Nov. 23.	3 mos.	24 5-16
Frankfort	.....	20.70	20.74	Nov. 23.	3 mos.	24 5-16
St. Petersburg	.....	23 1/2	24	Nov. 20.	3 mos.	24 5-16
Cadiz	.....	47 1/2	47 1/2	Nov. 20.	3 mos.	24 5-16
Lisbon	90 days.	27.95	28.05	Nov. 23.	short.	27.25
Milan	3 months.	27.95	28.05	Nov. 23.	short.	27.25
Genoa	.....	27.95	28.05	Nov. 23.	short.	27.25
Naples	.....	27.95	28.05	Nov. 23.	short.	27.25
Madrid	.....	46 1/2	47 1/2	Nov. 21.	3 mos.	48.15
New York	.....	.....	.....	Nov. 23.	60 days.	4.81
Rio de Janeiro	.....	.....	.....	Oct. 9.	90 days.	2 1/2
Buenos Ayres	.....	.....	.....	Oct. 1.	4 1/2	4 1/2
Vaiparaiso	.....	.....	.....	Oct. 14.	4 1/2	4 1/2
Bombay	30 days.	18.8 1/2	15-16d	Nov. 22.	6 mos.	18 9/16 d.
Calcutta	.....	18.8 1/2	15-11d	Nov. 21.	.....	18.9 5-16 d.
Hong Kong	.....	2s. 10 1/2	4s.	Nov. 15.	.....	3s. 11d 1/2 dollar.
Shanghai	.....	.....	.....	Nov. 15.	.....	.....
Penang	.....	.....	.....	Nov. 6.	.....	4s.
Singapore	30 days.	3s. 10 1/2	4s.	Nov. 20.	.....	4s.
Alexandria	.....	.....	.....	Nov. 21.	3 mos.	56

[From our own correspondent.]

LONDON, Saturday, Nov. 24, 1877.

The upward tendency in the value of money which appeared at the close of last week has received a check. Artificial means were employed to diminish the supplies of floating capital, but the operation is of too vast a character to be easily accomplished. Although the supply of money is not actually abundant, it is relatively so, the demand for accommodation on the part of the mercantile public being still very limited. For some time past, the demand for bar gold for exportation has been upon a very moderate scale, and the Bank of England has, in consequence, been adding to its store. Towards the close of last week, there was, indeed, some little inquiry for various quarters, including New York; and among capitalists great efforts were made to point out that a drain, or, at all events, important shipments to the United States would not improbably take place, owing to the heavy purchases of grain which we have been making of late. The low point to which the New York exchange on London had fallen, certainly justified the belief; but, up to the present time, no large supplies have been sent away. In discount circles, some perplexity continues to prevail, owing to the doubts which have arisen with regard to the future of the bullion market; but it is the general opinion that as long as the money market receives no support from the mercantile world, permanently dear money, as it were, is impossible. The position now is simply what it has been for many weeks past:—a possible demand for gold, the extent of which cannot be defined, necessitates a Bank rate unjustified by the condition of our trade, and by the extent of our liabilities; while, on the other hand, so limited is the supply of commercial paper, that discount business is reduced to a minimum. At the same time, the efforts of the banks to create a fictitious scarcity of money are rendered abortive by the abundance of floating capital in Paris, a large quantity of English bills having been sent to that city for discount at the reduced rate there current. It is stated that the Bank of France only discounts French bills; but English bills are sent to other financial establishments, who discount them, and, if necessary, pass them to the central establishment, with their endorsement. That the bills eventually find their way into the Bank of France, and that any scruples as to their origin are overcome, is evident from the fact that since the Bank rate was raised in this country the discounts of the Bank of France have been very largely augmented. This can scarcely have been caused by any improvement in French trade, for of this there is no evidence; and, besides, it is a well-known fact that a large quantity of English paper has been sent, and, indeed, invited to Paris. The state of the Paris market cannot, therefore, but be regarded as highly favorable to an easy condition of affairs on this side. The Continental markets generally tend toward ease; and it may fairly be asked, How can an improvement take place here, when the commercial demand for money is so trifling, and when no hopes exist of a favorable change? It is true, indeed, that we have and shall have to make large payments for grain in some shape or other; but, compared with May last, there has been a fall in the price of English wheat of about 17s. per quarter. Our wants in May, June, July and August were very great, and we had to import largely at a high



price. No effect upon the money market was apparent then, and there is no reason to believe that it should be so now when wheat is procurable at so considerable a reduction in price. It is well known that, latterly, our purchases have been very great, and have exceeded our immediate wants; but the operations have been judicious, as the winter months are before us, and the area whence we can draw supplies will for some months be materially contracted. Those heavy purchases may have necessitated the exportation of a little gold, but it is certainly a very satisfactory feature to the British consumer that a substantial provision has been made against our wants for some little time to come. The movement in grain will now be less active, and it is probable that we shall have eventually to raise prices in order to give a fresh impetus to it.

The money market was rather firm in the early part of the week, but a strong tendency to weakness has since become apparent, and the rates of discount are now as under:

Bank rate.....	5	Open-market rates:	Per cent.
Open-market rates:		4 months' bank bills.....	3½@3¼
30 and 60 days' bills.....	8½@8¼	6 months' bank bills.....	3½@3¼
3 months' bills.....	3½@3¼	4 and 6 months' trade bills.....	3½@1

The rates of interest allowed by the joint-stock banks and discount houses for deposits are now as under:

Joint stock banks.....	Per cent.
Discount houses at call.....	3½@
Discount houses with 7 days' notice.....	3½@
Discount houses with 14 days' notice.....	8½@

Annexed is a statement showing the present position of the Bank of England, the Bank rate of discount, the price of Consols, the average quotation for English wheat, the price of Middling Upland cotton, of No. 40's Mule twist, fair second quality, and the Bankers' Clearing House return, compared with the four previous years:

	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Circulation—including bank post-bills.....	£ 35,195,509	£ 26,153,036	£ 27,696,972	£ 28,112,955	£ 27,236,936
Public deposits.....	5,181,686	4,475,768	5,593,793	6,037,591	5,682,313
Other deposits.....	18,733,383	17,836,557	20,815,153	25,914,347	19,987,578
Government securities.....	12,543,453	13,534,656	12,512,884	15,739,297	13,573,372
Other securities.....	18,281,097	17,456,157	19,104,628	16,542,587	17,408,063
Reserve of notes and coin.....	11,248,643	9,291,009	10,839,117	17,653,891	10,650,990
Coin and bullion in both departments.....	21,039,795	20,124,114	23,197,817	20,436,796	22,569,830
Proportion of reserve to liabilities.....				54.63 p. c.	44.44 p. c.
Bank rate.....	6 p. c.	5 p. c.	8 p. c.	2 p. c.	5 p. c.
Consols.....	93¼	93¼	95¼	95¼	96¼
English wheat, av. price 61s. 1d.		49s. 6d.	47s. 0d.	48s. 1d.	51s. 8d.
Middling Upland cotton, No. 40's mule twist, fair 2d quality.....	8 7-16d.	7½d.	6½d.	6½d.	6½d.
Clearing House return.....	83,495,000	83,752,000	81,637,000	89,667,000	97,312,000

There is no demand for bar gold for exportation, and as over half a million sterling is due in bars and sovereigns on Monday, it is expected that the whole of the supply will be sent into the bank. The silver market was firm in the early part of the week, and the price of fine bars was 54½d. per ounce. The demand was chiefly from Spain, but in the absence of an inquiry from India the market has since become weak. The prices of bullion are now as follows:

	GOLD.	s. d. a. d.
Bar Gold, fine.....	per oz. standard.	77 9 @
Bar Gold, refinable.....	per oz. standard.	77 10½ @
Spanish Doubloons.....	per oz., nominal.	75 0 @
South American Doubloons.....	per oz.	73 9 @
United States Gold Coin.....	per oz.	76 5 @ 76 5½
German Gold Coin.....	per oz.	76 3½ @
	SILVER.	d. d.
Bar Silver, Fine.....	per oz., quiet	51¼ @ 54¼
Bar Silver, containing 5 grs. Gold.....	per oz.	51¼ @ 51¼
Mexican Dollars.....	per oz., last price, flat	52¼ @
Spanish Dollars (Carlos).....	per oz.	@
Five Franc Pieces.....	per oz.	@
Quicksilver, £7 7s. 6d. Discount, 3 per cent.		

The following are the current rates of discount at the leading cities abroad:

	Bank rate.	Open market.	Bank rate.	Open market.	
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	
Paris.....	2	1½	Brussels.....	3½	3½
Amsterdam.....	3	2½	Turin, Florence and Rome.....	5	4
Hamburg.....	5	4	Lepzig.....	5	4½
Berlin.....	5	4½	Genoa.....	5	4½
Frankfort.....	5	3½@1	Genuova.....	4	4
Vienna and Trieste.....	4½@1½		New York.....		6@7
Madrid, Cadiz and Barcelona.....	5	5 @7	Calcutta.....	8	
Lisbon and Oporto.....	6	5	Copenhagen.....	6	6
St. Petersburg.....	5	5½@5¼			

On the Stock Exchange, business continues very restricted, and as there seems to be no prospect of improvement, certainly as far as this year is concerned, the complaints are not only well-founded, but, in many cases, serious. Not only is business affected by the many political uncertainties which exist, but it is also influenced by the losses which the public have sustained for some years past in foreign loans, and in connection with public companies, both of home and foreign origin. In the early part of the year I alluded to the fact that the investing public were very

timid, and the same feeling still exists. There is far more desire amongst small investors to purchase house property or ground rents, especially for their own accommodation, than to possess a few bonds of a foreign government. Investors in the Stock Exchange securities just now are not legion. The money of small investors has passed into more influential hands, and these are equally at a loss as to the manner of its disposal. Sound stocks remain at a high price, and as there is already too much floating capital, the banks and discount houses are unwilling to accept fresh deposits. Hence, we appear to have arrived almost at a dead-lock. It is regarded as not improbable that, before long, events will have transpired in Southeastern Europe which will compel Turkey to come to an understanding with Russia. It is all very well to say that Turkey will fight to the "last man," but the "last man" won't fight in a hopeless cause, and it is unquestionably the duty of the Sultan and his advisers to spare unnecessary effusion of blood. The Turkish soldiers have fought well, but if it is clear that the Turkish cause is hopeless, the Government of the Sultan would deserve much condemnation were they to continue to hope against hope. This country is, as every one knows, greatly interested in the terms of peace. Those terms may soon be disclosed, and as we may at almost any moment ascertain what they are, business of all kinds is kept in abeyance, as the news may either lead to a settlement of the Eastern question, or lead to further complications. Should any emergency arise, and the English people be impressed with a belief that it is an emergency, the nation will manifest the proper spirit; and, I have no doubt, that far-seeing and judicious statesmen, supported by an energetic people, thoroughly alive to its interests, when those interests are threatened, will be able to checkmate Russia, should she be too ambitious, without rushing into war. The situation is nevertheless one for anxiety, and uncertainties, especially of an adverse character, are often more disastrous to business than actual calamity.

The cotton trade remains in an unsatisfactory state, and in Manchester the position of affairs is by no means encouraging. A correspondent of the Manchester Guardian asks: "How is it that American goods are gradually pushing our home productions out of foreign markets, particularly in the East? Because they are not so heavily 'sized,' and, from the newer and better as well as cheaper machinery used in the States, they can be sold at lower rates. I have not the figures before me, but the quantity, I think, of cotton consumed in America per spindle is nearly double what is taken in this country. It is useful to compare separate industries at times, and it appears to me that what has befallen Lancashire will shortly take place in Lyons, that oversizing may for a time pay, but will in the long run 'chrottle' the trades which may adopt it. What stocks are there in Manchester of 'over-sized' goods, and what stocks of such cloths as would be called 'honest stuff,' and why this difference?"

The reply of the Guardian is: "The stocks of 'over-sized' goods in Manchester, both of shirtings and T cloths, are comparatively small, the reason being that the demand has during the past year or two been running more and more the purer cloths. Some years ago, when prices were much higher than they are now, the demand for heavily-sized makes became very great, and pure cloths were unsalable except at a loss; but with a decline in price, the better sorts have become much more largely salable. Hence the difficulty of disposing of the stocks of heavily-sized goods which were made before this change became fully known. The reason why American cotton goods are competing successfully with English calicoes in the home and foreign markets is no doubt the fact that they are offered at low prices, possibly at lower prices than similar qualities of English make. English goods as pure and excellent in every way as the American ones are always being made, though not in large quantity, because the demand for them is not large. Whether or not the American cloth which is exported is or is not made at a loss we are unable to say. The longer hours of labor in the States, the very low rate of wages there, and the fact that many of the mills have been acquired by their present owners at much less than their original cost and at less than they could now be built for, are all favorable to cheap production. It is probable, however, that a large proportion of the American calicoes exported constitutes surplus manufacture which the home market is unable to absorb, and which is consequently forced off at a loss abroad."

With regard to the public sales of wool now in progress, it is stated that, of the quantity offered, nearly forty per cent has been Cape and Natal produce. There is a good attendance of both home and Continental buyers, who have operated with fair spirit; prices have ranged on the average about equal to the

closing rates of our last auctions for all wools of clothing character, with here and there a turn in favor of the buyer; whilst good bodied parcels and all fine combing descriptions average about five per cent dearer. Coarse and half-breds show little or no change. Cape and Natal wools rule a shade under September rates. Of the new clip there are only some 600 or 700 bales in time for these sales, chiefly South Australian, of fair growth and quality.

The wheat trade has been very quiet. A heavy fall in prices having now taken place, there is less pressure to sell. The statistical position is good, but our consumption is great, and with less remunerative quotations here, our prospective supplies are likely to diminish. Prices have not materially varied during the present week.

During the week ended Nov. 17, the deliveries of home-grown wheat in the 150 principal markets of England and Wales amounted to 40,970 quarters, against 49,586 quarters last year, and it is computed that in the whole Kingdom they were 164,000 quarters, against nearly 200,000 quarters in 1876. Since harvest the deliveries in the 150 principal markets have been 578,443 quarters, against 643,807 quarters, while in the whole Kingdom it is estimated that they have been 2,314,000 quarters, against 2,575,300 quarters last year. Without reckoning the supplies furnished ex-grano, it is computed that the following quantities of wheat and flour have been placed upon the British markets since last harvest:

Table with 5 columns: 1877 cwt., 1876 cwt., 1875 cwt., 1874 cwt., and values for Imports of wheat, Imports of flour, Sales of home-grown produce, Total, Exports of wheat and flour, and Result.

The following figures show the imports and exports of cereal produce into and from the United Kingdom since harvest, viz., from the 1st of September to the close of last week, compared with the corresponding periods in the three previous years:

Table with 5 columns for years 1877, 1876, 1875, 1874 and rows for Wheat, Barley, Oats, Peas, Beans, Indian Corn, Flour under both Imports and Exports sections.

English Market Reports—Per Cable.

The daily closing quotations in the markets of London and Liverpool for the past week have been reported by cable, as shown in the following summary:

London Money and Stock Market.—The bullion in the Bank of England has increased £306,000 during the week.

Table showing Consols for money for dates 97 1-16, 97 3-16, U.S. 6s (5-20s) 1867, U.S. 10-40s, 5s of 1881, and New 4 1/2s.

Liverpool Cotton Market.—See special report of cotton.

Table for Liverpool Breadstuffs Market showing Flour (extra State), Wheat (Red winter, Av. Cal. white, C. White club), and Corn (n.w. mix., Canadian).

Liverpool Provisions Market.—

Table for Liverpool Produce Market showing Beef (prime mess), Pork (W.I. mess), Bacon (1/2 cwt.), Lard (American), and Cheese (Am. fine).

Table for Liverpool Produce Market showing Rosin (common), Petroleum (refined), Tallow (prime City), and Cloverseed (Am. red).

London Produce and Oil Markets.—

Table for London Produce and Oil Markets showing Line'd c/ke (obl.), Linseed (Cel.), Sugar (No. 12 d'cbstd), and various oils like Sperm oil, Whale oil, and Linseed oil.

Commercial and Miscellaneous News.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR THE WEEK.—The imports last week showed an increase in both dry goods and general merchandise. The total imports were \$5,433,058, against \$4,718,595 the preceding week and \$5,567,579 two weeks previous. The exports for the week ended Dec. 4 amounted to \$6,869,561, against \$7,424,413 last week and \$6,503,061 the previous week. The exports of cotton for the week ending Dec. 5 were 9,664 bales, against 15,127 bales the week before. The following are the imports at New York for week ending (for dry goods) Nov. 29 and for the week ending (for general merchandise) Nov. 30:

Table for FOREIGN IMPORTS AT NEW YORK FOR THE WEEK with columns for 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877 and rows for Dry goods, General merchandise, Total for the week, and Previously reported.

In our report of the dry goods trade will be found the imports of dry goods for one week later.

The following is a statement of the exports (exclusive of specie) from the port of New York to foreign ports for the week ending Dec. 4:

Table for EXPORTS FROM NEW YORK FOR THE WEEK with columns for 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877 and rows for For the week, Previously reported, and Since Jan. 1.

The following will show the exports of specie from the port of New York for the week ending Dec. 1, 1877, and also a comparison of the total since Jan. 1 with the corresponding totals for several previous years:

Table showing exports of specie for Nov. 29, Dec. 1, and Dec. 4 with locations like London, Panama, and Mexico.

Total for the week... \$248,795. Previously reported... \$25,039,892. Total since Jan. 1, 1877... \$25,278,187.

Table comparing exports of specie for same time in 1876, 1875, 1874, 1873, 1872, and 1871.

The imports of specie at this port during the same periods have been as follows:

Table showing imports of specie for Nov. 26 and Nov. 27 with locations like Vera Cruz, Havre, and Liverpool.

Table showing imports of specie for Nov. 27, Nov. 28, Nov. 29, and Dec. 1 with locations like Liverpool, U.S. silver, and Nassau.

Total for the week... \$1,020,768. Previously reported... \$3,296,018.

Total since Jan. 1, 1877... \$14,826,816.

Table comparing imports of specie for same time in 1876, 1875, 1874, 1873, 1872, and 1871.

The transactions for the week at the Sub-Treasury have been as follows:

Table for Sub-Treasury transactions showing Receipts (Customs, Gold, Currency) and Payments (Gold, Currency) for Dec. 1 through Dec. 7.

Total... \$1,251,000. Balance, Nov. 30... \$5,264,416. Balance, Dec. 7... \$6,528,833.

Erie.—The attack by the McHenry faction has been met by the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, who, through their counsel, Messrs. Turner, Lee & McClure, of 20 Nassau street, have brought a counter suit in the Supreme Court against McHenry, John H. Brown, Charles Frederick Evans, and the Erie Company. On the complaint, and the accompanying affidavit of R. G. Rolston, President of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, Judge Donohue issued an order to the defendants, McHenry, J. H. Brown and Evans, to show cause why they should not be permanently enjoined as demanded. Until the decision of this motion he orders that the proceedings brought in Monroe County be stayed.

# The Bankers' Gazette.

No National Banks organized during the past week.

## DIVIDENDS.

The following dividends have recently been announced:

NAMES OF COMPANY.	PER CENT.	WHEN PAYABLE.	BOOKS CLOSED. (Days inclusive).
<b>Railroads.</b>			
Boston & Lowell	\$10	Jan. 1, 1878	
Chic. & Northwest, pref.	3 1/2	Dec. 27, 1877	Dec. 16 to Dec. 27
N. Y. N. H. & Hart.	5	Jan. 1, 1878	

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1877-5 P. M.

**The Money Market and Financial Situation.**—There has been little to disturb the quiet current of affairs in Wall street, and as the year draws to a close there is the usual disinclination to engage in active operations except with those who purchase in expectation of a "January rise." The President's Message and report of Secretary Sherman have been well received and had a good effect in financial circles.

The silver bill has now a good prospect of passing the United States Senate, and we are inclined to the opinion that the discussion of the subject by the daily press and in financial circles has been limited too much to the mere question as to what is technically and legally admissible under the laws authorizing the several issues of government bonds. The broader question of what is the best and highest policy for the United States Government to pursue under the circumstances, has received too little attention. Is it policy for the United States to take advantage of a fortuitous decline of 8 per cent in silver, to pay her bonds and interest in that coin, even if the law technically allows it?

The reported embarrassment of the National Trust Company of this city, and the suspension of the German National Bank in Chicago and Henry Greenbaum & Co. here have had no great effect.

Our local money market shows more firmness in the past few days, and call loans on stock collaterals have run up to sharp 7 per cent, and in exceptional cases to 7 gold; on government collaterals there is little change, and loans are made at 4 to 5 per cent. Prime commercial paper is in good demand at 5 to 6 per cent.

The Bank of England statement, on Thursday, showed a gain of £306,000 in specie during the week, and the discount rate remains at 4 per cent. The Bank of France lost 2,900,000 francs in the week.

The last statement of the New York City Clearing-House banks, issued December 1, showed a decrease of \$994,950 in the excess above their 25 per cent legal reserve, the whole of such excess being \$9,663,425, against \$10,658,375 the previous week.

The following table shows the changes from the previous week and a comparison with the two preceding years:

	1877.			1876.			1875.		
	Nov. 24.	Dec. 1.	Differences.	Dec. 2.	Dec. 4.	Dec. 1.	Dec. 2.	Differences.	
Loans and dis.	\$235,329,800	\$233,429,600	Inc. \$1,899,800	\$256,589,700	\$271,008,500				
Specie	19,767,800	18,324,000	Dec. 1,443,800	20,454,100	15,137,500				
Circulation	18,100,500	18,110,300	Inc. 9,800	14,952,800	18,750,600				
Net deposits	196,234,900	196,961,500	Inc. 726,600	207,532,000	210,668,900				
Legal tenders	39,949,300	40,579,800	Inc. 630,500	39,829,700	45,680,200				

**United States Bonds.**—There has been a very fair business in government bonds, on a demand from small investors. The large dealers are full of orders for small lots, running all the way from \$100 to \$10,000, and these come from this vicinity and from all parts of the country. The demand from corporations is rather small; the savings banks look for a considerable demand on them by depositors after their January interest is paid, and insurance companies have not much surplus money to invest.

The Secretary of the Treasury has just issued the fifty-fifth call for the redemption of 5-20 bonds, giving notice that the bonds enumerated below will be paid on and after the sixth day of March, 1878, and that the interest on said bonds will cease on that date.

Coupon bonds dated July 1, 1865, namely:

- \$50—No. 44,001 to No. 50,000, both inclusive.
- 100—No. 76,001 to No. 85,000, both inclusive.
- 500—No. 57,001 to No. 60,000, both inclusive.
- 1,000—No. 96,001 to No. 108,000, both inclusive.

Total of coupon bonds, \$6,900,000.

Registered bonds, as follows:

- \$50—No. 1,611 to No. 1,750, both inclusive.
- 100—No. 13,101 to No. 14,106, both inclusive.
- 500—No. 8,001 to 8,700, both inclusive.
- 1,000—No. 21,401 to No. 28,750, both inclusive.
- 5,000—No. 7,651 to No. 8,050, both inclusive.
- 10,000—No. 13,551 to No. 14,850, both inclusive.

Total of registered bonds, \$4,000,000; aggregate, \$10,000,000.

The following circular in regard to the payment of interest on the four per cent registered stock of 1907, under the acts of July 14, 1870, and January 21, 1871, has been issued by the Treasury Department:

The books of the four per cent registered bonds authorized by the acts of Congress approved July 14, 1870, and January 21, 1871, will be closed for the preparation of interest schedules as follows:

The books embracing registered stocks held abroad will be closed on the evenings of the last days of February, May, August and November, and reopened for transfer and exchange of stock on the mornings of the 16th days of March, June, September and December following. The books embracing registered stock held in the United States will be closed on the evenings of the 15th of March, June, September and December, and reopened for the transfer and exchange of stock on the mornings of the 1st of January, April, July and October following. Stock loaned on exchanges and transfers between the 16th of March, June, September and December, and the first days of succeeding months, will bear interest from April 1, July 1, October 1, or January 1, as the case may be.

Closing prices at the Board have been as follows:

	Int. period.	Dec. 1.	Dec. 2.	Dec. 3.	Dec. 4.	Dec. 5.	Dec. 6.	Dec. 7.
6s, 1861	reg. Jan. & July.	*x7 1/2	*107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2
6s, 1881	comp. Jan. & July.	110 1/2	*111 1/2	*111 1/2	111 1/2	111 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2
Called bonds.								
6s, 5-20s, 1865, n. l.	reg. Jan. & July.	x103 1/2	103 1/2	103 1/2	*103 1/2	103 1/2	*103 1/2	*100
6s, 5-20s, 1865, n. l.	comp. Jan. & July.	106 1/2	106 1/2	106 1/2	106 1/2	106 1/2	106 1/2	106 1/2
6s, 5-20s, 1867	reg. Jan. & July.	x106 1/2	106 1/2	107	*106 1/2	106 1/2	*106 1/2	106 1/2
6s, 5-20s, 1867	comp. Jan. & July.	*109 1/2	109 1/2	109 1/2	109 1/2	109 1/2	109 1/2	109
6s, 5-20s, 1868	reg. Jan. & July.	*109 1/2	*109	*109	109	109 1/2	*109 1/2	109 1/2
6s, 5-20s, 1868	comp. Jan. & July.	*111	*112	*111 1/2	111 1/2	111 1/2	*111 1/2	111
5s, 10-40s	reg. Mar. & Sept.	*108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2
5s, 10-40s	comp. Mar. & Sept.	*109 1/2	109	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	*108 1/2	108 1/2
5s, funded, 1881	reg. Mar. & Sept.	*107 1/2	107	107 1/2	*107 1/2	*107 1/2	*107 1/2	*107
5s, funded, 1881	comp. Mar. & Sept.	107	107	107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	107
4 1/2s, 1891	reg. Mar. & Sept.	*104 1/2	104 1/2	104 1/2	104 1/2	104 1/2	104 1/2	104 1/2
4 1/2s, 1891	comp. Mar. & Sept.	*105 1/2	105 1/2	105 1/2	105 1/2	105 1/2	105 1/2	105 1/2
4s, registered, 1907	reg. Mar. & Sept.	*102 1/2	*102 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2
4s, small coupon	reg. Mar. & Sept.	*102 1/2	*102 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2
6s, Currency	reg. Jan. & July.	*119 1/2	*119 1/2	*119 1/2	*119 1/2	*119 1/2	*119 1/2	*119 1/2

\* This is the price bid; no sale was made at the Board.

**State and Railroad Bonds.**—Southern State bonds have occupied a good deal of attention this week, on account of the meeting of the Legislatures in Tennessee and Virginia, where the debt question has been so prominent as an issue. The Governor of Tennessee strongly advises the acceptance of the 60 per cent proposition offered by bondholders, but its prospect is considered so poor in the Legislature that the bonds here have fallen off sharply. In Virginia, the message of Governor Kamper is very strongly in favor of sustaining the funding law and of leaving the revenue laws as they are, since he claims that the latter will produce sufficient to pay the State's interest in full. Virginia bonds have been stronger in consequence of the Governor's recommendation. Louisiana consols are rather active here, and some \$100,000 have sold at 86 1/2 @ 87 1/2 on a demand from New Orleans or for investment. South Carolina consols are in fair demand, and selected numbers have sold at 67 to 70—some of these to parties who are believed to have a copy of the report of the commissioners, which will probably be made public about the 20th instant.

Railroad bonds have been strong, and in some of the less prominent first mortgage bonds there has been a sharp advance. Advances from Cincinnati report that the Cincinnati Hamilton & Dayton Railroad announces itself unable to pay the interest due in January on the Cincinnati Hamilton & Indianapolis guaranteed bonds.

Closing prices of leading State and Railroad Bonds for three weeks past, and the range since Jan. 1, 1877, have been as follows:

STATES.	Nov. 23.	Nov. 30.	Dec. 7.	Since Jan. 1, 1877.—			
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	
Tennessee 6s, old	46 1/2	46 3/4	43	42 1/2	Feb. 28	49 1/2	Nov. 30
do 6s, new	46 1/2	46 3/4	43	42 1/2	Feb. 28	47 1/2	Nov. 30
North Carolina 6s, old	19 1/2	20 1/2	19	16 1/2	Oct. 25	22 1/2	Jan. 6
Virginia 6s, consol	72	70	70	82 1/2	April 2	82 1/2	Jan. 6
do do 2d series	72	70	70	82 1/2	April 2	82 1/2	Jan. 6
Missouri 6s, long bonds	107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	104	Jan. 23	109 1/2	Jan. 5
District of Columbia, 3-6s 1894	75 1/2	74 1/2	74 1/2	71	Jan. 2	80	June 21
<b>RAILROADS.</b>							
Central of N. J. 1st consol	67	66 1/2	65 1/2	50	Mich. 6	85	Jan. 5
Central Pacific 1st 6s, gold	108 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	105 1/2	Oct. 4	110 1/2	June 11
Chic. Burl. & Quincy consol. 7s	112	112 1/2	106	106	Mich. 16	112 1/2	Nov. 27
Chic. & Northwest n. cp, gold	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	80 1/2	April 11	96 1/2	Nov. 34
Chic. M. & St. P. cons. s. 1d, 7s	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	78	Jan. 26	93 1/2	Nov. 30
Chic. R. I. & Pac. 1st, 7s	108	108 1/2	108 1/2	106	Feb. 28	112	June 29
Eric 1st, 7s, extended	101	110	111	109	Jan. 15	115	June 99
Lake Sh. & Mich. Co. 2d cons. cp	101	110	111	83	July 17	102	May 10
Michigan Central, consol. 7s	105 1/2	105 1/2	105 1/2	100	May 2	107 1/2	Oct. 31
Morris & Essex, 1st mort.	114 1/2	115	113	113	Feb. 19	118	June 7
N. Y. Cen. & Hud. 1st, coup.	119 1/2	120	114	114	Mich. 5	121	May 24
Ohio & Miss., cons. sink. fund	97 1/2	99	98	81 1/2	June 28	100	Dec. 4
Pittsb. Ft. Wayne & Chic. 1st	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	107	Jan. 9	108 1/2	June 23
St. Louis & Iron Mt., 1st mort.	102 1/2	103 1/2	103 1/2	103	Jan. 9	108 1/2	June 18
Union Pacific 1st, 6s, gold	107 1/2	107 1/2	106 1/2	103	Jan. 9	108 1/2	June 18
do sinking fund	95 1/2	95 1/2	94 1/2	92 1/2	Mich. 31	98 1/2	Feb. 6

\* This is the price bid; no sale was made at the Board.

Messrs. A. H. Muller & Son sold a large list of stocks and bonds at auction, among which were the following:

SHARES.	SHARES.	
12 Metropolitan Nat. Bank ... 13 1/2	13 Commercial Fire Ins. .... 130	
20 American Exch. Bank ... 105 1-3/4	17 Tradesmen's Nat. Bank .... 129	
2 Bank of the State of N. Y. .... 120	15 Amity Ins. .... 69	
3 Nat. Trust Co ... 60 1/2	50 Central Park North & East River RR. .... 41 1/2	
20 N. Y. City Ins. .... 40	600 National Bank Note Co. N. Y. \$50 each ... \$2 per share.	
30 Resolute Fire Ins. .... 50 1/2	6 Nat. Park Bank ... 108	
25 German-American Fire Ins. .... 115 1/2	10 Metrop. Nat. Bank ... 133 1/2	
300 Westchester Fire Ins. .... 110 1/2	33 Mechanics' Nat. Bank ... 183 1/2	
160 Farragut Fire Ins. .... 125 1/2 @ 124	6 Continental Nat. Bank ... 71	
140 Guardian Fire Ins. .... 65 @ 68	20 Continental Nat. Bank ... 72	
50 Lamar Fire Ins. .... 105 1/2	13 Bank of the Republic ... 87 1/2	
60 Standard Fire Ins. .... 126	<b>BONDS.</b>	
100 German-American Bank ... 69 1/2	\$125,000 Ind. Bloomington & Western RR. 1st mort. extension ... 8 1/2 @ 1 1/2	
88 Fourth Nat. Bank ... 98	10,500 State of Nev. 10s, gold ... 113	
100 Ninth Nat. Bank ... 50 1/2 @ 50	1,000 L. I. RR. 7s ... 90 1/2	
68 Second Av. RR. .... 65	2,000 Dayton & Mich. RR. 7s, int. guar. by Cin. Ham. & Dayton RR. .... 93 1/2	
257 Third Av. RR. .... 112	8,000 Second Av. RR. consol. conv. 7s, due 1888 ... 91 1/2	
43 Morrisiana Steamboat Co ... 30	1,000 7s Ferry RR. 1st mort. 7s ... 76	
30 Harlem & N. Y. Nav. Co. .... 63	1,000 St. L. & S. E. RR. Co. 7 p. c. gold bond, May, 1874, coupon on ... 36	
10 Manhattan Life Ins. .... 50 1/2		
20 German-American Bank ... 72 1/2		
12 Marlowe Nat. Bank ... 80 1/2		
400 Oriental Bank ... 14 1/2 @ 142		
20 National Park Bank ... 108		
40 Broadway Nat. Bank ... 195		
200 Mechanics' & Traders' Ins. .... 156 1/2		
25 Am. Ex. Fire Ins. .... 100		
35 Kings County Fire Ins. .... 179		
9 Safeguard Fire Ins. .... 130		
44 National Fire Ins. ... 111		

**Railroad and Miscellaneous Stocks.**—In the early part of the week the declining tendency of stocks was checked by the declaration of a dividend of 3 1/2 per cent on Northwest preferred stock, on the following strong exhibit for the first six months of their current fiscal year ending November 30, the month of November being partly estimated:

Gross earnings... \$7,818,560
Operating expenses, taxes, &c... \$3,927,002
Interest on bonds—gold premium... 1,683,563
Rent of leased lines... 648,491

Net... \$1,557,503
Sinking funds... \$108,190
Three and one-half per ct. on \$21,522,400 pref'd stock... \$861,404

Surplus... \$666,059
As a dividend on St. Paul preferred is also commonly talked of, the situation of these two leading Western specialties had a strengthening influence on the whole market.

Subsequently the further sales of Lake Shore, for account, as supposed, of the well-known California operator, had a weakening influence, and prices have been somewhat irregular and feverish. The low price of coal bears heavily on the coal-road stocks, and reports are freely circulated of a new combination, although we believe there is little confidence in "the street" in the ability of the managers to keep up prices by combination—at least in any such way as to materially benefit their incomes. The following from London shows the comparative statement of earnings and expenses of the Erie Railway for the month of September, in the years 1876 and 1877:

Sept. 1876. Sept. 1877.
Gross earnings... \$1,437,223 \$1,184,521
Expenses... 901,048 562,068
Net earnings... \$536,174 Net earnings... \$622,454

The accounts show an increase of \$175,000 in general freight, a decrease of \$275,000 in coal traffic, caused by the miners' strike, and a decrease of \$103,000 in first-class passengers compared with the Centennial traffic of last year.

The daily highest and lowest prices have been as follows:

Table with columns: Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Dec. 5, Dec. 6, Dec. 7. Rows include At. & Pac. Tel., Central of N.J., Chic. Bari. & Q., C. Mil. & St. P., etc.

\* This is the price bid and asked; no sale was made at this Board.

Total sales of the week in leading stocks were as follows:

Table with columns: Dec. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Rows include Northw., Lake West'n, St. Mich., Del. W., Erie, Del. Ind.

Total... 56,010 326,685 179,805 50,425 18,500 196,540 7,440 18,480

The total number of shares of stock outstanding is given in the last line, for the purpose of comparison.

The latest railroad earnings, and the totals from Jan. 1 to latest dates, are given below. The statement includes the gross earnings of all railroads from which returns can be obtained. The columns under the heading "Jan. 1 to latest date" furnish the gross earnings from Jan. 1, and including, the period mentioned in the second column.

Table with columns: Latest earnings reported... Jan. 1 to latest date... 1877. Rows include Atch. Top. & S. Fe., Atlantic & Gt. West., Bar. C. Rap. & North., etc.

Table with columns: Latest earnings reported... Jan. 1 to latest date... 1877. Rows include St. L. I. Mt. & South, St. L. K. C. & North'n, St. L. & S. Francisco, etc.

The Gold Market.—At the Treasury sale of \$1,000,000 gold on December 1, the total bids amounted to \$3,520,000, and the awards were made at 102-81 to 102-87. Gold ruled a little firmer to-day, and closed at 102 1/2. On gold loans the rates were 2, 2 1/2, and 1 1/2 for carrying, with some loans also made flat.

The following table will show the course of gold and gold clearings and balances each day of the past week:

Table with columns: Saturday, Dec. 1... Monday, " 3... Tuesday, " 4... Wednesday, " 5... Thursday, " 6... Friday, " 7... Current week... Previous week... Jan. 1 to date...

The following are the quotations in gold for foreign and American coin:

Table with columns: Americans... Napoleons... X X Reichmarks... X Guldens... Spanish Doubleloons... Mexican Doubleloons... Fine silver bars... Fine gold bars...

Exchange.—Foreign exchange has been quiet and pretty steady. The bond importers have not been doing much the past few days, as rates were rather above their ideas. Cotton bills are coming forward more freely, though the shipments are not yet as large as expected. To-day, on actual business the rates were about 4.81 for bankers' 60-day sterling, and 4.84 for demand.

In domestic bills the following were the rates on New York at the undermentioned cities to-day: Savannah, unsettled, fair demand; Cincinnati, fair demand, 100 discount, selling par; Charleston easier, buying freely at 1/2 discount; St. Louis, par; New Orleans, commercial @7-16, bank 1/2 discount; Chicago, par; and Milwaukee, par.

New York City Banks.—The following statement shows the condition of the Associated Banks of New York City for the week ending at the commencement of business on Dec. 1, 1877:

Table with columns: BANKS, Capital, Loans and Discounts, Specie, Legal Tenders, Net Deposits, Circulation. Rows include New York, Manhattan Co., Merchants, etc.

QUOTATIONS OF STOCKS AND BONDS IN NEW YORK.

U. S. active Bonds and Railroad Stocks are quoted on a previous page. Prices represent the per cent value, whatever the par may be.

Main table with columns: SECURITIES, Bid, Ask, and multiple columns of stock/bond listings including Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, New York State, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and various Railroad Stocks.

Miscellaneous List.

(Brokers' Quotations.)

CITIES.

RAILROADS.

Southern Securities.

(Brokers' Quotations.)

STATES.

CITIES.

RAILROADS.

\* And accrued interest. Price nominal.

\* Price nominal.

NEW YORK LOCAL SECURITIES.

Bank Stock List.

Table with columns: COMPANIES, CAPITAL, Surplus at latest date, DIVIDENDS (Period, 1875, 1876, Last Paid), and PRICE (Bid, Ask). Lists various banks like American, Bowery, and Commercial.

Insurance Stock List.

(Quotations by E. S. BAILEY, broker, 65 Wall street.)

Table with columns: COMPANIES, CAPITAL, NET SURPLUS, DIVIDENDS (1878, 1874, 1875, 1876, Last Paid), and PRICE (Bid, Ask). Lists various insurance companies like Atlantic, American, and Commercial.

Gas and City Railroad Stocks and Bonds.

(Gas Quotations by George H. Prentiss, Broker, 30 Broad Street.)

Table with columns: GAS COMPANIES, Par Amount, Period, Date, Bid, Ask. Lists gas companies like Brooklyn Gas Light Co and Citizens Gas Co.

City Securities.

(Quotations by DANIEL A. MORAN, Broker, 40 Wall Street.)

Table with columns: RATE, INTEREST, Months Payable, Bonded due, PRICE (Bid, Ask). Lists various city securities like New York Water stock and Floating debt stock.

(Quotations by H. L. GRANT, Broker, 145 Broadway.)

Table with columns: COMPANIES, CAPITAL, and other financial details. Lists various stocks like Beecher St. & Fulton Ferry and 1st mortgage.

(Quotations by N. F. BEERS, JR., Broker, 24 Wall St.)

Table with columns: COMPANIES, CAPITAL, and other financial details. Lists various stocks like Brooklyn Local Imp'nt' and City bonds.

(Quotations by C. ZABRISKIE, 47 Montgomery St., Jersey City.)

Table with columns: COMPANIES, CAPITAL, and other financial details. Lists various stocks like Jersey City Water loan and Sewerage bonds.

\* This column shows last dividend on stocks, but the date of maturity of bonds.

# Investments

AND

## STATE, CITY AND CORPORATION FINANCES.

The "Investors' Supplement" is published on the last Saturday of each month, and furnished to all regular subscribers of the CHRONICLE. No single copies of the Supplement are sold at the office, as only a sufficient number is printed to supply regular subscribers.

### GENERAL INVESTMENT NEWS.

**Buffalo & Jamestown.**—The bondholders who bought this road have organized a new company, named the Buffalo & Southwestern Railroad Company.

**Cairo & St. Louis.**—At Springfield, Ill., December 6, in the United States Circuit Court, a bill for foreclosure was filed on behalf of the Union Trust Company, of New York, against the Cairo & St. Louis Railroad. The trust company is trustee for the mortgage bondholders. The mortgage for \$2,500,000, with accrued interest, aggregates over \$3,000,000. The Court appointed Henry W. Smithers, of New York, receiver.

**Cayuga.**—This road, lately sold under foreclosure of the first mortgage, has been reorganized as the Cayuga Southern, and will be operated for account of the purchasers and by their agent. It is controlled by the Lehigh Valley.

**Cincinnati Hamilton & Dayton.**—This company announces itself as unable to pay the interest due January 1 on the guaranteed bonds of the Cincinnati Hamilton & Indianapolis Railroad, formerly known as the Junction Railroad. The stock of the company is owned by the C. H. D., and also \$600,000 of the bonds, about \$1,840,000 of the bonds being held by other parties. A press dispatch from Cincinnati reports that it is suggested that if the former would cancel half their bonds, that is to say, \$900,000, the C. H. & D. would cancel the whole of theirs, that is to say, \$600,000. The following comparison of receipts and expenses for six months ending September 30, 1876 and 1877, has been issued:

	1876.	C. H. & D.	D. & M.	C. R. & C.	C. H. & I.	Total.
Receipts.....	\$477,592	\$465,112	\$28,723	\$165,149	\$1,218,576	
Expenses.....	462,128	519,312	94,379	319,994	1,395,708	
Net earnings.....	\$15,468					
Net loss.....		\$24,100	\$5,655	\$131,845	\$179,153	
Receipts.....	\$474,464	\$445,795	\$92,022	\$178,198	\$1,185,476	
Expenses.....	428,740	459,018	50,237	252,241	1,315,339	
Net earnings.....	\$50,724		\$11,785			
Net loss.....		\$13,233		\$79,048	\$97,026	
Net gain of '77 over '76	\$35,255					
Net loss of 1877 less than 1876.....		\$40,877	\$17,441	\$55,796		
Total net gain or loss reduced.....					\$149,870	

**Kansas Pacific.**—The receivers, Messrs. Greeley and Villard, issued a circular to bondholders, dated November 21, 1877, just one year from the time of their appointment, from which we condense the following:

According to an exhibit made to September 30, 1877, the earnings of the road above operating expenses, since November 21, 1876, were..... \$1,036,604

From which must be deducted—  
Earnings from transportation for account of the U. S. Government, for which no present compensation is received..... \$162,841

Less collection from mail service on Arkansas Valley Railway and freight earnings not yet charged up..... 1,552— 101,285

\$925,875

For the month of October the earnings, above operating expenses, less Government business, were..... 187,358

For the first three weeks in November, allowing 60 per cent for operating expenses, and deducting an estimated amount of Government business..... 97,842

It further appears from the exhibit that, in addition to the total net shown, there were available from other sources, viz.:

Insurance collections..... 2,821

Balance on open accounts..... 12,581— 15,102

So that the total available resources amounted to..... \$1,235,673

As set forth in the exhibit, there were expended, under the order of the Court directing the payment of each portion of the floating debt of the Company originating in the operation of the road prior to the appointment of the receivers, as pay-rolls, supply bills, etc..... \$612,084

Against which the receivers received unexpended material and other assets, representing in value..... 102,293— \$509,731

There were further paid, by authority of the Court, granted on the joint application of the receivers and the committees of the various classes of first mortgage bondholders:

For interest on the first mortgage Union Pacific Eastern Division bonds, on February 1 and August 1, 1877..... 119,563

For interest on the so-called funding mortgage, on April 1, 1877..... 62,550

As a loan to the Denver Pacific Railway & Telegraph Company, to aid in the payment of the interest on its first mortgage bonds, due May 1, 1877, being balance of \$100,118 originally advanced..... 55,182

And other accounts..... 10,106— 65,289

For the satisfaction of the judgment obtained anterior to the appointment of the receivers, by the Stuttgart Committee of February and August and June and December bondholders, for the amount of one coupon..... 58,561

For interest on the so-called funding mortgage on October 1, 1877..... 38,500

As a further loan to the Denver Pacific Railway & Telegraph Company, to aid in the payment of interest on its first mortgage bonds, due Nov. 1, 1877..... 83,000

\$929,335

Showing an excess of receipts over expenditures, amounting to..... \$296,318

Of this balance, however, a large portion will not be available

until the closing of accounts for November with agents of the road, foreign companies, etc.

The last-mentioned two items, having been paid since September 30, 1877, do not appear in the exhibit. These payments, and the corresponding ones on April 1 and May 1, were made with the consent of all parties to the foreclosure suit. It was deemed necessary, in the interest of all bondholders, that the exercise of the power under the funding mortgage to sell out immediately after default the numerous valuable assets of the company which it covered, should not be permitted, and this with special reference to the three-fourths of the stock of the Denver Pacific Railway and Telegraph Company, which form part of these assets. By the sale of this stock upon default, the control of the Denver Pacific might have passed into other hands, which contingency would have rendered it impossible for the Kansas Pacific to enforce its right under the acts of Congress to pro rate with the Union Pacific for the overland business, the enforcement being dependent upon the continuity of the line from Kansas City to Cheyenne. The prevention of the same contingency was likewise the motive for the aid extended to the Denver Pacific in the payments of its first mortgage interest. It is gratifying to record the fact that the judiciousness of this action is admitted by all parties in interest, as far as the receivers are informed.

On joint application of the receivers and the committees of the first mortgage bondholders, authority was recently granted to the receivers to distribute sufficient to the bonds that have heretofore not funded their coupons under the compromise of January, 1874, with the company, to place them on an equal footing, as regards back interest, with the funded bonds. The bonds on which this equalization of interest payments will be made are of the following classes, viz.:

First mortgage bonds, interest payable February and August.

First mortgage bonds, interest payable June and December.

First mortgage bonds, interest payable May and November. (Denver Extension.)

The receivers are prepared to commence on December 1 with this payment. [See advertisement in CHRONICLE.]

The Court has also authorized the receivers to pay, as soon as the requisite funds shall be in hand, the full coupon due on December 1, 1877, on the Union Pacific, Eastern Division, first mortgage bonds, and also one-half of the coupon due on November 1, 1877, on the Denver Extension first mortgage bonds. As will appear from the figures given, the receivers have not at this time sufficient funds to make these disbursements. The bondholders may rest assured, however, that every effort shall be made to make them as soon as possible. Due announcement will be made of the payment.

It affords the receivers satisfaction to state that there has been a marked improvement in the business of the road during the last few months, owing mainly to very large crops raised in Kansas this year.

On the other hand, the bondholders should know that the Union Pacific completed within a few days its Colorado Central Branch to Cheyenne, and, by means of it, will hereafter compete for the Colorado through business, which has so far been a source of large income to the Kansas Pacific. To what extent this new competition will affect the earnings of the latter it is too early to indicate at this time.

**Ohio and Mississippi.**—Mr. John King, Jr., Receiver, in his report to the Court for the month of October gives the following:

RECEIPTS.	
Cash on hand Oct. 1, 1877.....	\$15,470
From station agents.....	409,463
From conductors.....	5,812
From General P. O. Department.....	23,506
From individuals, railroad companies, &c.....	31,270
From express companies.....	500
Total.....	\$485,513

DISBURSEMENTS.	
Vouchers prior to November, 1876.....	\$46,047
Subsequent to November, 1876.....	241,684
Pay-rolls subsequent to November, 1876.....	123,652
Arrearages subsequent to November, 1876.....	959
Cash on hand November 1, 1877.....	71,174
Total.....	\$485,513

Mr. Hassler, in his circular of Nov. 23d, takes the ground that assignees of stock were entitled to vote at the recent election without a transfer of their stock on the books. He says:

"The Ohio and Mississippi was originally chartered by the State of Indiana. This charter was affirmed by the Legislatures of Ohio and Illinois, and in the reorganization of 1858-1867 special care was taken to revive the old charters and the rights under them. Now it so happens that the 9th section of the Indiana charter (Local Laws Indiana, 1848, page 619), [adopted in Ohio by the Legislature of that State, 15th March, 1849, 47 Ohio Laws, page 172, and by the Illinois Legislature, 12th February, 1851, Illinois Laws, 1851, page 89], reads:

"Certificates of stock shall be given to the stockholders, which shall be evidence of stock held, which certificate shall be signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary. The stock shall be assignable by transfer on the books of the company, personally, or by agent or attorney, or by the administrator, executor or guardian, the consent of the President and Directors being thereto had; but such stock shall be held at all times by the company for any dues from the holder thereof to the corporation, or for any sums that may hereafter become due on contract made prior to such transfer; Provided, that after a full payment of any of the shares in the said capital stock, the certificates therefor shall be assignable by endorsement upon the same."

"Hence it follows that the assignee of full-paid stock assigned 'by endorsement' is legally and fairly a stockholder in the Ohio and Mississippi, and in that company a registry of transfer upon the books is not essential to constitute a legal stockholder, nor is it conclusive evidence of such fact. Indeed, it is a question whether, in that company, any other evidence of stockholding is, or can be, conclusive, except manual possession of the certificate."

The Commercial Times.

COMMERCIAL EPITOME.

FRIDAY NIGHT, Dec. 7, 1877.

Trade is generally dull. Even the export business is comparatively small, and the approach of the Christmas holidays does not seem to give the customary impulse to business in seasonable goods. Still, reports from the agricultural districts are such that a revival soon after the holidays is confidently predicted. The regular session of Congress began on Monday. The President, in his annual message, strongly supports the law to provide for a resumption of specie payments, and recommends an impost duty on tea and coffee, in order to admit of reduced taxation on other articles.

The following is a statement of the stocks of leading articles of domestic and foreign merchandise at dates given:

Table with 3 columns: 1876, 1877, 1877. Rows include Beef, Pork, Lard, Tobacco, Coffee, Sugar, Molasses, Hides, Cotton, Rosin, Spirits turpentine, Tar, Rice, Linseed, Saltpetre, Jute, Manila hemp.

Pork has latterly assumed a firmer tone; mess held on the spot strongly at \$13 50, with sales to-day for future delivery at \$13 25 @ \$13 30 for Feb. and \$13 35 @ \$13 45 for March. Lard has also improved, and was fairly active to-day at \$8 45 @ \$8 47 1/2 for prime city and Western on the spot, and for Dec. and Jan. deliveries; \$8 55 for Feb. and \$8 62 1/2 for March. Bacon was active at the West for Dec. delivery at 6 1/4 @ 6 1/2 c. for long and short clear together, but an advance asked checked business at the close. Cutsmeats have ruled more steady. Beef and beef hams in fair demand and firm. Tallow dull at 7 1/2 c. for prime. Stearine has been active and closed firmer at \$8 85 per 100 lbs. Butter and cheese of the finer qualities have brought rather more money.

Kentucky tobacco has continued in good export demand, the sales for the week aggregating 900 hhd's, besides 200 hhd's. for home consumption—making a total of 1,100 hhd's. Prices are rather dearer: lugs, 3 1/2 @ 5 c.; leaf, 7 @ 12 1/2 c. There has also been rather more doing in seed leaf, but the trade in this article continues to be restricted by the strike of the cigarmakers. Sales have been 200 cases sundries, 4 @ 15 c.; 110 cases, crop 1875, Pennsylvania, private terms; 50 cases, crop 1876, Pennsylvania, private terms; 150 cases, crop 1876, New England, 10 @ 27 c.; 445 cases, crop 1876, Ohio, 7 @ 8 c. Of Spanish tobacco there have been sales of 500 bales at 78 c. @ \$1 10.

Rio coffee has advanced and closes very firm; cargoes quoted at 16 @ 20 c., gold, and jobbing lots as high as 21 1/2 c., gold; mild grades have sold fairly at firm prices. Rice has declined a trifle, owing to a continued quietude. Molasses is dull for foreign, with 50-test Cuba refining, wholly nominal at 38 c.; new crop New Orleans has sold freely at 35 @ 50 c. Refined sugars have been in demand at low prices; standard crushed, 9 1/2 c. Raw grades have declined and close weak at very irregular figures; fair to good refining quoted 7 @ 7 1/2 c.

In ocean freights a fair business has been reported, though at irregular and somewhat easier rates. To-day, no changes took place; business was limited; grain to Liverpool, by steam, 7 1/4 d.; cotton, by sail, 9-32 d.; grain to Hull, by steam, 8 1/4 d.; do. to Bristol, by sail, 8 1/4 d.; do. to Cork for orders, 6s. per qr.; refined petroleum to Bremen, 4s.

Naval stores have been rather quiet, until the close, when 1,000 barrels spirits turpentine sold for canning purposes at 33 1/2 c.; common to good strained rosins have been slightly irregular at \$1 67 1/2 @ \$1 70. Petroleum has remained steady and quiet; crude, in bulk, closes 8 c.; refined, in barrels, 13 c. for December delivery. In oils there have been during the week about 5,000 barrels crude sperm sold at New Bedford, for export, at a private figure. American and Scotch pig iron have continued quiet, but in rails there has been a continued activity; 10,000 tons steel sold for Western account and 4,000 tons for local consumption; quoted here at \$12. Ingot copper steady, though quiet; quoted at 17 1/2 @ 17 3/4 c. Grass seeds have been in better demand at 8 1/2 @ 8 3/4 c. per lb. for clover, and \$1 37 1/2 @ \$1 40 per bushel for timothy.

COTTON.

FRIDAY, P. M., December 7, 1877.

THE MOVEMENT OF THE CROP, as indicated by our telegrams from the South to-night, is given below. For the week ending this evening (Dec. 7), the total receipts have reached 174,365 bales, against 172,216 bales last week, 200,980 bales the previous week, and 194,571 bales three weeks since, making the total receipts since the 1st of September, 1877, 1,673,882 bales, against 2,031,398 bales for the same period of 1876, showing a decrease since Sept. 1, 1877, of 357,516 bales. The details of the receipts for this week (as per telegraph) and for the corresponding weeks of five previous years are as follows:

Table showing Receipts this week at— 1877, 1876, 1875, 1874, 1873, 1872. Rows include New Orleans, Mobile, Charleston, Port Royal, Savannah, Galveston, Indianola, Tennessee, Florida, North Carolina, Norfolk, City Point.

The exports for the week ending this evening reach a total of 91,318 bales, of which 60,026 were to Great Britain, 17,882 to France, and 13,410 to rest of the Continent, while the stocks as made up this evening are now 724,832 bales. Below are the stocks and exports for the week, and also for the corresponding week of last season:

Table with columns: Week ending Dec. 7, Exported to (Great Britain, France, Continent), Total this week, Same week 1876, 1877, 1875. Rows include New Orleans, Mobile, Charleston, Savannah, Galveston, New York, Norfolk, Other ports.

\* New Orleans.—Our telegram to-night from New Orleans shows that (besides above exports) the amount of cotton on shipboard and engaged for shipment at that port is as follows: For Liverpool, 51,250 bales; for Havre, 41,750 bales; for the Continent, 22,000 bales; for coastwise ports, 4,000 bales; which, if deducted from the stock, would leave 125,000 bales, representing the quantity at the landing and in presses unsold or awaiting orders.

† Galveston.—Our Galveston telegram shows (besides above exports) on shipboard at that port, not cleared: For Liverpool, 24,039 bales; for other foreign, 5,463 bales; for coastwise ports, 4,304 bales; which, if deducted from the stock, would leave remaining 50,960 bales.

‡ The exports this week under the head of "other ports" include from Baltimore, 935 bales to Liverpool; from Boston, 4,829 bales to Liverpool; from Philadelphia, 1,222 bales to Liverpool; from Wilmington, 4,387 bales to Liverpool.

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that, compared with the corresponding week of last season, there is a decrease in the exports this week of 61,871 bales, while the stocks to-night are 209,349 bales less than they were at this time a year ago. The following is our usual table showing the movement of cotton at all the ports from Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, the latest mail dates:

Table with columns: PORTS, RECEIPTS SINCE SEPT. 1 (1877, 1876), EXPORTED SINCE SEPT. 1 TO— (Great Britain, France, Other fore'n, Total), Coastwise Ports, Stock. Rows include N. Orleans, Mobile, Charleston, Savannah, Galveston, New York, Florida, N. Carolina, Norfolk, Other ports.

\* Under the head of Charleston is included Port Royal, &c.; under the head of Galveston is included Indianola, &c.; under the head of Norfolk is included City Point &c.

These mail returns do not correspond precisely with the total of the telegraphic figures, because in preparing them it is always necessary to incorporate every correction made at the ports.

The market has been active and buoyant the past week. The chief interest, however, is in the speculation for future delivery. Cotton on the spot was quoted 1-16c. higher on Tuesday and again





	Week ending Dec. 7, 1877.			Week ending Dec. 8, 1876.		
	Receipts.	Shipments.	Stock.	Receipts.	Shipments.	Stock.
Augusta, Ga. ....	7,793	9,141	14,139	8,955	7,816	15,059
Columbus, Ga. ....	2,993	3,345	10,597	3,252	2,968	9,751
Macon, Ga. ....	2,992	8,113	9,815	4,476	5,229	7,555
Montgomery, Ala. ....	5,893	4,534	11,914	4,138	1,963	11,398
Selma, Ala. ....	4,651	4,021	4,433	4,724	4,275	9,210
Memphis, Tenn. ....	19,895	13,051	42,879	20,962	13,800	67,846
Nashville, Tenn. ....	8,332	1,625	4,160	2,276	468	7,422
<b>Total, old ports.</b>	<b>47,526</b>	<b>38,910</b>	<b>93,742</b>	<b>48,783</b>	<b>36,519</b>	<b>127,741</b>
Dallas, Texas. ....	1,902	1,427	2,161	3,067	3,520	2,164
Jefferson, Tex. ....	1,198	1,941	1,178	1,907	763	6,323
Shreveport, La. ....	5,211	3,798	7,417	4,979	4,627	5,105
Vicksburg, Miss. ....	8,913	4,043	3,141	7,115	6,847	6,449
Columbus, Miss. ....	1,635	1,128	3,169	1,428	1,143	6,988
Eufaula, Ala. ....	1,459	1,489	5,125	1,906	1,818	3,996
Griffin, Ga. ....	628	763	1,299	850	622	1,634
Atlanta, Ga. ....	5,890	5,883	16,731	2,027	4,098	9,363
Rome, Ga. ....	2,776	1,997	3,197	2,022	1,743	1,515
Charlotte, N.C. ....	4,173	4,230	1,724	2,958	3,097	1,113
St. Louis, Mo. ....	9,747	8,970	19,928	12,653	11,417	27,130
Cincinnati, O. ....	6,076	7,524	4,261	12,804	9,174	14,139
<b>Total, new ports</b>	<b>44,533</b>	<b>43,163</b>	<b>69,831</b>	<b>53,255</b>	<b>43,929</b>	<b>85,981</b>
<b>Total, all. ....</b>	<b>94,064</b>	<b>82,073</b>	<b>169,073</b>	<b>102,039</b>	<b>85,448</b>	<b>213,722</b>

The above totals show that the old interior stocks have increased during the week 8,616 bales, and are to-night 27,999 bales less than at the same period last year. The receipts at the same towns have been 1,257 bales less than the same week last year.

**WEATHER REPORTS BY TELEGRAPH.**—This has been a remarkably cold week throughout the South, with considerable rain the early part of it. Ice appears to have formed almost everywhere two or more nights.

**Galveston, Texas.**—It has rained here on three days, one day hard and two showery, the rainfall reaching two inches and forty-five hundredths. The thermometer has averaged 50, the extremes being 30 and 67. The country roads have improved, but are still bad, and there is plenty of frost and ice everywhere.

**Indianola, Texas.**—It has been showery three days, the rainfall aggregating one inch and twenty-one hundredths. Average thermometer 55, highest 77 and lowest 33. Planters are sending their cotton to market as freely as the bad roads will permit.

**Corsicana, Texas.**—The crop is being marketed freely, but the roads are still bad. The weather has been too cold, and there were killing frosts on six nights. Average thermometer 42, highest 68 and lowest 14. We have had a heavy rain on one day, the rainfall reaching two inches and nineteen hundredths.

**Dallas, Texas.**—The roads in this section are better, but far from good. We have had a hard rain on one day, the rainfall reaching one inch and fifteen hundredths. We have had killing frosts and ice on six nights. Average thermometer 43, highest 69 and lowest 15.

**Brenham, Texas.**—We have had a shower on one day, with a rainfall of twenty hundredths of an inch. The roads are in better condition. Much small grain has been sown. Average thermometer 53, highest 73 and lowest 39.

**New Orleans, Louisiana.**—It has rained here on one day this week, the rainfall reaching one inch and seventy-hundredths. The thermometer has averaged 43. The rainfall during the month has been six and twenty-hundredths inches.

**Shreveport, Louisiana.**—It was showery Monday last, but the rest of the week has been clear and pleasant. Picking will close about the 20th. Average thermometer 44, highest 70 and lowest 19. The rainfall has been one and eleven-hundredths inches.

**Vicksburg, Mississippi.**—The thermometer has ranged from 23 to 68, averaging 43. We have had rain on two days, the rainfall reaching one and twenty-two hundredths inches.

**Columbus, Mississippi.**—The rainfall during the week has been forty-nine hundredths of an inch. Picking, in this section, is about completed.

**Little Rock, Arkansas.**—Monday and Tuesday were cloudy, with hard rain on Monday night, but the remainder of the week has been clear and frosty. The thermometer has averaged 41, the highest being 74 and the lowest 12. The rainfall has been one and forty hundredths inches.

**Nashville, Tennessee.**—Telegram not received.

**Memphis, Tennessee.**—Rain has fallen on two days of the week, the rainfall reaching sixty-five hundredths of an inch. Planters are sending cotton to market freely, and it is believed that about 43 per cent of the crop in this section has been marketed. Cotton is suffering with the rot unprecedentedly. The thermometer has averaged 38, the extremes being 16 and 65.

**Mobile, Alabama.**—It has rained severely on one day and has been showery two days, the balance of the week having been pleasant. We are having too much rain and it has been too cold, and much damage has been done. Picking is progressing slowly.

Average thermometer 45, highest 65 and lowest 26. The rainfall has been one and eighty-nine hundredths inches. The rainfall during the month has been four and seventy hundredths inches.

**Montgomery, Alabama.**—It has rained on two days and the balance of the week has been cloudy and cold. We have had killing frosts on three nights. The thermometer has averaged 43, the highest being 65 and the lowest 24. We have had a rainfall of seventy-two hundredths of an inch during the week, and three and seventy-five hundredths during the month.

**Selma, Alabama.**—The earlier part of the week was clear and pleasant, but we have had rain on two days the latter part. Ice formed in this vicinity on four nights.

**Madison, Florida.**—Telegram not received.

**Macon, Georgia.**—Telegram not received.

**Atlanta, Georgia.**—It has rained steadily one day and has been showery one day, the rainfall reaching one inch and twenty-four hundredths. The thermometer has averaged 38, the highest being 64 and the lowest 20. There has been a rainfall of four inches and thirty-seven hundredths during the month.

**Columbus, Georgia.**—It has rained severely one day of the week, the rainfall reaching ninety-two hundredths of an inch. The thermometer has averaged 45. The rainfall during the month has been three and seventy-nine hundredths inches.

**Savannah, Georgia.**—We have had rain on three days the earlier part of this week, the rainfall reaching one inch and nine hundredths, but the latter part has been clear and pleasant. The thermometer has ranged from 28 to 68, averaging 48.

**Augusta, Georgia.**—We had heavy rain on two days the earlier part of the week, but the latter part has been clear and pleasant. Crop accounts are about the same, and planters are sending their crop to market freely. Average thermometer 57, highest 68 and lowest 24. The rainfall during the week has been one inch and thirty-six hundredths, and during the month six inches and six hundredths.

**Charleston, South Carolina.**—Telegram not received.

The following statement we have also received by telegraph showing the height of the rivers at the points named at 3 o'clock Dec. 6. We give last year's figures (Dec. 7, 1876) for comparison:

	Dec. 6, '77.		Dec. 7, '76.	
	Feet.	Inch.	Feet.	Inch.
New Orleans. Below high-water mark. ....	10	7	14	4
Memphis. .... Above low-water mark. ....	18	1	8	7
Nashville. .... Above low-water mark. ....	6	6	2	7
Shreveport. .... Above low-water mark. ....	23	11	5	8
Vicksburg. .... Above low-water mark. ....	23	4	12	11

New Orleans reported below high-water mark of 1871 until Sept. 9, 1874, when the zero of gauge was changed to high-water mark of April 15 and 16, 1874, which is 6-10ths of a foot above 1871, or 16 feet above low-water mark at that point.

**HOW TO INFLUENCE PRICES.**—Mr. Charles A. Easton publishes through the New York *Bulletin* a circular letter to his correspondents arguing (1) that our crop will probably turn out from 4,000,000 to 4,250,000 bales; (2) that the visible supply of cotton is now several hundred thousand bales less than it was last year; (3) that the mills of the world will, in his opinion, want more than the probable production; (4) that the present depression of the goods trade should be cured by producing less goods; (5) that prices are now unnaturally low and kept so by a too rapid throwing of our supply on the market through an inability of planters and merchants to command the capital to carry it; (6) that everything would become lovely if the banks would more freely make advances on cotton, so that it could be held on this side until the Manchester spinner was willing to pay one or two cents more per pound.

Sympathizing very deeply in the ostensible object of this argument—that is, the securing of higher prices for our cotton—we should gladly join in favoring the scheme did it look to us equally promising. But do not question something like the following naturally arise as one reads these several propositions.

First—Why do not banks make advances freely now? They certainly are free to do it, and the interest they are earning is very low while taxes are very high, and they are complaining fearfully because they cannot use their balances more advantageously. Why do they not, then, increase their profits by buying cotton bills? Evidently either the present bank officers are so pig-headed they cannot see their own interest, or the merchants and planters do not want the accommodation, or else the transaction is so hazardous that the promised profits do not pay for the risk. As the door is wide open, a chance offers for any one or more of our wealthy cotton merchants in each city to step into this unoccupied field, and add to our bank capital and

to their own personal experience by solving the problem which the facts we have suggested offers.

Second—But why stop at one or two cents advance in price? Mr. Easton shows that one cent means an additional \$13,500,000 profit to the United States on this year's probable export of cotton, two cents mean \$27,000,000 more profit, and in the same manner we think four cents would be \$54,000,000 additional profit and eight cents \$108,000,000. In fact, the thing looks so agreeable that we are half inclined to use up the multiplication table in presenting the attractive feature of it. If we can in any way put the whole exportable portion of this crop in a box and keep it there, eight cents or even sixteen cents advance is just as easily obtainable as one cent; and it looks to us more attractive in its larger shape than in its lesser form. To be sure, the country has in years gone by had one unfortunate piece of experience resulting from a similar attempt; but that was a long time ago, and things may have changed since then.

Third—Against such an advance, however, would seem to be the advice given to spinners in this circular letter to improve the goods trade by reducing production. In fact, is not that just what is happening at the present moment? Manchester is producing less goods, Germany is producing less, Russia is producing less, and now finally France is producing less; consequently, each of these nations wants less cotton. So the advice given appears to have been anticipated, and even yet the trade is depressed. Does it not look as if there was a disease here much deeper than the skin, and not to be cured by some simple salve?

Fourth, and finally, cotton viewed simply in a statistical way is undoubtedly very strong. There are several hundred thousand bales less in sight than there were a year ago, and if we had the prospect of a consumption equal to the promise of last winter, we should be able to rejoice in quoting the market every day buoyant. But so long as the goods trade everywhere remains in its present stagnant condition, there can be but little heart in the trade for cotton. Consumption is falling off at all points, and the goods that are sold show no adequate profit, so that the supply—unless France becomes quiet and the war comes to an end—is likely to satisfy this restricted demand. Such conditions cannot be changed by artificial means even if the plan proposed were feasible in itself. New York or New Orleans, or even Liverpool, is not the hub of the commercial system; and, certainly, "those few people who have lately gone into the business" hold no such position. Their little tricks are of a kind every market suffers under, and always will, so long as man is mean enough to squeeze his neighbors to secure a penny. But that kind of person stands on both sides the fence—the bears have no monopoly in them. The comfort is, they are a short-lived race; for, like the moth that flies about the lamp at night, they soon get singed and drop.

**BOMBAY SHIPMENTS.**—According to our cable despatch received to-day, there have been 2,000 bales shipped from Bombay to Great Britain the past week, and 7,000 bales to the Continent; while the receipts at Bombay during this week have been 11,000 bales. The movement since the 1st of January is as follows. These are the figures of W. Nicol & Co., of Bombay, and are brought down to Thursday, Dec. 6:

	Shipm'ts this week		Shipments since Jan. 1.			Receipts		
	Great Britain.	Continent.	Great Britain.	Continent.	Total.	This week.	Since Jan. 1.	
1877....	2,000	7,000	9,000	383,000	431,000	613,000	11,000	1,071,000
1876....	8,000	8,000	579,000	401,000	980,000	8,000	1,086,000	
1875....	8,000	8,000	733,000	417,000	1,150,000	10,000	1,219,000	

From the foregoing it would appear that, compared with last year, there has been an increase of 1,000 bales in the week's shipments from Bombay to Europe, and that the total movement since January 1 shows a decrease in shipments of 167,000 bales, compared with the corresponding period of 1876.

**GUNNY BAGS, BAGGING, ETC.**—Bagging has been in rather better request during the past week, mostly for speculative purposes, with transactions to the extent of about 3,000 rolls here and 4,000 rolls in Boston. The prices paid have not transpired, but are believed to be 10c. for light weight, and 10½c. for standard. For general trade the market is quiet, and general quotations at 10½@11c., as to quality. Butts are ruling rather firmer in tone on the part of holders, and the present figure is 2½@2¾c. There have been no sales on spot, and there is a rumor of a sale of prime, for forward shipment, of bagging quality, at 2 13-16c., gold.

**THE EXPORTS OF COTTON** from New York, this week, show a decrease, as compared with last week, the total reaching 9,664 bales, against 15,127 bales last week. Below we give our usual

table showing the exports of cotton from New York, and their direction, for each of the last four weeks; also the total exports and direction since Sept. 1, 1877; and in the last column the total for the same period of the previous year:

Exports of Cotton (bales) from New York since Sept. 1, 1877

EXPORTED TO	WEEK ENDING				Total to date.	Same period previous year.
	Nov. 14.	Nov. 21.	Nov. 28.	Dec. 5.		
Liverpool.....	8,464	9,196	13,663	7,351	94,101	129,380
Other British Ports.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,845	4,164
<b>Total to Gt. Britain</b>	<b>8,464</b>	<b>9,196</b>	<b>13,663</b>	<b>7,351</b>	<b>95,946</b>	<b>134,124</b>
Havre.....	152	.....	352	.....	1,973	4,996
Other French ports.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	115	.....
<b>Total French.....</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>2,088</b>	<b>4,996</b>
Bremen and Hanover.....	750	3,866	1,312	1,112	8,166	7,059
Hamburg.....	750	743	.....	.....	2,015	1,740
Other ports.....	1,501	.....	.....	1,300	8,103	1,480
<b>Total to N. Europe.</b>	<b>3,001</b>	<b>4,609</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>2,412</b>	<b>19,385</b>	<b>10,269</b>
Spain, Oporto & Gibraltar & All others.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	303
<b>Total Spain, &amp;c.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>303</b>
<b>Grand Total.....</b>	<b>11,647</b>	<b>13,801</b>	<b>15,127</b>	<b>9,664</b>	<b>115,859</b>	<b>149,371</b>

The following are the receipts of cotton at New York, Boston Philadelphia and Baltimore for the past week, and since Sept. 1, '77

REC'D FROM	NEW YORK.		BOSTON.		PHILADELPHIA		BALTIMORE.	
	This week.	Since Sept. 1.	This week.	Since Sept. 1.	This week.	Since Sept. 1.	This week.	Since Sept. 1.
New Orleans..	4,667	62,791	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Texas.....	1,783	26,033	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Savannah.....	3,714	56,581	1,609	13,561	1,374	9,945	3,488	22,556
Mobile.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Florida.....	319	334	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
S'th Carolina	5,347	80,044	.....	775	.....	.....	626	6,478
N'ch Carolina.	8,216	16,867	.....	.....	.....	.....	331	5,796
Virginia.....	5,026	77,617	3,038	21,632	.....	.....	1,706	12,140
North'n Ports	866	5,482	3,232	26,186	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tennessee, &c	6,031	22,161	1,441	17,763	1,089	3,219	.....	.....
Foreign.....	.....	3,024	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Total this year</b>	<b>32,890</b>	<b>321,734</b>	<b>8,930</b>	<b>80,337</b>	<b>2,463</b>	<b>15,167</b>	<b>6,951</b>	<b>64,239</b>
<b>Total last year.</b>	<b>35,836</b>	<b>441,435</b>	<b>9,711</b>	<b>83,684</b>	<b>3,259</b>	<b>19,383</b>	<b>7,765</b>	<b>54,167</b>

**SHIPPING NEWS.**—The exports of cotton from the United States the past week, as per latest mail returns, have reached 129,163 bales. So far as the Southern ports are concerned, these are the same exports reported by telegraph, and published in THE CHRONICLE last Friday. With regard to New York, we include the manifests of all vessels cleared up to Wednesday night of this week.

	Total bales.
<b>NEW YORK</b> —To Liverpool, per steamers City of Chester, 721... The Queen, 1,274... Scythia, 665... Adriatic, 749... per ships Lake Ontario, 194... Hamilton Fish, 1,653... Antrim, 1,781.....	7,352
To Bremen, per steamer Neckar, 1,112.....	1,112
To Reval, per steamer Northumbria, 1,300.....	1,300
<b>NEW ORLEANS</b> —To Liverpool, per steamers Ben Ledl, 992... Haytian, 5,200... per ships Wm. Tapscott, 5,645... Genevieve Strickland, 4,860... Adona, 3,650.....	23,547
To Havre, per ships Nonquam Dornio, 4,338... Virginia, 3,896... Forest Eagle, 4,515... John Watt, 4,433... per barka Albert, 2,903... Alamo, 3,137.....	22,217
To Roneu, per bark Karsten Leogaard, 331.....	331
To Marsellas, per bark Union, 100.....	100
To Bremen, per ship Friedrich, 5,509.....	5,509
To Aotwerp, per bark Lizzie Perry, 1,724.....	1,724
To Barcelona, per barka Mayo, 699... Maria Carolina, 399... per brig Nuevo Sabina, 528.....	1,696
To Malaga, per bark Daniel Draper, 2,600.....	2,600
To Genoa, per bark Michele Galatola, 303.....	303
To Vera Cruz, per steamer City of Merida, 692.....	692
<b>MOBILE</b> —To Liverpool, per ship Tonawanda, 4,777.....	4,777
To Havre, per schooner E. A. Baizley, 1,356.....	1,356
<b>CHARLESTON</b> —To Liverpool, per ships Andrew Jackson, 3,777 Upland... per bark Albion, 1,279 Upland.....	5,056
To Havre, per barka Sutherland, 1,750 Upland... Rome, 2,525 Upland and 68 Sea Island... Cronstadt, 2,725 Upland and 236 Sea Island.....	7,904
To Barcelona, per bark Ana, 640 Upland... per brig Lola, 666 Upland.....	1,446
To a port in Spain, per bark Escalada, 750 Upland.....	750
To Genoa, per bark James E. Ward, 1,303 Upland.....	1,303
To a port on the Mediterranean, per steamer Elvira, 3,370 Upland.....	3,370
<b>SAVANNAH</b> —To Liverpool, per ship Southern Rights, 3,781 Upland... To Cork or Falmouth, for orders, per bark Drumadon, 3,075 Upland.....	6,856
To Havre, per bark Kingsbyrd, 910 Upland.....	910
To Bremen, per barka Pauline, 1,674 Upland... Peter Rohard, 1,950 Upland... Runneborg, 1,377 Upland.....	5,101
To Barcelona, per steamer Vidal Sala, 2,500 Upland.....	2,500
<b>TEXAS</b> —To Liverpool, per barka Emma Parker, 1,454... Espana, 1,011... Florida, 650... per brig Rana, 593.....	3,023
To Fleetwood, per bark Artillerist, 1,333.....	1,333
<b>WILMINGTON</b> —To Liverpool, per brig Azha, 1,039.....	1,039
To Amers'dam, per bark Von Heyden Carlton, 940.....	940
To Rotterdam, per brig Adeone, 715.....	715
<b>NORFOLK</b> —To Liverpool, per ships Empire of Peace, 4,830... Belle O'Brien, 6,360.....	11,300
<b>BALTIMORE</b> —To Liverpool, per steamer Buena Ventura, 531.....	531
To Bremen, per steamer Ohio, 2,635.....	2,635
<b>BOSTON</b> —To Liverpool, per steamer Batavia, 290.....	290
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>129,163</b>

The particulars of these shipments, arranged in our usual form, are as follows:

Table with columns: Fleet, Bre, Ant-B'celona, Genos, Total. Rows include New York, N. Orleans, Mobile, Charleston, Savannah, Texas, Wilmington, Norfolk, Baltimore, Boston.

Included in the above totals are, from New York, 1,800 bales to Reval, &c.; from New Orleans, 693 bales to Vera Cruz.

LIVERPOOL, December 7—4:30 P.M.—BY CABLE FROM LIVERPOOL.—Estimated sales of the day were 10,000 bales, of which 1,000 bales were for export and speculation. Of to-day's sales 6,900 bales were American. The weekly movement is given as follows:

Table showing weekly movement of cotton with columns for Nov. 16, Nov. 23, Nov. 30, Dec. 7. Rows include Sales of the week, Forwarded, Sales American, Total stock, Total import, Actual export, Amount afloat.

The following table will show the daily closing prices of cotton for the week: Table with columns for Sept., Satur., Mon., Tues., Wednes., Thurs., Fri. Rows include Mid. Upl'ds., Mid. Or'fine., Futures.

These sales are on the basis of Uplands, Low Middling clause, unless otherwise stated. SATURDAY. Dec. delivery, 6 11-32d. Dec.-Jan. delivery, 6 11-32d. Jan.-Feb. delivery, 6 11-32d. Mar.-Apr. delivery, 6 11-32d.

MONDAY. Dec. delivery, 6 11-32d. Jan.-Feb. delivery, 6 11-32d. Feb.-Mar. delivery, 6 11-32d. Mar.-Apr. delivery, 6 11-32d. Dec.-Jan. shipm't, Orleans, Low Mid. clause, sail, 6 11-32d.

TUESDAY. Dec. delivery, 6 11-32d. Dec.-Jan. delivery, 6 11-32d. Jan.-Feb. delivery, 6 11-32d. Feb.-Mar. delivery, 6 11-32d. Mar.-Apr. delivery, 6 11-32d. Nov.-Dec. shipment, new crop, sail, 6 11-32d. Feb.-Mar. shipm't, new crop, sail, 8 11-32d. Nov.-Dec. shipm't, Orleans, Low Mid. clause, sail, 6 11-32d.

WEDNESDAY. Dec. delivery, 6 11-32d. Dec.-Jan. delivery, 6 11-32d. Jan.-Feb. delivery, 6 11-32d. Feb.-Mar. delivery, 6 11-32d. Mar.-Apr. delivery, 6 11-32d. Apr.-May delivery, 6 11-32d. Jan.-Feb. shipm't, new crop, sail, 6 11-32d.

THURSDAY. Dec. delivery, 6 11-32d. Jan.-Feb. delivery, 6 11-32d. Feb.-Mar. delivery, 6 11-32d. Apr.-May delivery, 6 11-32d. Mar.-Apr. shipm't, sail, 6 11-32d. Dec.-Jan. delivery, 6 11-32d. Jan.-Feb. delivery, 6 11-32d. Feb.-Mar. delivery, 6 11-32d.

FRIDAY. Dec. delivery, 6 11-32d. Dec.-Jan. delivery, 6 11-32d. Jan.-Feb. delivery, 6 11-32d. Feb.-Mar. delivery, 6 11-32d. Mar.-Apr. delivery, 6 11-32d. Nov.-Dec. shipment, new crop, sail, 6 11-32d.

Below we give all news received to date of disasters to vessels carrying cotton from United States ports, &c.: NURNBERG, str. (Ger.), at Bremen, Nov. 16, from Baltimore, had been ashore on Langeroo, on her way up to Bremen. No date. The bark Martha A. M'Neil, at Liverpool, Nov. 16, from Charleston, reports: On passage passed a bark, about 500 tons, mainmast gone about 20 feet above deck, mizzen-topmasts all gone, main and mizzen masts painted white, foremost bright, abandoned, 44 to 45 N., 30 W.; name on stern, but was unable to make it out; master thinks she was not timber laden, but probably oil or cotton.

Table showing cotton freights the past week with columns for Liverpool, Havre, Bremen, Hamburg. Rows include Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

EUROPEAN COTTON MARKETS.—In reference to these markets, our correspondent in London, writing under the date of Nov. 24, 1877, states:

Table showing current prices of American cotton compared with those of last year. Columns include Ord. & Mid., Fr. & G. Fr., G. & Fine, Mid., Fatr. Good. Rows include Sea Island, Florida, Upland, Mobile, Texas, Orleans.

Since the commencement of the year the transactions on speculation and for export have been:

Table showing transactions on speculation and for export with columns for Actual exp. from Liv., Hull & other, Actual from U.K. Rows include American, Brazilian, Egyptian, Smyrna & Greek, West Indian, Total.

The following statement shows the sales and imports of cotton for the week and year, and also the stocks on hand on Thursday evening last, compared with the corresponding period of last year:

Table showing sales and imports of cotton with columns for Sales this week, Total this period, Same weekly sales. Rows include American, Brazilian, Egyptian, Smyrna & Greek, West Indian, Total.

Table showing stocks on hand with columns for Imports, Stocks. Rows include American, Brazilian, Egyptian, Smyrna & Greek, West Indian, Total.

BREADSTUFFS.

FRIDAY, P. M., Dec. 7, 1877.

There was a very dull market for flour during the first half of the week, and prices of some of the low grades slightly receded, but latterly the export demand has been more active for Great Britain as well as the West Indies, and large lines of common extras sold at \$5 50@55 60, part for arrival, with the better grades going at \$6@6 25. The better grades have been dull, but firmly held. Rye flour was quiet, but the business in corn meal was more active. To-day, the market was strong but not active.

The wheat market was dull and depressed early in the week; the export demand was small, and local millers bought sparingly. There was consequently a decline to \$1 29@1 31 for No. 2 spring, New York and Milwaukee grades, but in the course of Tuesday and Wednesday there was an advance, with sales of No. 2 Milwaukee at \$1 32 1/2@1 33, and No. 1 do. at \$1 37; but yesterday the market was dull at these figures. The speculation in futures has been quite moderate, including on Wednesday No. 2 spring, N. Y. grade, at \$1 31 1/2 for Dec. and \$1 33 for Jan. Receipts at the West show but a moderate increase over last year. To-day, holders were stronger, and No. 2 Milwaukee held at \$1 34, but this figure checked business, and futures were quiet.

Indian corn has shown a steady improvement for prime old mixed, on improving foreign advices, until yesterday No. 2 sold at 6 1/4@6 1/2 c., spot and December, and steamer mixed 6 3/4@6 3/8 c. on the spot and 6 3/8 c. for December. New corn has arrived in moderate quantities, selling at 5 1/2@5 3/4 c. on Tuesday and 5 1/2@60 c. yesterday. The supply of Southern corn is quite small. Receipts of corn at the West are liberal for the season, as farmers do not find it profitable to feed it, owing to the low value of swine. To-day, No. 2 mixed sold at 6 5/8 c., spot, December and January.

Rye has slightly declined, with recent sales at 71@72 c. for No. 2 Western, in store and afloat, and 76 1/2 c. for State afloat. Barley has met with a very active demand, but buyers have found free sellers, and prices are merely steady. The demand was in part for export, at 76 c. for two-rowed State, and 80 c. for Canada, in bond. Canada peas are quiet.

Oats declined to 38 1/2@39 c. for No. 2 Chicago mixed, at which free sales were made, followed by a steadier market. To-day, the market was fairly active at 38 1/2@39 1/2 c. for No. 2 mixed and white.

Table showing closing quotations for flour and grain. Columns include Flour, Grain. Rows include No. 2, Superfine State & West., Extra State, Western Spring Wheat, White, Corn-West mixed, Yellow Western, Southern, yellow, new.



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Cor. of Montague & Chilton sts., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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FRANCE, Trudelle . . . . . Wed., Dec. 12, 10 A. M. CANADIAN, Frangent . . . . . Wed., Dec. 16, 10 A. M. AMERIQUE, Ponzio . . . . . Wed., Jan. 9, 9:30 A. M.

PRICE OF PASSAGE IN GOLD (including wine): To Havre—First cabin, \$100; second cabin, \$ 5; third cabin, \$35; steerage, \$26—including wine, bedding and utensils.

To Plymouth, London or any railway station to England—First cabin, \$90 to \$100, according to accommodation; second cabin, \$45; third cabin, \$35, steerage, \$27, including everything as above.

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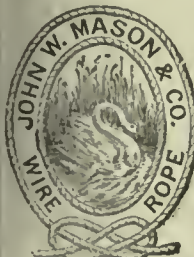
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Called in and paid up Capital... \$1,363,636 36 Reserve for all other liabilities, including re-insurance... 2,517,928 04 Net Fire Surplus and Reserve... 4,818,630 70

Invested and Cash Fire Assets... \$8,500,185 10 subscribed Capital, for which the Stockholders are personally liable, not yet called in... \$9,545,054 64 Reserve for total liabilities, including re-insurance, in the U.S. \$780,518 04 Net surplus in the United States. 386,753 49

Fire Assets held in the U.S. \$1,767,276 53 The above does not include the Life and Annuity funds, which, by act of Parliament, are in a distinct and separate department, for which the surplus and reserve of the Fire Insurance Department, named above, are not liable.

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OFFICE OF THE

ATLANTIC

Mutual Insurance Co.

New York, January 24, 1877.

The Trustees, in conformity to the Charter of the Company, submit the following Statement of its affairs on the 31st December, 1876:

Premiums received on Marine Risks from 1st January, 1876, to 31st December, 1876... \$4,929,197 66 Premiums on Policies not marked off 1st January, 1876... 2,172,260 07 Total amount of Marine Premiums.. \$7,101,457 73

No Policies have been issued upon Life Risks, nor upon Fire disconnected with Marine Risks.

Premiums marked off from 1st January, 1876, to 31st December, 1876.... \$5,061,096 12 Losses paid during the same period... \$1,665,193 49 Returns of Premiums and Expenses.. \$1,038,410 35

The Company has the following Assets, viz.:

United States and State of New York Stock, City, Bank and other stocks, \$11,068,700 00 Loans secured by Stocks and otherwise... 1,779,300 00 Real Estate and Bonds and Mortgages 267,000 00 Interest and sundry Notes and Claims due the Company, estimated at... 402,850 19 Premium Notes and Bills Receivable.. 1,812,534 38 Cash in Bank... 865,012 74 Total amount of Assets... \$15,894,867 81

Six per cent. Interest on the outstanding certificates of profits will be paid to the holders thereof, or their legal representatives, on and after Tuesday, the 6th of February next.

The outstanding certificates of the issue of 1876 will be redeemed and paid to the holders thereof, or their legal representatives, on and after Tuesday, the 6th of February next, from which date all interest thereon will cease. The certificates to be produced at the time of payment, and canceled. Upon certificates which were issued for gold premiums, the payment of interest and redemption will be in gold.

A Dividend of Forty per Cent. is declared on the net earned premiums of the Company for the year ending 31st December, 1876, for which certificates will be issued on and after Tuesday, the 2d of April next.

By order of the Board,

J. H. CHAPMAN, Secretary.

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J. D. Jones, W. H. H. Moore, Charles H. Russell, David Lane, Daniel S. Miller, Josiah O. Low, Royal Phelps, C. A. Hand, William H. Webb, Francis Skiddy, Adolph Lemoyne, Charles H. Marshall, Robert L. Stuart, Frederick Chauncey, Adam T. Sackett, Edmund W. Corlies, William Bryce,

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Peter V. King.

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10 per cent actual Potash. Super-phosphate Lime

Also, strictly pure ground Bone.

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AND

44 Broad Street, Boston.

Liberal advances made on consignments. Prompt personal attention paid to the execution of orders for the purchase or sale of contracts for future delivery.

## D. L. Bennet &amp; Co.,

GENERAL

COMMISSION MERCHANTS,  
121 Pearl Street, New York.

Special attention given to the execution of orders for the purchase or sale of Contracts for Future Delivery.

## H. W. &amp; J. H. Farley,

COTTON FACTORS,  
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

AND

FINANCIAL AGENTS,  
132 Pearl Street,

P. O. Box 3,909. New York.

Advances made on Consignments. Special personal attention to the purchase and sale of "CONTRACTS FOR FUTURE DELIVERY" OF COTTON, GOLD COIN, STERLING AND OTHER FOREIGN EXCHANGE, GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATION BONDS, STOCKS AND SECURITIES OF ALL KINDS, bought and sold on commission. Accounts of Mercantile Firms, Banks, Bankers, and Corporations, received; and Advances made to our customers when desired, on approved securities, including commercial time paper received for collection, to such extent, and in such manner, as may be in accordance with the nature of their accounts. CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED, to which prompt attention is always given.

## Pim, Forwood &amp; Co.,

GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS,  
P. O. BOX 613, P. O. BOX 4964,

New Orleans, La. New York.

Executes orders for Future Contracts in New York and Liverpool, and make advances on Cotton and other produce consigned to

LEECH, HARRISON & FORWOOD,  
LIVERPOOL.Also, execute orders for Merchandise in England, China, India and Singapore.  
UNDERWRITERS IN NEW ORLEANS

for the

British &amp; Foreign Marine Insurance Company of Liverpool.

## H. Tileston &amp; Co.,

COTTON BUYERS & COMMISSION MERCHANTS  
60 Stone Street, New York.

Orders in Futures executed at N. Y. Cotton Exchange

ISAAC SMITH'S UMBRELLAS.

DOWN-TOWN BRANCHES:

104 Broadway, Near Wall St.  
77 Fulton St., Near Gold.

## Cotton.

## A. L. Richards,

Shipping and Commission Merchant

AND

COTTON FACTOR,

No. 39 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK.

Orders executed at the Cotton Exchange, and advances made on consignments of Cotton and other Produce, and upon shipments to correspondents in Liverpool.

## W. C. Watts &amp; Co.,

21 Brown's Buildings,

LIVERPOOL,

Solicit consignments of COTTON and orders for the purchase or sale of future shipments or deliveries.

Advances made on consignments, and all information afforded by our friends, Messrs. D. WATTS &amp; Co., 51 Stone street, New York, and Messrs. D. A. GIVEN &amp; SON, 64 Baronne Street, New Orleans.

## Henry Hentz &amp; Co.,

GENERAL

COMMISSION MERCHANTS,  
174 & 176 Pearl St., New York.

Advances made on Consignments to

Messrs. JAMES FINLAY &amp; CO.,

LIVERPOOL, LONDON AND GLASGOW.

Also execute orders for Merchandise through

Messrs. FINLAY, MUIR &amp; CO.,

CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY.

FUTURE CONTRACTS FOR COTTON bought and sold on Commission in New York and Liverpool.

## Ware, Murphy &amp; Co.,

COTTON FACTORS

AND

GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS

COTTON EXCHANGE BUILDING,  
NEW YORK.

Special attention paid to the execution of orders for the purchase or sale of contracts for future delivery of cotton. Liberal advances made on consignments.

IRVINE K. CHASE.

H. T. ARNOLD.

## Chase &amp; Co.,

COTTON BUYERS

AND

GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS,  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

## Dennis Perkins &amp; Co.,

COTTON BROKERS,

117 Pearl Street, New York.

## K. M. Waters &amp; Co.,

56 BROAD ST., NEW YORK.

BANKERS & COTTON COMMISSION MERCHANTS  
Investment Securities bought and sold. (Orders executed at the Cotton Exchange in New York and Liverpool. All Business transacted STRICTLY ON COMMISSION, so that no interest of our own can possibly conflict with that of our patrons.)

## James F. Wenman &amp; Co

COTTON BROKERS,

No. 146 Pearl Street, near Wall, N. Y.  
Established (in Tontine Building) 1841.

## Edward H. Skinker &amp; Co.

COMMISSION AND COTTON MERCHANTS,

97 Pearl Street, New York.

J. L. MACAULAY.

A. J. MACAULAY.

## Macaulay &amp; Co.,

COMMISSION MERCHANTS,  
22 WILLIAM STREET, NEW YORK.

Future Contracts for Cotton bought and sold on Commission in New York and Liverpool.

## Miscellaneous.

## Russell &amp; Co.,

COMMISSION MERCHANTS  
AND SHIP AGENTS,Hong Kong, Canton, Amoy, Foochow,  
Shanghai and Hankow, China.Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation  
HEAD OFFICE, HONG KONG.

REPRESENTED BY

S. W. POMEROY, JR.,

105 Water Street, New York.

## S. W. ROSENFELS,

EXPORT COMMISSION MERCHANT

IN

Produce, Provisions and Naval Stores,

29 BROAD STREET,

P. O. Box 2432.

NEW YORK.

## Henry Lawrence &amp; Sons,

MANUFACTURERS OF

MANILA, SISAL, JUTE &amp; TARRIED

CORDAGE,

FOR EXPORT AND DOMESTIC USE

GANGS OF RIGGING MADE TO ORDER.

192 FRONT STREET, NEW YORK.

## HOME

Insurance Company  
OF NEW YORK.

OFFICE, No. 125 BROADWAY.

Forty-Eighth Semi-Annual Statement,

SHOWING THE

Condition of the Company on the first  
day of July, 1877.

CASH CAPITAL .....	\$3,000,000 00
Reserve for Re-insurance .....	1,834,003 10
Reserve for Unpaid Losses and	
Dividends .....	267,780 92
Net Surplus .....	1,041,490 75

TOTAL ASSETS .....	\$6,143,274 77
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SUMMARY OF ASSETS.

Cash in Banks .....	\$417,534 83
Bonds and Mortgages, being first lien on	
real estate (worth \$4,641,500) .....	1,932,853 00
United States stocks (market value) .....	2,734,000 00
Bank Stocks (market value) .....	285,897 50
State and City Bonds (market value) .....	186,456 00
Loans on Stocks, payable on demand	
(market value of Securities, \$510,17 25) .....	427,831 85
Interest due on 1st of July, 1877 .....	67,383 24
Balance in hands of Agents .....	92,052 79
Real estate .....	6,538 20
Premiums due and uncollected on Policies	
issued at this office .....	9,923 86

Total .....

\$6,143,274 77

CHAS. J. MARTIN, President.

J. H. WASHBURN, Secretary.

## ÆTNA

INSURANCE COMPANY  
OF HARTFORD.

INCORPORATED IN 1819.

Total Assets, January 1, 1877 .....	\$7,115,624 42
Capital .....	\$3,000,000 00
Re-insurance fund .....	1,741,273 42
Unpaid losses & other	
claims .....	429,114 82— 5,170,388 24

NET SURPLUS, Jan. 1, 1877, \$1,945,236 18

BRANCH OFFICE:

No. 173 Broadway, New York.

JAS. A. ALEXANDER, Agent.

Liverpool &amp;

London &amp; Globe

Insurance Company,

45 William St.

Assets

In the U. S., \$3,000,000