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The Chronicle.

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WESTERN INVESTMENTS AND LIFE INSURANCE.

The special commission appointed, a year ago, by the Legislature of Connecticut to investigate the life insurance companies of that State—all located in Hartford—have just made their report, which has several features of peculiar interest at the present time. After an examination which they affirm has been rigid and exhaustive, they report the six companies not now in trouble as thoroughly sound and entitled to entire confidence. The original insurance act of this State, date 1853, while permitting investment in any stocks issued under the laws of the State and at par in this city at time of purchase, prohibited investments outside the State, except by mortgage upon property lying within fifty miles of this city. Connecticut and New Jersey made no such restriction, and the result has been that the life insurance companies of those States have been large lenders in the West, both on mortgages and on municipal bonds, and have enjoyed a material advantage over companies here

in respect to interest. Admirers of Chicago were fond of saying, as a proof of that city's vitality, that after the fire scarcely any interruption of interest upon the loans made there by Hartford was experienced; and it is now peculiarly interesting to be informed, in an official way, just what has been the experience of the companies with Western loans.

The report before us passes rather slightly the matter of municipal bonds, saying simply that "the Connecticut companies have been in general quite fortunate in this class of investments; very few of them have failed to pay interest promptly." Those which have failed, or for any reason are in question, the investigators "marked down to their true market value," and they found that, with a few unimportant exceptions, the companies themselves had valued them correctly. Upon real estate securities they are more minute. The following table explains itself at a glance, the date being Dec 31, 1876:

Name of Company.	No. of Mortgage Loans.	Aggregate amount.	Average amount.
Aetna.....	5,791	\$9,743,607	\$1,683
Charter Oak.....	348	5,331,670	15,320
Connecticut Mutual.....	1,950	27,815,839	14,264
Connecticut General.....	153	569,503	3,693
Continental.....	110	821,710	7,470
Hartford Life and Annuity.....	153	763,746	4,991
Phoenix.....	2,285	6,195,935	2,711
Travelers'.....	603	2,239,727	3,683
Total.....	11,403	\$53,480,760	\$4,690

Adding the real estate owned, the total is \$61,575,825; and as about 50 millions—about one-half the entire assets—are invested in the West, the examiners devoted their attention most particularly to the matter of Western mortgages. Having caused examinations and appraisals to be made, as tests, of a large amount of property, including loans which have been considered doubtful, they became satisfied that the farm loans are good, as a rule, having been made on improved lands, on a margin of at least 50 per cent, buildings excluded. As the companies, exclusive of the Charter Oak, have about 14 millions loaned in Chicago, and as values there have been as largely inflated, and consequently have suffered as much shrinkage, as anywhere, the commission deemed it safe to take that city as the test, although they also visited several other cities. The Connecticut Mutual has loaned only on city property; the Aetna, only on improved farms; the other companies have loaned upon both. The result is found to be satisfactory on the whole. In some cases the property taken in satisfaction will not repay the loans; in others, it will more than do so. The largest piece in default which is mentioned is 302 acres, just within St. Louis, "perhaps the best land in the county," and, although

not now worth the loan, the company is able to carry it indefinitely, and will probably suffer little, if any, loss. The tendency is toward lower rates than the 8 to 10 per cent interest contracted for; hence "mortgagers who think the present market value not much in excess of the amount of the loan, offer the companies the option either to reduce the rate or to take the property." Reductions have been made in many instances, and the examiners assume that borrowers who have kept up payments during the last three years will now make every exertion to retain their property; in short, the examiners believe "that our insurance companies will in the end sustain no net loss upon real estate in the West." They present the following interesting table, which they think will agreeably surprise persons who have not examined the facts of this subject of Western loans:

Name of Company.	Commenced loaning in the West.	Total amount loaned to Jan. 1, 1877.	Amount outstanding Jan. 1, 1877.	Net losses on sales pr. property taken by foreclos'e.	Net gains on sales on sales property taken by foreclos'e.
Aetna.....	1867	\$13,333,353	\$9,173,562	\$.....	\$3,757
Conn. General...	1867	846,593	537,740	.....	.....
Conn. Mutual....	1853	41,906,609	27,330,819	.....	5,391
Hartf. L. & A....	1869	779,105	424,499	.....	.....
Phoenix.....	1851	9,207,764	6,453,838	6,000	.....
Travelers'.....	1836	2,696,595	2,216,477	.....	.....
Total.....		\$68,770,019	\$46,136,936	\$6,000	\$9,148

This, of course, is the result only as to property actually sold, and does not touch that taken and still held. Still, it is suggestive and interesting, and goes to hint how miserably foolish the West will be—as a matter of expediency only, aside from that of honesty and public morality—if it insists upon jeopardizing its growing interests by rushing into the financial pit opened by the Bland bill, sacrificing the dollar in order to "save" a conjectural ten cents.

Upon the difficult subject of making valuations when property is depressed, the commission clearly understand the rule that, practically, a given piece of property deserves a higher rating, in the hands of a strong holder and for his purposes, than if held by a weak one. Their observations are worth quoting, and to the last sentence should be added the remark that the insurance companies have employed their own special loan agents, and that the success of their loans has been due to the care used in placing them:

"There is a great diversity of opinion in regard to the safety of Western loans. On the one hand it is claimed that the percentage of loss on real estate loans in the West has been much less than upon the same kind of loans in the East, and it is also claimed by the same parties that the percentage of loss has been smaller than upon any other kind of investments in any section of the country. On the other hand, there are many who entertain exactly the opposite opinion in regard to this matter. It is not an easy thing, as we have discovered, to determine the facts on this point, or precisely the rules which should govern in valuing real estate owned by or mortgaged to our life insurance companies. It is obvious to everybody that the criteria of inflation must not be accepted on the one hand, nor the criteria of panic and long-continued depression on the other. It is also clear that values based upon the product of forced sales ought not to be taken as the measure of value of property upon which there has been no default in interest, and which may not be exposed to special shrinkage. No doubt that during the inflation period real estate sold at prices largely above its real value for actual use, and it is just as certain that since the panic the depreciation has been too much, and greater perhaps than upon any other kind of property. The shrinkage of real estate, in a large number of cases, has equalled the margin of fifty per cent obtained when the loan was made. In some cases the shrinkage is in excess of the fifty per cent margin, and it is equally true that on a large number of loans the margin now in excess of the shrinkage varies from ten to thirty per cent. It must be borne in mind that the farm loans are made upon improved lands, exclusive of the buildings thereon, and upon a margin of fifty to seventy per cent, and that city loans are made upon improved property upon the same general margin. There are several considerations which must be taken into account in determining the increase or decrease of values; that is to say, we must discriminate between properties and sections that are improving, and those which, for any reason, are standing still or retrograding; and we must apply the same general common-sense rules in judging of the present and prospective values of the real-estate securities held by our insurance companies as an individual would in the man-

agement of his private affairs. It cannot be denied that much money has been lost through Western investments, and the explanation is that the loans were made, in many cases, by ignorant or reckless agents, and frequently, years ago, upon unimproved lands remote from settlements or railroads."

PAPAL CONCLAVES—THE ELECTION OF A POPE.

In a few days, the Cardinals of the Catholic Church who may happen to be in Rome will meet, in what in ecclesiastical parlance is called *Conclave*, and proceed, in accordance with prescribed rules and long-established forms, to elect a new Pope to fill the Chair of St. Peter rendered vacant by the death of Pius the Ninth. While in session, that sacred body will occupy much of the attention of the entire civilized world; but of the doings of that body the outside public are little likely to know anything, until their work is completed and the new Pope is elected.

It is not wonderful that a large amount of ignorance should prevail regarding the Conclave—the means and method by which a new Pope is manufactured. Thirty-two years have all but elapsed since the last Pope was elected; and, of course, during that whole period, the machinery of the Conclave has not been in motion. A few words, therefore, descriptive and explanatory of this electoral college, as it may be called, will not, we trust, be without interest.

The word *Conclave* is applied equally to the apartments in which the Cardinals meet for the special purpose of electing a new Pope, and to the assembly itself, convened for that purpose. Until 1455, there was no stated place for the meeting of the Cardinals in Conclave. Between that date and 1823, the Conclave was held in the Vatican Palace. Since 1823 Papal elections have been held in the Palace of the Quirinal. The Quirinal, which is now occupied by the King of Italy, will not in the present instance, at least, be at the service of the Cardinals. After the death of the Pope, the custom, hitherto, has been to allow ten days for the obsequies, and for the arrival of the absent Cardinals. When the prescribed time has elapsed, the Cardinals, with their attachés or servants—Conclavists as they are generally called—proceed to one of the churches in Rome, St. Peter's or St. Sylvester's, and attend the mass of the Holy Ghost. Afterwards the Cardinals and the Conclavists proceed solemnly to the building in which the Conclave is to be held and take the apartments assigned them. Each Cardinal has allotted to him a little chamber or cell, as it is generally called, for the accommodation of himself and his attendants; and over each cell is affixed the coat of arms of its occupant. About three hours after sunset the signal bell is rung for the third time, and all persons not belonging to the Conclave are excluded. All the entrances except one are then walled up; so also are the windows except so much as is necessary for air and light. The excepted entrance is closed, double-locked and strictly guarded. Ingress is permitted only to Cardinals who have arrived late; and egress is allowed only in the case of serious illness. The object aimed at by this arrangement is to prevent communication with the outside world. This laudable object has not always been gained. Bolts and bars and stone walls have failed sometimes to accomplish their purpose; and on more than one occasion the wavering wills of the Cardinals have been determined by influence from without. By a decree of Gregory X., it was ordained that if the Cardinals did not come to an agreement within three days, they should, for the next five days following, be allowed only one dish at noon and another in the evening. If at the expiration

of the five days, they should still be disagreed, they were to be allowed thereafter only bread, wine and water. In 1351, this regimen was greatly modified by a decree of Clement the Sixth. The presumption is that the Cardinals, when in Conclave, for some centuries past, have not been uncomfortable in the matter of diet.

In early times, the right of electing the Bishop of Rome was vested in the clergy and people. In course of time, however, the people ceased to take part directly in the election; and the duty of electing a Pope devolved, with popular consent, on some representative body. It was always claimed by the supreme secular power that the election was not valid without its consent. In this, doubtless, we have the origin of the right conceded to France, Spain and Austria, and claimed by Italy and Portugal, and later by Germany, of vetoing or excluding some particular candidate. In the eleventh century the right of election was vested in the Cardinals. By a decree of Pope Nicholas the Second, it was ordained that the right to elect a Pope should henceforth belong to the Cardinal Bishops, and that the other Cardinals, the clergy and the people should merely approve. It was ordained further, by a decree of Alexander the Third, in 1179, that while the right belonged exclusively to the Cardinals, the concurrence of two-thirds of the Conclave was necessary to constitute an election, and that the assent of the clergy and people was no longer necessary. At the Council of Lyons, held in 1274, under the auspices of Pope Gregory the Tenth, a constitution was promulgated, prescribing the forms to be observed in such elections, and ordering that they be held in *conclavi clauso*, so as to shut out secular influence. On these three instruments rests the authority of the Conclave; and in them are to be found all the laws which regulate its proceedings. Originally it was not necessary that a candidate for the Papal chair should be a Cardinal; but it has gradually become the custom, and may now be regarded as an established law, that the Pope shall be selected from the list of what are called Cardinal Bishops. In other words, the electors confine their choice to their own order. It is a settled principle that no Pope can appoint his successor. It is also admitted by the Church that every Cardinal has a right to be present in Conclave, and that he is not disqualified for taking his place by Papal censure, suspension, interdict or excommunication.

There are three ways by which a choice may be arrived at. The mind of the assembled Cardinals may be expressed and their decision given by what in ecclesiastical language they call—*inspiration*, or *compromise* or *ballot*. If the Cardinals should come to a spontaneous agreement, it is by inspiration; and examples of such spontaneous agreement were not uncommon in the earlier years of Papal history, although there has been no such example in modern times. When the Cardinals fail to come to an agreement, and delegate to a select number of their body, with or without conditions, authority to choose a Pope, it is called an election by compromise. In this manner was elected Pope Clement the Fifth. Election by ballot, however, is the method generally followed. When it is agreed to proceed by ballot, each Cardinal, after morning mass, and when the Conclave is assembled in the chapel or balloting-room, deposits in a chalice, on the altar, a square piece of paper, so folded at the corners as to conceal the voter's name, but showing in the centre the name of the person voted for. Three Cardinals are then appointed as *scrutatores*, who examine the ballots in turn. The number of ballots must agree with the number of Car-

dinals present, as every one is required to vote. If any one has acquired two-thirds of the ballots, the folded ends are opened to see whether such Cardinal has not voted for himself, such a vote being disallowed. If no one has attained the required majority, the Conclave proceeds in the afternoon session to try the process called *acceding*. According to this process, each Cardinal may give a supplementary vote to any one who received votes from others than himself. In this case it is competent to any one not to vote. If the supplementary votes, added to those taken in the morning, do not make up the requisite two-thirds, the papers are burned; and the balloting is resumed next day. As soon as the requisite majority is obtained, the papers are carefully examined to see that no one has voted twice for the same person, and that the mottoes used by the Cardinals in the afternoon are the same as those used by them in the morning. The recipient of the highest vote is then declared duly elected. The newly elected Pope, if he accepts, is then invested with the pontifical robes; the Cardinals pay him homage; and, from a re-opened balcony window, the glad announcements made to the assembled multitude without, that a Pope has been elected. In this announcement is generally included the name which the new Pope has been pleased to choose. This done, the Conclave is ended.

It is understood that the approaching Conclave will be held in the palace of the Vatican, and that the announcement of the election will be made to the people from the balcony of that building. Many candidates have been mentioned, but no one can tell who shall be the next occupant of the traditional chair of St. Peter. How long the Conclave will continue in session must equally be left to time for solution. It results, from what we have said, that we shall be justified in discrediting any rumor which may reach us from Rome as to the proceedings of that body, when in session. We can have no authoritative report of the proceedings, until the work is done.

PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.

In the hands of the House Committee on Banking and Currency is a bill which, if the importance of proposed measures availed to regulate their treatment, would before this have engaged earnest attention. This bill was introduced, December 5, by Mr. Potter of this State, and, although comprising only three short sections, its passage would be an enormous gain to all legitimate interests. It proposes to return to the old and approved plan of having all the work of engraving and printing done by private contract, under advertisement for proposals, no party to execute more than a single printing upon any issue of bonds or notes, but the face and the backs to be executed separately, and the sealing and recording only by the Treasury Department; the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to be reduced to a size and expenditure strictly commensurate with this last-named work, and the surplus machinery to be sold, the dies and plates used for national bank notes to be returned to the Comptroller, who is, by law, their custodian. The passage of this excellent bill, whether at present attainable or not, would simply restore the old plan, best in reason and thoroughly justified by experience, to which nobody dreamed of objecting until the political almshouse, known as the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, arose.

This is not a new subject in these columns, because the sense of duty will not let it rest. Although we could fill several pages with a concise and consistent

statement of facts concerning the growth and workings of this organization, we have not the space, and must refer the reader to previous articles, July 7 and September 22, 1877, in the last of which we gave a detailed sketch of the rise of the Bureau, from a merely permissive clause in the loan act of July 11, 1862, down through the successive enlargements by which it has succeeded in appropriating all the public work excepting the postal and a few issues of revenue stamps. If space were abundant, we should reprint this sketch, but we can only refer the reader to it.

The question offered by this bill is, whether it is wise to perpetuate the Bureau machinery. The present "Chief," Mr. Edward McPherson, argues to the committee that a final answer ought to be reached, and that if the answer is now affirmative the bank-note companies will probably accept the result, "will cease their importunities and will leave the Bureau to its proper development as a necessary, organized branch of the administration." Mr. McPherson's eulogy of the Bureau is quite too florid to be sound; perfection, such as he describes, does not take root in civil service to-day anywhere, and least of all in this country; and, without impeaching his sincerity—for he is new in the place—it goes a great ways in answer to his argument to merely remark that his salary as chief is \$4,500 a year. Between the government and the bank-note companies the case is simply that the acts which forcibly turned all the circulating notes from State-bank issues into one uniform currency furnished by the government, succeeded by the withdrawal to Washington of the manufacture of that substituted currency, are a grievous oppression of the companies, and much may be said against the right of government to thus slaughter an industry of slow-growth which has performed its work so well as to command orders from other nations. Still, we do not dwell on this point, because it is not the largest one at issue; and such is the importance of having the work executed in the best and safest manner that it would be better to remedy the wrong inflicted on the companies by an annual gift of money than to employ them to do government work, if such employment were otherwise undesirable. Is it otherwise undesirable, or not? If the question is exclusively one of undoing an admitted wrong, the cheapest way is to measure the wrong and pay for it in money; if it is a question of expediency about the work, then it should be decided as such.

First, what are the objections to the Bureau work? Taking these, not in the order in which they are usually named (for the Bureau always puts the matter of cost first) the first objection is, that it is conspicuously and essentially unsafe. We assume the prime importance of perfect and impregnable safety in respect to excessive, duplicate or surreptitious issues, and the care of plates, as admitted, for it would be idle to talk on the general subject to anybody who fails to appreciate this point. A system of issue like that of the Bank of England, no note ever going out a second time, offers the least opportunity for irregularity; a system of convertible issues, frequently going or liable to go to bank for payment in coin, stands next in respect to freedom from risk; the old American system of multiple issues by independent State banks, nominally convertible, although infrequently converted, stands next; the existing system of multiple issues of bonds, of government notes not redeemable in coin, of bank notes uniform in pattern and challenging no scrutiny, of enormous paper issues under slender regulation and little

inquired into—even the aggregate being not exactly known, large but indefinite amounts having been lost or destroyed—is the most dangerous, in essence, which could be devised, and requires, as the prime condition of reasonable safety, the highest safeguards which ingenuity can supply. What are those safeguards? Obviously, not the probability that some one person will be careful and incorruptible, but that several persons, separate and independent, will not come into collusion; not the probability (for illustration) that one accountant will add a column correctly, but that two or three independent ones will eliminate all chance of error. Commercial business everywhere proceeds upon this rule, aiming to guard against dishonesty by making it impossible for one to steal without getting others to help him. Originally, one bank-note company printed the face of notes, another the backs, a third the tint; the Treasury department finished by putting on the red seal. Could precaution go further, could reason and experience be better followed, could human nature be more accurately considered and its weaknesses be more wisely guarded than by this simple plan? At Washington, on the contrary, *one* concern, under *one* set of employes governed by *one* chief, all the work done under *one* roof, produce the indistinguishable bits of paper which pass as money and bonds. Sheets may be lost or stolen; sheets of one denomination may be substituted for those of a larger; or issues may be "unaccounted for." A joint Congressional committee in 1869 said that "the existence and redemption of a considerable number of duplicated notes and coupons" gave them much anxiety; that "the duplications are original;" that coupons might be finished and put out without bonds; that of the 1864 7-30s a considerable number have been duplicated originally, "and it is impossible to know certainly whether these duplicates are mere innocent mistakes or are fraudulent"—and more to the same purport. Every safeguard except individual honesty is flung away as soon as the plan of separate printing is abandoned, no security being possible beyond the integrity and care of the employes for the time being.

Next there is the objection of increased cost. We have not space to go into the figures in detail, but it was clearly shown that the work done by the Bureau for the year ending June 30, 1873, costing \$1,365,000, could all have been done at contract prices in New York for \$950,000; in January, 1875, the companies offered to do for the latter sum what cost the government the former; in 1874 and '75, it was proved that the work of the previous four years would have cost, by contract prices, \$1,300,000 less than was paid to support the Bureau. Upon the matter of cost, the Bureau has laid great stress, and it has constantly presented figures which seemed to prove the superior economy of its work. But notoriously there is no problem in business more difficult than to determine how much a particular piece of work actually costs, charging to it its just proportion of every item of expenditure in the business; inability or neglect to solve this problem has caused innumerable undertakings which produce loss instead of profit, and has brought many a firm and corporation to insolvency. The Bureau "makes up" its estimates. For example, it omits to take account of rent, although it occupies a large part of the Treasury buildings, driving other work to other buildings, and producing a constant pressure for new construction, an instance of this being the plea we cited April 29, 1876, which urged enlargement of the Treasury building, "because the Printing Bureau takes up so much room;" it omits to charge

gas, having been in the habit (speaking in the legal sense) of stealing its gas from the Treasury Department; it does not take account of waste in useless machinery, fruitless experiments, worthless patents purchased, or in the process of acquiring the present skill of which it loudly boasts; it does not charge, or charge adequately, the cost of machinery, and all which goes by the name of "plant" in the English corporate phraseology, nor does it—probably—take fully in account the salaries of officials; it omits the waste by injudicious purchases of materials, Secretary Sherman's committee, for example, finding on hand, last spring, large quantities of special sizes of paper, now useless, as well as partly printed and useless issues; and so on. Nothing is easier than to make figures seem to sustain a given conclusion, and the explanation of the Bureau's estimates is simply that they are fallacious; this committee say that "the effect has been to deceive the Secretary and the public, and, under the pretense of economy in printing the public securities, to add largely to their real cost."

The next objection is, that the Bureau is and inevitably must be, practically an instrument to debase the public service, adding to the cumbrousness of the governmental machine and lessening its efficiency. What is there to-day which government does well? What is there it does, and does not do ill? Even the postal service could be more effectively performed by private persons, but that stands on a footing of its own, and is justified on other grounds than remunerative rates.

The reasons for returning to the contract system are stated by reversing these objections. That it is the safest possible one admits no dispute, and it has been thoroughly tested, 650 millions of government securities having been printed and delivered during the 50 years ending with 1862, and 10,000 millions from the beginning of the war to the end of 1874, all without a dollar of loss. As to quality of work, Mr. McPherson's eulogy of the Bureau for its "greater artistic skill than has ever been placed upon like issues by a contractor" may fairly be left to stand opposed to the reputation the New York companies have won throughout the world. The point of comparative cost has already been considered. Great stress is laid upon that of convenience, but Mr. McPherson's plea about "exposing the government to all the dangers, inconveniences, annoyances, and costliness incident to the execution of this vastly important work by a combination of private corporations," is met by simply citing the fact that the work was thus done for over half a century without experiencing either loss, danger, or inconvenience.

These considerations have been urged before. Secretary Chase repeatedly declared in favor of the old system. In 1869, Senator Edmunds' joint Congressional committee reported in favor of returning to it, after full investigation, and the Treasury report of that year took the same ground; in 1874, the banks and financial men of the large cities, representing 700 millions capital, petitioned for the old system, on the score of safety. But, says Mr. McPherson, that was long ago, before the Bureau had reached its present perfection, and "the advocates of the bill in question admit that the administration of the Bureau is acceptable to all and is not open to criticism on the part of any." How recently did this become true? The report of a friendly committee appointed by Mr. Sherman, consisting, not of theorists nor of editors, but of government employes (this report dated only June 10 last and quoted by us July 7), declared that the Bureau was

crowded with useless employes, who had not even room to stand upright and sometimes slept for lack of work; that the management was incompetent and wasteful, the purchases loose and extravagant, the "fibre paper" useless, and the estimates of cost deceiving; they urged that it could never be otherwise, in the nature of things, and, while suggesting some minor reforms, advised the abolition of the Bureau and the return to the contract system as the only thorough one. Mr. Sherman, however, went no further than the reduction of the force and some other minor changes, but in September he called for bids for printing notes; the companies put in very low bids, but the Bureau underbid them by figures demonstrably below actual cost of press-work and ink, covering this loss under the unspecific appropriations made for its support. The Treasury thus itself became a bidder, and then made a contract with itself, at an inevitable loss, for the sake of economy!

The improvement in management, if any has been made since the committee's report, must necessarily be spasmodic and temporary, because the causes which made the demoralization are constant. Why is the Bureau continued, somebody asks, if all said about the subject is true? This is the explanation: the one reason for the existence of the Bureau—although it is precisely the reason which ought to be conclusive against it—is politically good; *the Bureau is a political almshouse*. In the existing habit of things, Congressmen find what they consider a necessity for having some place to stow their personal and party dependents; the Bureau is that place, and thus far the determining consideration has been, "Where shall we put these people if we abolish the Bureau?" The question is itself a degrading one, and a proof of the depth and virulence of the disease in our civil service. Are the American people willing to perpetuate the enormous mischiefs, the cost, danger, and corruption of this thing, in order to continue an almshouse which it would be cheaper to maintain openly, in a special marble building, if it must exist at all? Do we really *mean* anything when we talk of political regeneration and civil-service reform? If we do, when will there ever be a better time than now to begin, and a better place to begin it? The passage of Mr. Potter's bill would be a victory for everything which has any real justification for its own existence.

PRODUCTION AND MOVEMENT OF THE PRECIOUS METALS.

There still continues to be a little uncertainty each year as to the annual silver product of the United States, growing out of the difference between the statement issued by Mr. Valentine, of Wells, Fargo & Co., and that prepared by Dr. Linderman, Director of the Mint. Dr. Linderman, in his report to Congress the 1st of December, gave his totals for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, at \$84,050,000, of which \$45,100,000 were *gold* and \$38,950,000 *silver*. It is impossible to state with any degree of accuracy how long this large rate of production will be maintained. A gradual increase may be expected in Montana and Arizona, and there is nothing to indicate a decrease in any bullion-producing State or Territory, except in the State of Nevada, and that depends upon contingencies which to a great extent must be a matter of conjecture only.

The details of this result are given in the report, as follows:

PRODUCTION OF GOLD AND SILVER IN THE UNITED STATES, 1876-7.

State or Territory.	Gold.	Silver.	Total, 1876-7.	Total, 1875-6.
California.....	\$15,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$16,000,000	\$18,077,500
Nevada.....	18,000,000	28,000,000	44,000,000	41,725,000
Montana.....	3,200,000	750,000	3,950,000	4,230,000
Idaho.....	1,500,000	2,000,000	1,750,000	2,098,000
Utah.....	350,000	5,075,000	5,425,000	5,850,000
Colorado.....	3,000,000	4,500,000	7,500,000	7,292,000
Arizona.....	300,000	500,000	800,000	1,540,000
New Mexico.....	175,000	500,000	675,000	840,000
Oregon.....	1,000,000	100,000	1,100,000	1,500,000
Washington.....	300,000	50,000	350,000	300,000
Dakota.....	2,000,000	.....	2,000,000	1,000,000
Lake Superior.....	.....	200,000	200,000	269,500
Virginia.....	50,000	.....	50,000	75,000
North Carolina.....	100,000	.....	100,000	150,000
Georgia.....	100,000	.....	100,000	150,000
Other sources.....	25,000	25,000	50,000	313,000
Total.....	45,100,000	33,950,000	81,050,000	85,370,000

The foregoing statement, it will be seen, is for the fiscal year closing with June 30, and is now the only compilation made by the Government. Bringing forward, therefore, our usual table of the production of the precious metals since 1860, and adding to it the figures for this year, we have the following result:—

Year.	Gold.	Silver.	Total.	Year.	Gold.	Silver.	Total.
	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1860..	46,000,000	150,000	46,150,000	1869..	49,500,000	13,000,000	62,500,000
1861..	43,000,000	2,000,000	45,000,000	1870..	50,000,000	16,000,000	66,000,000
1862..	39,200,000	4,500,000	43,700,000	1871..	43,500,000	22,000,000	65,500,000
1863..	40,000,000	8,500,000	48,500,000	1872..	36,000,000	25,750,000	61,750,000
1864..	46,100,000	11,000,000	57,100,000	1873..	36,000,000	35,750,000	71,750,000
1865..	53,225,000	11,250,000	64,475,000	1874..	42,177,092	30,251,114	72,428,206
1866..	53,500,000	10,000,000	63,500,000	1875..	42,000,000	35,703,413	77,703,413
1867..	51,725,000	13,500,000	65,225,000	1876..	46,850,000	38,500,000	85,350,000
1868..	48,000,000	12,000,000	60,000,000	1877..	45,100,000	38,950,000	84,050,000
Total since 1860.....	811,877,092	328,804,527	1,140,681,619				

This indicates a total production of the mines of the United States since January 1, 1860, of \$811,877,092 gold and \$328,804,527 silver.

Mr. Valentine, of Wells, Fargo & Co., issues figures for the calendar year, and from his position and the care used in the compilation of his statement his figures receive much attention.

For 1877, Mr. Valentine's report has the following:—

“Our annual statement of precious metals produced in the States and Territories west of the Missouri River, including British Columbia and the west coast of Mexico, during 1877, shows an aggregate yield of \$98,421,754, being an excess of \$7,545,581 over 1876—the greatest previous annual yield in the history of the country. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington increase; British Columbia, California, Mexico and Montana decrease; but it is possible the falling off in Montana is more apparent than real. In our statement for 1876 Dakota (Black Hills) was not mentioned. It appears herein credited with \$1,500,000 gold; but the estimate is uncertain, as \$950,000 is the total amount carried out by all express companies and mail. The amount named as carried by other conveyances is conjecture. If the Comstock mines yield as much in 1878 as during the present year, the aggregate product of silver and gold will approximate one hundred millions of dollars.

STATEMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF PRECIOUS METALS PRODUCED IN THE STATES AND TERRITORIES WEST OF THE MISSOURI RIVER, INCLUDING MEXICO AND BRITISH COLUMBIA, DURING THE YEAR 1877.

States and Territories.	Gold Dust and Bullion by express.	Gold Dust and Bullion by other conveyances.	Silver Bullion by express.	Ores and Base Bullion by freight.	Total.
California.....	\$14,513,123	\$725,606	\$1,202,751	\$1,734,226	\$18,174,716
Nevada.....	462,666	.....	443,044	6,597,530	51,580,990
Oregon.....	993,331	198,665	.....	.....	1,191,997
Washington.....	83,74	8,384	.....	.....	92,226
Idaho.....	1,140,610	171,091	202,295	318,499	1,832,495
Montana.....	1,844,214	18,411	436,277	160,100	2,644,912
Utah.....	91,109	9,110	1,439,961	6,535,515	8,113,755
Colorado.....	3,151,277	.....	3,157,831	1,564,411	7,913,549
New Mexico.....	81,630	.....	73,840	3,490	3,910,000
Arizona.....	1,2861	.....	506,549	1,750,906	2,383,622
Dakota.....	950,000	550,000	.....	.....	1,500,000
Mexico.....	72,144	.....	1,0688	340,212	1,432,192
Brit. Columbia	1,165,527	11,653	.....	.....	1,771,190
Total.....	\$24,671,400	\$1,853,931	\$52,600,214	\$9,991,909	\$98,421,754

“In our statement for 1876 the amounts credited to British Columbia and west coast of Mexico were inadvertently carried into the totals credited to the United States. Deducting amounts from the sources named, the results are as follows:

Year.	Products, including British Columbia and Mexico.	Net Product of the United States and Territories west of the Missouri River.			
		Lead.	Silver.	Gold.	Total.
1870.....	\$54,000,000	\$1,080,000	\$17,320,000	\$33,757,000	\$52,150,000
1871.....	58,284,000	2,100,000	19,286,000	34,393,000	55,840,000
1872.....	62,236,959	2,250,000	19,924,429	8,109,395	60,351,824
1873.....	72,258,693	3,450,000	27,493,302	39,206,553	70,189,860
1874.....	74,401,045	3,800,000	29,699,122	38,466,488	71,956,610
1875.....	80,889,057	5,100,000	31,655,233	34,968,194	77,703,433
1876.....	90,875,173	5,040,000	29,292,924	42,886,985	87,219,559
1877.....	98,421,754	5,085,250	45,846,109	44,880,223	95,811,582

It is surprising to find how widely the error prevails that the production of silver is limitless, and has been within a few years indefinitely extended. Out of this idea, perhaps, has grown the false impression that the fall in the market value of that metal is due to the flood pouring out of our silver mines. This error is one of much importance, because it leads to the adoption of inadequate and delusive measures of relief. For instance, some of the advocates of the Bland silver bill favor it, under the claim that it will raise the price of silver by making a market for the surplus production. When they learn, therefore, that there is, through the demonetization of silver in Europe, an accumulated supply threatening that market compared with which this surplus is as nothing, they begin to see that the origin of the evil is not in over-production, and that the remedy, to be of any service, must be an international one.

The totals of the large table below give the result of an export of domestic and foreign gold and silver since 1860 of \$1,245,849,723, and an import of \$324,292,026, as follows:

	Exported.		Total Exported.	Total Imported.	Exports, less Imp't's.
	Domestic.	Foreign.			
Gold coin...	\$632,244,465	\$56,143,260	\$688,437,725	\$180,211,907	\$508,226,118
Gold bullion	217,112,606	367,103	217,479,709	2,254,473	194,204,236
Total gold	\$849,407,071	\$56,510,363	\$905,917,434	\$202,487,800	\$703,430,354
Silver coin...	45,986,583	9,997,266	55,983,849	109,217,605	23,766,344
Silver bullion	200,692,821	1,255,719	201,948,540	11,587,341	190,361,199
Total silver	\$246,679,404	\$98,272,985	\$339,932,389	\$120,804,946	219,127,143
Total gold and silver.....	\$1,096,086,475	\$149,763,348	\$1,245,849,723	\$324,292,026	\$921,557,757

COIN AND BULLION STATISTICS.

Dr. Linderman made the following estimate of the stock of gold and silver coin and bullion in the United States June 30, 1876, based upon the estimate of the previous year, domestic production, and difference between importation and exportation during the fiscal year ended that date, and fixed the amount at \$181,678,000, of which \$30,113,000 were silver.

Taking the above amount as a basis for an estimate of the stock in this country, June 30, 1877, we have:

Amount of gold coin and bullion on hand June 30, 1876.....	\$181,678,000
Add the product of the mines during the past fiscal year, about..	44,000,000
Importations.....	25,245,604
Total.....	\$221,810,604
Deduct exportations.....	\$26,590,374
And probable amount used in the arts and manufactures 2,500,000—	29,090,374

Leaves a net balance of..... \$192,720,230 as the amount of gold coin and bullion in the country June 30, 1877.

The estimated amount of silver coin and bullion June 30, 1876, was..... \$30,113,000 Adding the production of the past fiscal year..... 38,000,000 Importations..... 14,486,991

Gives..... \$82,599,991 Deduct exportations..... \$29,464,343 And probable amount used in the arts and manufactures 3,000,000— 32,464,363

Leaves a net balance of..... \$50,135,628 as the stock of silver coin and bullion in the country June 30, 1877, of a total of gold and silver of \$242,855,858, and an increase for the year of \$61,177,858.

—We notice the withdrawal of Mr. George F. Stone from the firm of Trask & Stone. The remaining members have formed a co-partnership under the firm name of Trask & Francis, and will continue the business as heretofore at their old offices, No. 7 New street.

Latest Monetary and Commercial English News

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

EXCHANGE AT LONDON— FEBRUARY 1.			EXCHANGE ON LONDON.		
ON—	TIME.	RATE.	LATEST DATE.	TIME.	RATE.
Amsterdam	short.	12.1½ @ 12.2½	Feb. 1.	short	12.12
Amsterdam	3 months.	12.3½ @ 12.4½	.....	.....	.....
Antwerp	.....	25.32½ @ 25.37½	Feb. 1.	3 mos.	25.13
Hamburg	.....	20.54 @ 20.58	Feb. 1.	.....	20.39
Paris	short.	25.15 @ 25.25	Feb. 1.	short.	25.16
Paris	3 months.	25.30 @ 25.35	.....	.....	.....
Vienna	.....	12.05 @ 12.10	Feb. 1.	3 mos.	118.50
Berlin	.....	20.54 @ 20.58	Feb. 1.	.....	20.39
Frankfort	.....	20.54 @ 20.58	Feb. 1.	.....	20.39
St. Petersburg	.....	26 @ 26½	Jan. 25.	.....	25½
Cadiz	.....	47½ @ 47¾	.....	.....	.....
Lisbon	90 days.	51½ @ 52	.....	.....	.....
Milan	3 months.	27.72½ @ 27.77½	.....	.....	.....
Genoa	.....	27.72½ @ 27.77½	Feb. 1.	short.	27.25
Naples	.....	27.72½ @ 27.77½	.....	.....	.....
Madrid	.....	47½ @ 47¾	Jan. 21.	3 mos.	48.39
New York	.....	.....	Feb. 1.	60 days.	4.83
Rio de Janeiro	.....	.....	Jan. 4.	90 days.	24¾
Pernambuco	.....	.....	Dec. 27.	.....	24¾
Valparaiso	.....	.....	Dec. 26.	.....	41½ @ 41¾
Bombay	30 days.	1s. 8 11-16d.	Jan. 31.	6 mos.	1s. 9 1-16d.
Calcutta	.....	1s. 8 11-16d.	Jan. 30.	.....	1s. 9d.
Hong Kong	.....	.....	Jan. 28.	.....	3s. 11½d.
Shanghai	.....	.....	Jan. 26.	.....	5s. 5½d.

[From our own correspondent.]

LONDON, Saturday, February 2, 1878.

The directors of the Bank of England have this week decided upon reducing their *minimum* rate of discount to 2 per cent. For some time past the open market has been working very considerably under the Bank of England, and it was clear that the only objection to a reduction in the official quotation would arise out of political causes. As regards the supply of mercantile paper, the complaints of scarcity are still very great, and, in the present condition of our trade, there is certainly no prospect of any immediate increase. The political situation is too grave to admit of merchants extending their trade, the most judicious policy for the country to pursue being still a waiting one. Financial schemes are almost altogether in abeyance, and it is, of course, impossible for any loan, except it be of domestic or colonial interest, and, in addition, of a very sound character, to be introduced with success. There seems, in fact, to be a disposition to do as little as possible. The credit given by wholesale to retail houses has, for some time past, been much curtailed, and, consequently, there is very little present hope of the trade of the country becoming inflated. This is, undoubtedly, a satisfactory state of things, because, if it curtails trade, there is much less risk, and those who are suffering now are those who have hitherto enjoyed more credit than was judicious. The banks have lately become very particular, and one result has been that, in spite of a diminished business, the net profits, owing to the paucity of bad debts, show an increase over 1876. Such a condition of things having been established, it is more than probable that no inclination will be shown for some time to come to relax the measures which have been adopted. If the banks and discount houses find that it pays to be cautious, if merchants discover that the same sort of policy is profitable, and if the general public have, by this time, arrived at the conclusion that to practice economy and thrift is not only easy but remunerative, the country at large will be slow to depart from a policy which has certainly accomplished great things. Certain interests will necessarily suffer; but, taken as a whole, the position is a satisfactory one, and is one also calculated to promote confidence and to lead to a healthy development of our commerce, as soon as the Eastern difficulty has been brought to a favorable issue.

The supply of gold held by the Bank continues to increase. The exports from still exceed the imports into the country; but gold has been returning of late in considerable quantities from provincial circulation, and the total supply of gold in the Bank, which at the commencement of the year was £24,386,794, is now £24,868,885, showing an increase of about half a million sterling. The reserve has increased from £12,052,914 to £12,931,690; and the proportion of reserve to liabilities from about 40 to 44½ per cent. "Other securities," which on the 9th of January amounted to £17,625,966, are now £17,872,367, showing a slight increase. The total at the commencement of the year was £20,511,344; but that total was due to temporary loans at the close of the year, which form no basis for comparison.

There has during the week been a little extra demand for money, arising out of the Stock Exchange settlement; but as a

whole the market has been exceedingly quiet, and the quotations are now as under:

	Per cent.	Open-market rates:	Per cent.
Bank rate.....	2	4 months' bank bills.....	1½ @ 1½
Open-market rates:		6 months' bank bills.....	1½ @ 1½
30 and 60 days' bills.....	1½ @ 1½	4 and 6 months' trade bills. 2	@ 2½
3 months' bills.....	1½ @ 1½		

The following are the rates of interest now allowed by the Joint stock banks and discount houses for deposits:

	Per cent.
Joint-stock banks.....	1
Discount houses at call.....	1
Discount houses with 7 days' notice.....	1½
Discount houses with 14 days' notice.....	1½

The Clearing-house returns for the 28 days ended January 30 amounted to £380,476,000, against £397,209,000 last year.

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:

	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
Circulation—excluding bank post bills.....	26,009,931	26,370,605	27,185,980	27,592,885	27,210,371
Public deposits.....	6,081,109	4,220,734	5,126,610	4,837,165	3,679,555
Other deposits.....	17,719,293	18,261,250	18,402,786	25,146,245	25,134,425
Government securities.....	18,897,355	13,569,597	13,887,224	16,367,876	16,302,599
Other securities.....	16,981,323	17,352,252	17,703,170	17,132,917	17,872,367
Reserve of notes and coin.....	11,293,259	9,849,520	10,159,471	11,057,356	12,981,690
Coin & bullion in both departments.....	21,303,025	21,220,025	22,355,451	26,650,211	24,868,885
Proportion of reserve to liabilities.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	44½
Bank-rate.....	3½ p. c.	3 p. c.	4 p. c.	2 p. c.	2 p. c.
Consols.....	92½	94½	94½	95½	95½
English wheat, av. price.....	63s. 9d.	43s. 0d.	44s. 2d.	52s. 8d.	51s. 10d.
Mid. Upland cotton.....	7½d.	6½d.	6 13-16d.	6½d.	6½d.
No. 40's mule twist, fair 2d quality.....	1s. 0d.	1s.	11½d.	10½d.	11½d.
Clearing House return.....	136,258,000	149,620,000	123,440,000	103,786,000	77,208,000

Gold has been in moderate demand for exportation, and a few parcels have been withdrawn from the Bank; but the supply held by that institution is still increasing, owing to the diminishing home requirements for coin. The silver market has been firm. The prospect of a largely-diminished export from the United States has tended to raise prices; but any important upward movement has been checked by the limited demand on Indian account. There has, however, been some inquiry from Spain. The following prices of bullion are from Messrs. Pixley & Abell's circular:

	GOLD.	s. d.	s. d.
Bar Gold, fine.....	per oz. standard.	77	9½ @
Bar Gold, refinable.....	per oz. standard.	77	11½ @
Spanish Doubloons.....	per oz., nominal.	74	3 @
South American Doubloons.....	per oz.	73	9 @
United States Gold Coin.....	per oz.	76	3½ @
German gold coin.....	per oz.	76	3½ @
	SILVER.	d.	d.
Bar Silver, fine.....	per oz., nearest.	53½	@ 54
Bar Silver, con'g 5 grs. Gold.....	per oz., nearest.	51½	@ 54½
Mexican Dollars.....	per oz., last price.	52½	@
Spanish Dollars (Carolus).....	per oz.	.....	@
Five Franc Pieces.....	per oz.	.....	@

Quicksilver, £7 5s. Discount, 3 per cent.

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

	Bank rate.	Open mark't.	Bank rate.	Open mark't.
	p. c.	p. c.	p. c.	p. c.
Paris.....	2	1½	Vienna and Trieste...	4½ 4½ @ 4½
Amsterdam.....	3	2½	Madrid, Cadiz and Barcelona	6 6 @ 7
Berlin.....	4	2½	Lisbon and Oporto....	6 5
Hamburg.....	4	2½	St. Petersburg.....	6 4½
Frankfort.....	4	2½ @ 2½	New York.....	5½ @ 7
Leipzig.....	4	2½	Calcutta.....	6
Genoa.....	5	4½	Copenhagen.....	5½ @ 6 5½ @ 6
Geneva.....	3	3		
Brussels.....	2½	2½		

The delay occasioned in making public the terms of an armistice, and the uncertainties that have existed with regard to a localization of the war, have materially checked business on the Stock Exchange; but the public have been sanguine about the future and prices have had an upward tendency. Russian stocks have risen in value, the 1873 loan having been dealt in at 85½ which is an improvement of more than 15 per cent compared with the lowest point of last year. It is regarded as doubtful, however, if that quotation will be maintained when the financial situation can be more calmly looked into, and when the Russian Government shall ask of Europe a large loan. As regards American stocks, a dull tone prevailed when it became known that the House of Representatives had passed the Silver bill; but as there is no belief in the United States Government departing from their present reputation of paying the national obligations in coin, there has been a better feeling, and the market closes with steadiness.

Another week has elapsed, and the signing of an armistice is still only a report, on which no reliance can be placed. The Sultan has, we are told, begged of the Czar to bring the war to a speedy termination, and end the appalling suffering which now exists; but the Russian Government shows no sign of alleviating

the great distress which prevails. Loud as was a section of the Liberal party in condemning the Bulgarian atrocities, not a word is uttered by them against Russian procrastination, which is producing the greatest misery that can be imagined. Were Turkey not crushed, the case would be different, but Turkey in Europe is now pretty well an extinct power, and there is certainly no need for so much shuffling diplomacy to gain a few military advantages over a people who are beaten, and who have no power or inclination to make further resistance. The month's delay in arranging the broad terms of a settlement has produced great suffering, and has also compelled Europe to regard Russia with a great deal of suspicion. There appears, however, to be no doubt that the Government demand for a credit of £6,000,000 will be sanctioned by a large Parliamentary majority, some say of 120.

The *Manchester Guardian* says that the new Swiss tariff, which received the approval of the Federal Council on the 13th ult., raises the import duties upon most descriptions of cotton fabrics. The change will probably affect the manufactures of Alsace more than those of this country, but it will be of interest to English readers to know the extent of this retrograde movement on the part of a nation from which better things might have been expected. The following table shows the new and old rates of duty:

	—Per 100 kilos.—	
	Old rate. Francs.	New rate. Francs.
Cotton yarn, grey.....	4 to 7	6
Cotton yarn, bleached.....	4 to 7	8
Cotton yarn, grey doubled.....	7	8
Cotton yarn, colored.....	7	10
Cotton goods averaging less than 40 threads per square millimetre.....	4 to 16	10
Cotton goods averaging more than 40 threads per square millimetre.....	16	15
Muslins.....	4 to 16	15 to 20
Woven colored goods.....	16	30
Prints.....	16	35
Velvets, damasks, piques, &c.....	4 to 16	20

In this connection it may be worth while to state that Austrian prints of excellent quality are now being offered in Manchester at very moderate prices.

The trade for wheat during the week has been exceedingly quiet, and in the absence of any desire on the part either of buyers or sellers to operate, the amount of business transacted has been small, that is to say, it has been restricted to actual requirements. These, of course, are not small, but buyers evince no disposition to accumulate a stock, while, on the other hand, holders are, perhaps, somewhat more inclined to realize. This, in fact, is the state of the trade, not only in this country, but throughout the greater part of the world. Doubtful and perplexing as is the political situation, it is yet somewhat sanguinely, if not too much so, believed that in spite of diplomatic delays, which experience of Russian diplomacy might lead the country to expect, peace is not far distant. The powers at present neutral are by no means anxious to commit themselves to a policy which would almost inevitably lead to a conflagration in Europe, and this is one reason why a hope of peace is entertained. At the same time, Russian silence and the interests of the neutral powers seem in variance, and are a well-grounded cause for the anxieties and perplexities which prevail. Again, peace seems assured when we bear in mind that the military organization of Turkey has, since the surrender of Plevna, and the capture of Osman Pasha, completely broken down, and it is thus obvious that the question of peace is not so much one between Russia and Turkey, but as between Russia and Europe in general. Russia may not, perhaps, desire a complete solution of the Eastern difficulty. Her government makes war on small pretexts, and a cause for further aggression may not improbably be left for the present Czar's successor, should the opportunity present itself. During the past week, Turkey, even through her Sultan, has expressed a desire for a speedy termination to the war, not only because she is powerless, but also for humanity's sake. Russia, however, prevaricates, and, at the same time, pursues her military advantages—a policy which can scarcely commend itself to the Western powers, when the war was undertaken for benevolent purposes. It is quite possible that the trade in cereal produce are correct in believing in peace. The Stock Exchange has the same opinion, but what is to be the endurance of the peace when the probability seems to be that it will be very much of the nature of a compromise? Until the real terms are known, the position of Europe in the future is extremely doubtful; and it may happen that in the place of a weak Turkey, whose chief fault was misgovernment, there will be a formidable power, which will be a threat for many years to come to Germany and Austria, and especially to the latter power. The want of harmony in this country and between the European

powers is obviously favorable to the ambitious pretensions of Russia, but at the same time there is the risk of serious danger to the whole of Europe. The state of Europe is, in fact, deplorable, and divided councils will not improbably bring about eventually a catastrophe unless the present reticence gives place at once to open and reasonable diplomacy. Doubtful as the future may be, it is quite fair to conclude that the pursuance of a cautious policy in the wheat trade is still the best course to pursue. With the return of peace our prospective supplies would be very largely augmented, and the probability is that with fair average harvest prospects, present prices would not be maintained.

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:

	IMPORTS.			
	1877-8.	1876-7.	1875-6.	1874-5.
Wheat.....cwt.	25,716,476	15,755,905	26,717,349	16,816,368
Barley.....	6,703,129	6,249,471	4,751,249	7,881,268
Oats.....	5,133,756	4,678,060	4,506,349	4,049,487
Peas.....	878,032	670,181	710,069	877,862
Beans.....	1,759,840	1,829,763	1,604,364	1,033,586
Indian Corn.....	12,086,434	14,328,109	8,773,785	5,318,742
Flour.....	3,431,505	2,548,768	2,844,389	3,299,756

	EXPORTS.			
	1877-8.	1876-7.	1875-6.	1874-5.
Wheat.....cwt.	883,723	588,138	96,618	141,397
Barley.....	28,057	11,958	10,678	146,677
Oats.....	59,547	64,621	116,933	51,020
Peas.....	12,550	12,590	10,277	10,946
Beans.....	10,296	15,470	4,751	1,048
Indian Corn.....	46,850	223,114	14,303	32,836
Flour.....	22,097	17,040	9,331	83,158

During the week ended January 26, the sales of English wheat in the 150 principal markets of England and Wales amounted to 44,186 quarters, against 43,458 quarters last year: while in the whole kingdom it is estimated that they were nearly 177,000 quarters, against 174,000 quarters. Since harvest, the deliveries in the 150 principal markets have reached a total of 977,442 quarters, against 1,072,331 quarters; and in the whole kingdom it is computed that they have been 3,900,000 quarters, against 4,290,000 quarters in the corresponding period of last year. Without reckoning the supplies furnished ex-granary, it is estimated that the following quantities of wheat and flour have been placed upon the British markets since harvest:

	1877-8.	1876-7.	1875-6.	1874-5.
Imports of wheat.....cwt.	25,716,476	15,755,905	26,717,349	16,816,368
Imports of flour.....cwt.	3,431,505	2,548,768	2,844,389	3,299,756
Sales of home-grown produce.....	16,943,500	19,301,000	18,422,000	21,421,000
Total.....	45,991,481	37,605,673	47,983,738	44,537,134
Exports of wheat and flour.....	910,819	585,168	106,009	174,555
Result.....	45,180,662	37,020,505	47,877,729	44,362,579
Aver. price of Eng. wheat for season	53s. 10d.	48s. 6d.	46s. 6d.	44s. 11d.

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 decreased £195,000 during the week.

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Consols for money.. 95 11-16	95 11-16	95 7-16	95 8-16	95 7-16	95 7-16	95 5-16
" account.. 95 11-16	95 7-16	95 8-16	95 7-16	95 7-16	95 7-16	95 5-16
U.S. 6s (5-20s) 1867.....	106	106½	106½	106½	106½	106½
U.S. 10-40s.....	108	108½	108½	108½	108½	108½
5s of 1881.....	104½	105	105	105	105	104½
New 4½s.....	104	104½	104½	104½	103	102½

Liverpool Cotton Market.—See special report of cotton.

Liverpool Breadstuffs Market.—

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Flour (extra State).....	29 6	29 6	29 0	29 0	29 0	29 6
Wheat (R. W. spring).....	10 3	10 3	10 2	10 2	10 2	10 4
" (Red winter).....	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 2
" (Av. Cal. white).....	12 3	12 3	12 2	12 2	12 2	12 2
" (C. White club).....	12 7	12 7	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 6
Corn (new W. mix.).....	27 0	27 0	27 0	27 0	27 0	27 3
Peas (Canadian).....	36 6	36 6	36 6	36 6	36 6	36 6

Liverpool Provisions Market.—

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Beef (prime mess).....	83 0	83 0	81 0	81 0	84 0	85 0
Pork (W't. mess).....	55 0	55 0	55 0	55 0	55 0	55 0
Bacon (1½ cl. m.).....	29 6	29 6	29 6	29 6	29 6	29 6
Lard (American).....	39 0	39 6	39 9	39 9	39 0	39 0
Cheese (Am. fine).....	66 0	66 0	66 0	66 0	68 0	69 0

Liverpool Produce Market.—

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Rosin (common).....	5 6	5 6	5 6	5 3	5 3	5 3
" (fine).....	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Petroleum (refined).....	11	10½	10½	10½	10½	10½
" (spirits).....	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½
Tallow (prime City).....	40 6	40 6	40 6	40 6	40 6	40 6
Spirits turpentine.....	25 0	25 0	25 0	25 0	25 0	25 0

Table with 5 columns: 1st class, 2d class, 3d class, 4th class. Rows include Rochester, Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Chicago, Louisville, St. Louis.

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

Table with 10 columns: North-west, Lake, West'n, St. Paul, N. Y. Cent., Del. L. & West, Erie, Del. & Hud., Feb. 9, Feb. 11, Feb. 12, Feb. 13, Feb. 14, Feb. 15.

Total... 77,600 73,040 45,995 21,000 11,591 131,307 1,900 20,930 Whole stock... 151,031 494,665 337,874 153,992 894,253 524,000 780,000 200,000

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

The daily highest and lowest prices have been as follows:

Table with 10 columns: Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Rows include Central of N.J., Chic. Burl. & Q., C. Mil. & St. P., etc.

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

Total sales this week, and the range in prices since Jan. 1, 1877, were as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Sales of w.k. Shares, Jan. 1, 1878, to date, Lowest, Highest, Whole year 1877, Low, High. Rows include Central of New Jersey, Chicago Burl. & Quincy, etc.

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.

Table with 4 columns: Latest earnings reported, 1877, 1876, Jan. 1 to latest date, 1877, 1876. Rows include Chic. Burl. & Quincy, Louisv. & Nashville, etc.

* Heavy rains during part of the month.

Table with 4 columns: Latest earnings reported, 1878, 1877, Jan. 1 to latest date, 1877, 1876. Rows include Kansas Pacific, Michigan Central, Missouri Pacific, etc.

† Country partly flooded. The Gold Market.—The gold premium has ruled a little stronger, as the period approaches for the vote on the Silver bill, and closed to-day at 102½.

Table with 6 columns: Quotations, Op'n, Low, High, Clos., Clearings, Balances, Currency. Rows include Saturday, Feb. 9, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

The following are quotations in gold for various coins:

Table with 2 columns: Coin, Price. Rows include Sovereigns, Napoleons, X Reichmarks, X Guilders, Spanish Doubloons, Mexican Doubloons, Fine silver bars, Fine gold bars.

Exchange.—Foreign Exchange has been fairly active, but on an advance in bankers' rates to-day business was checked. The bond importers have been only moderate purchasers, and as there is a fair supply of commercial bills coming in prices would hardly bear an advance.

In domestic bills the following were rates on New York to day at the undermentioned cities: Savannah, buying par, selling 1-8 @ 1/4 premium; Charleston, scarce, 3-16 premium, 1/4 premium; Boston, 25c. discount; New Orleans, commercial 1/4, bank par; St. Louis, par, and Chicago, 50 discount.

Table with 3 columns: 60 days, 3 days. Rows include Prime bankers' sterling bills on London, Good bankers' and prime commercial, etc.

Boston Banks.—The following are the totals of the Boston banks for a series of weeks past:

Table with 7 columns: Loans, Specie, L. Tenders, Deposits, Circulation, Agg. Clear. Rows include Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, Nov. 12, Nov. 19, Nov. 26, Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17, Dec. 24, Dec. 31.

Philadelphia Banks.—The totals of the Philadelphia banks are as follows:

Table with 7 columns: Loans, Specie, L. Tenders, Deposits, Circulation, Agg. Clear. Rows include Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, Nov. 12, Nov. 19, Nov. 26, Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17, Dec. 24, Dec. 31.

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 Feb. 9, 1878:

Table with columns: BANKS, Capital, Loans and Discounts, Average Amount of Specie, Legal Tenders, Net Deposits, Circulation. Lists various banks like New York, Manhattan Co., Merchants, etc.

Total... 66,385,200 243,057,300 32,146,300 34,877,000 211,713,000 19,687,100
The deviations from returns of previous week are as follows:

Loans... Inc. \$1,751,800 Net Deposits... Inc. \$1,411,300
Specie... Inc. 916,900 Circulation... Dec. 74,200
Legal Tenders... Dec. 2,435,200

The following are the totals for a series of weeks past:

Table with columns: 1877, Loans, Specie, L. Tenders, Deposits, Circulation, Agg. Clear. Lists weekly data from Aug. 25 to Feb. 9.

QUOTATIONS IN BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA AND OTHER CITIES.

Table with columns: SECURITIES, Bid, Ask. Lists securities like Old Colony, Omaha & N. Western, etc.

BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA, Etc.—Continued.

Large table with columns: SECURITIES, Bid, Ask. Lists various securities like Ogdens & L. Champlin, Phil. & R. m. 7s, etc.

* In default of interest.

† And interest.

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

Table with columns for Bid, Ask, and various security categories including State Bonds, Securities, Miscellaneous List, Southern Securities, and Railroad Stocks. Each entry includes a description of the security and its corresponding bid and ask prices.

† And accrued interest. * Price nominal.

* Price nominal

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. One number of the SUPPLEMENT, however, that for January, is bound up with THE FINANCIAL REVIEW (Annual), and can be purchased in that shape.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

Illinois Central Railroad Company.

(For the year ending December 31, 1877.)

The report of the directors to the shareholders furnishes the following: "The directors have the pleasure to report a much improved result for the year 1877, chiefly owing to greater economy in expenditures. The details of operation, elsewhere given, show net earnings for last year, \$2,546,561, an increase over the net of 1876 of \$401,785. Owing to the exceptionally mild and rainy weather prolonged into midwinter, rendering the highways impassable, the traffic of 1877 did not have the benefit of the large harvest. The corn crop in Illinois alone is estimated at 270,000,000 bushels, and the wheat crop at 32,500,000 bushels. The greater part of this still remains to make traffic in some form for the railways.

"At the suggestion of the foreign delegates, the dividend dates were changed from February and August to March and September, in order to avoid danger of error in estimating net traffic for each half of the fiscal year. The net receipts for 1877, from traffic and lands, amounted to \$2,654,697. Out of this sum were paid two dividends, each of two per cent, \$1,160,000, and the interest on the funded debt, \$582,990, leaving balance of \$911,706. Deduct the sum disbursed for permanent expenditures in Illinois, \$78,603, and the amount used to establish the Insurance Fund, \$48,000, and there remains a balance unapplied December 31, 1877, of \$790,103. It will thus be seen that the balance brought forward from the year's income corresponds, nearly, to a third dividend. During the year, \$154,000 bonds have been paid, reducing the funded debt of the company to \$10,598,000.

"In July last this company assumed temporary charge of the line formerly known as the Gilman Clinton & Springfield Railroad, with the understanding that the entire receipts should, for the balance of the year, be laid out upon the property. The new company which has since succeeded to the possession of that property, is known as the "Chicago & Springfield Railroad Company," and from it the Illinois Central Company has now taken the lease of the above-mentioned line. The consideration for its control, practically made permanent, is \$1,600,000 Illinois Central 6 per cent currency bonds, to be issued in the course of the next month, secured by a mortgage on the 112 miles of road between Gilman and Springfield. This mortgage, made by the Chicago & Springfield Railroad Company, admits of the issue, from time to time, of \$400,000, additional bonds, to be used as may be found necessary in improvement of that line. This lease is pursuant to recommendations of the foreign delegates, and ensures a valuable feeder to the traffic of the main line.

"The final decree of the Court confirming the consolidated mortgage bondholders in possession of the New Orleans line, was entered in November last, and the final transfer by the receiver to the purchasers was made on the 31st December. The transfer of the Tennessee division necessitated payment in full of the debt to the State. Since 1st January the entire line, extending from New Orleans to the Ohio River, has been under the control of Mr. James C. Clarke, our Vice-President. Mr. Clarke has made repairs to the plant, bridges and other structures, and has re-laid nearly 200 miles of the track; 10,000 tons of steel rails will be laid the coming spring. It is proposed to extend the line 2½ miles up the Ohio River, to a point opposite the Illinois Central freight depot, by the 1st August next. The money derived from the traffic of the road has been used, under the orders of the Court, partly in paying local debts and partly in improvement of the property. This company has advanced, for like necessary purposes, about \$1,000,000, against which it holds \$1,138,000 of well-secured bonds of the Southern Company, of lien prior to that of our previous investment. Our company will also hold nearly three-quarters of the capital stock of the new Southern Consolidated Company. The traffic, even during this transition period of 1877, has shown a decided gain, and our deliveries of freight at Cairo, destined to the South, increased nearly 50 per cent beyond those of 1876.

"In Iowa the indications of public sentiment toward railways are more favorable. The effect of injudicious legislation on the interests of the State has been so severely felt by the people that there is a probability of repeal of the unwise and restrictive laws which crippled the railways of the State and forbade further investment of capital. The directors regret not being able to advise any result to their efforts to reach a definite settlement with the owners of the Iowa line, whose demands have been greater than the board could justly meet.

"For many years we have had close relations with the Toledo Peoria & Warsaw Railway, on which foreclosure proceedings are now in progress. The managers of that property evidently desire to consolidate it with the Wabash Railway. This is in conflict with our interests, and we are endeavoring to retain our share of

the traffic passing through Gilman, which should properly go to Chicago.

"Finally, in regard to the competition of several years past between water communication from Chicago eastward and the trunk railways—which latter determined at one time to take the traffic from Illinois to the seaboard regardless of cost or profit—it is well settled that the inter-State railways have played a losing game. During eight months of water communication, the facilities for taking freight by water are so much improved that the actual cost of water transportation to the seaboard is less than half the actual cost of rail transportation. It is admitted that the outlays made to increase the carrying capacity of the railways have been improvident; and since the reduction of the tolls upon the Erie Canal, by the State of New York, cheap water communication is so firmly established that the effort to take freight by rail during the summer months has failed, as indicated by the reports of several of the leading railways. During the contest, freight was carried in large volume at about half the actual expense incurred. It can hardly be expected that the public will loan more money to renew this contest, which has so seriously disturbed the value of railway properties. Chicago is, and must continue to be, the great inland port. The tonnage of vessels going in and out of Chicago last year was 6,585,415 tons. With three millions of population in Illinois, and three or four millions in the States west and north of it, its location as the nearest outlet to surplus products of that large population establishes it permanently as second only to New York in its importance as a commercial centre.

"Your directors have had the pleasure to elect Mr. William K. Ackerman to the Presidency of this company, a position which he has earned by twenty-five years of faithful service."

RECEIPTS FROM OPERATION.		OPERATION EXPENSES.	
Freight	\$3,032,336	Salaries	\$149,595
Passengers	1,037,530	General expenses	109,842
Mail	96,157	Claims and damages	35,397
Express	112,934	Station expenses	512,095
Sleeping cars	21,835	Train expenses	746,338
Rent of property	68,883	Maintenance of structures and property	100,781
Rent of track	120,118	Maintenance of equipment	563,994
Storage and dockage	4,339	Maintenance of way	651,052
Switching	21,999	Telegraph expenses	56,134
Train news agency	3,055	Sleeping car expenses	36,731
	\$4,522,291	Miscellaneous expenses	155,434
Net earnings over C.B. & Q.	397,700		
Net earnings over T.P. & W.	43,476		
Cairo Wharf boat	4,440		
Inter-State transfer	52,577		
Earnings over other lines	104,219		
Total earnings in Illinois	\$5,126,705		
Leased lines in Iowa—			
Dubuque & Sioux City	921,412		
Iowa Falls & Sioux City	441,934		
Cedar Falls & Minnesota	149,792		
Total	\$6,639,845	Total	\$3,122,443
Leaving net earnings from operation of road	\$3,517,402		
Deduct Charter tax paid State of Illinois	\$316,351		
Deduct tax paid State of Iowa	66,575		
Deduct rent of leased lines	587,913		970,840
Net amount	\$2,546,561		

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, DEC. 31, 1877.	
Permanent expenditures, Illinois	\$34,000,000
Permanent expenditures, Iowa	860,773
Working stock of supplies	411,662
First mortgage bonds Chicago St. Louis & New Orleans RR. Co., Tenn. Div. (\$638,000)	Cost \$542,300
N. O. Jackson & North. RR. coup. bonds, at par	\$570,000
Against which is borrowed	300,000—200,000
Investments, New Orleans line	5,062,994
Cash assets	596,145
Miscellaneous assets	441,160
	\$42,115,036
Sh res	\$29,000,000
Funded Debt—	
Six per cent currency redemption bonds of 1890	\$2,500,000
Six per cent sterling bonds of 1895, £500,000	2,500,000
Five per cent sterling bonds of 1905, £200,000	1,000,000
Sterling Sinking Fund Fives Outstanding—	
December 31, 1876	\$919,600 = \$4,592,000
Less paid in 1877	18,800 = 34,000—4,501,000
Seven Per Cent Construction Bonds Outstanding—	
December 21, 1876	\$64,000
Less paid in 1877	60,000 — 4,000— 10,508,000
Balance for 1877	790,103
Surplus	1,816,933
	\$42,115,036

The following furnish some interesting details of items in the above account:

CASH ASSETS.	
Assets, New York office	\$807,388
Less liabilities	275,535—
Assets, Chicago office	513,030
Less liabilities	448,754—
	\$596,145

INVESTMENTS—NEW ORLEANS LINE.	
Chic. St. Louis & New Orleans 2d mortgage bonds, \$1,942,000	\$4,912,532
Cash Advanced—foreclosure and other expenditures, to be refunded in bonds and shares	150,472
	\$5,062,994

SURPLUS.	
Balance as per last annual report	\$4,646,608
Reduction on \$61,000, Gil. Clin. & Spring. RR. Co. bonds	13,000—\$4,633,608
Deduct, pursuant to recommendation of foreign delegates—a like amount being deducted from Permanent Expenditures, Illinois, leaving the cost of the railroad in Illinois, as shown, at \$34,900,000	2,816,675
Balance	\$1,816,933

INCOME ACCOUNT, 1877.

The following shows the application of income in the past year:

Table with 7 columns: Year (1877-78 to 1872-73), Receipts (Total Jan. 31, Feb. 1-15), and Total Feb. 15. Per cent. of total port receipts.

Table with 3 columns: Year (1877, 1876, 1875), Total in bales of 400 lbs. per week, and Average weight.

As compared with 1876, the consumption of 1877 shows a decrease of 1,760 bales of 400 lbs. each per week, or 2 7/8 per cent, against an increase of 2,110 bales, or 3 1/4 per cent in 1876 over 1875.

Consumption of the Continent.—In our Autumn Annual for 1876 we estimated the surplus in the hands of spinners at 65,231,000 lbs., or 163,000 bales of 400 lbs. This figure was, at the time, by many thought to be rather excessive, the estimates of most of our correspondents ranging from 125,000 to 150,000 bales.

It is assumed on all sides that this surplus has disappeared, and that spinners now hold only ordinary working stocks. If so, the actual consumption in 1877 consisted of 2,180,450 bales taken from the ports, and the above-mentioned surplus taken out of stock.

Table with 3 columns: From the ports, Bales, Average weight. Rows include American, Brazilian, Egyptian, Smyrna, &c., West Indian, &c., and East Indian.

In our Annual Report, published in October last, we estimated the surplus in the hands of Continental spinners at the end of September at 5,368,000 lbs. The deliveries in the last three months of 1877 amounted to 533,170 bales, weighing 223,689,810 lbs., which, plus the surplus on hand at the close of December, would give 229,037,310 lbs. as the weight of cotton consumed in the last quarter of the year.

Table with 3 columns: From the ports, Bales, Average weight. Rows include American, Brazilian, Egyptian, Smyrna, &c., West India, &c., and East India.

In bales of 400 lbs each, the average weekly consumption is 44,345, against the estimate of 48,000 for the last three months of 1876—a reduction of about 8 1/4 per cent. In our October Annual, we estimated the consuming power of the Continent at 50,244 bales of 400 lbs. each per week.

Imports, Deliveries and Stocks for Europe in 1877 and 1876.—The following is a statement of the total import into Europe in 1876 and 1877. The continental imports are those received direct from the countries of growth; figures in 1,000 of bales.

Table with 8 columns: Year (1877, 1876), U. S., Brazil, Egypt, Smy, W. I., E. I., Total. Rows include Great Britain, Continent, and Total.

The deliveries for consumption during the same years were as follows, also in 1,000 of bales:

Table with 8 columns: Year (1877, 1876), U. S., Brazil, Egypt, Smy, W. I., E. I., Total. Rows include Great Britain, Continent, and Total.

The stocks in the ports on the 31st December compare as follows:

Table with 8 columns: Year (1877, 1876), U. S., Brazil, Egypt, Smy, W. I., E. I., Total. Rows include Great Britain, Continent, and Total.

Probable Requirements of Europe for 1878.—The consumption of cotton in Great Britain in 1877 was 1,237,373,500 lbs, or nearly 3 per cent less than in 1876, in which year 1,274,376,750 lbs. were used, and fully 5 per cent less than a full rate of consumption, which is at least 1,303,000,000 lbs.

This statement shows that the receipts since Sept. 1 up to to-night are still 19,856 bales less than they were to the same day of the month in 1877, and 132,653 bales more than they were to the same day of the month in 1876.

BOMBAY SHIPMENTS.—According to our cable despatch received to-day, there have been 3,000 bales shipped from Bombay to Great Britain the past week, and 5,000 bales to the Continent; while the receipts at Bombay during this week have been 27,000 bales.

Table with 6 columns: Shipments this week (Great Britain, Continent, Total), Shipments since Jan. 1 (Great Britain, Continent, Total), Receipts (This week, Since Jan. 1).

From the foregoing it would appear that, compared with last year, there has been a decrease of 34,000 bales in the week's shipments from Bombay to Europe, and that the total movement since January 1 shows a decrease in shipments of 4,000 bales, compared with the corresponding period of 1877.

GUNNY BAGS, BAGGING, ETC.—Bagging has been in more demand during the past week, and considerable sales are reported of lots, and the aggregate figures up to 5,000@6,000 rolls here and in Boston, mostly for speculative purposes, at 10@10 1/4 c.

ELLISON & Co.'s ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COTTON TRADE FOR 1877.—We have received this week Messrs. Ellison & Co.'s very valuable cotton review for the year ending with December 31, 1877. Our space is so limited to-day that we have to confine ourselves to the following extracts:

Weight of Imports, Deliveries, &c., in Great Britain.—The following is an account of the weight of each description of cotton imported, exported and consumed in 1877, and the quantities left in the ports at the end of the year:

Table with 4 columns: Import, Export, Consumption, St'k Dec. 31. Rows include American, Brazil, Egyptian, Turkey, &c., Peruvian, W. I., &c., and East Indian.

Recapitulation—The entire movement for the year is shown in the following statement:

Table with 4 columns: Stock in the ports, Stock held by spinners, Import during the year, Supply, Export in 1877, Stock in the ports, Stock held by spinners.

The following is a comparative statement of the consumption of cotton in Great Britain for the past ten years:

Table with 4 columns: Year (1877 to 1873), Bales, Lbs. Rows include 1877, 1876, 1875, 1874, 1873.

In order to give a correct comparison of the amount of cotton consumed, we have reduced the bales to the uniform weight of 400 lbs. each, as follows:

say 23,795,000 lb. per week, or 59,487 bales of 400 lbs. each. At the moment there are no indications of any recovery of the ground lost last year, but, as stocks and prices are low, and as (owing to the reduction which has a ready taken place) the demand is more likely to increase than to diminish, we shall probably be within the mark, if we estimate the requirements for the new year at the same as the actual consumption in 1876, say, in round numbers, 1,275,000,000 lbs.

The machinery in existence on the continent is capable of spinning 1,044,460,000 lbs. of cotton per annum, or 2,611,150 bales of 400 lbs., equal to 50,214 bales per week. The average rate of consumption during the past three months has been over 16 per cent short of this. It is scarcely likely that so small an average will be maintained for long. There are, indeed, signs of revival in various directions. We should say, therefore, that a moderate estimate of the requirements for the continent would be 970,000,000 lbs. (against the estimated actual consumption of 963,722,780 lbs. in 1877), or about 7 per cent below the full working power of the machinery in existence.

The following, therefore, is what we consider a minimum estimate of the requirements of Europe for 1878 :

Table with 4 columns: Lbs., Per cent., Bales, Per week. Rows include Great Britain, Continent, and Total.

Prospects of Supply for 1878.—In the autumn we estimated the incoming American crop at 4,500,000 bales. At the time, and throughout the months of October and November, that figure was considered rather a full one, and many trustworthy Southern firms thought that 4,250,000 bales would not be exceeded. Since then, with largely-increased receipts, a great change has taken place in public opinion on this point, and the estimate of 4,500,000 bales is now regarded as rather a minimum figure. Experience shows that even so late in the season as January, estimates of the crop are liable to differ greatly from the eventual yield. At the moment it looks as if the crop would be nearer the total of the season before last than last season, that is, nearer 4,700,000 than 4,500,000, though it would not be at all surprising if the latter figures were not exceeded. But as we had rather be a little over than under the actual yield, we shall calculate upon 4,700,000 bales. Of this total, American spinners will take 1,500,000, leaving 3,200,000 bales for shipment to Europe. Of these 3,200,000 bales, 1,099,000 were shipped to the end of December, leaving 2,101,000 for shipment during the remainder of the season—that is, to August 31 1878. These 2,101,000 bales, and the 603,000 afloat at the end of December, or a total of 2,704,000, will arrive in Europe by about the end of September. The import of new crop cotton between the end of September and the close of December, 1878, we estimate at 600,000 bales, against 496,000 in 1877, and 619,000 in 1876. These 600,000 bales, added to the probable import in the first nine months, make a total of 3,304,000 bales—the import of American in 1878—say, in round numbers, 3,300,000 bales.

In our October Annual we calculated upon increased shipments from India amounting to 300,000 bales. Many authorities thought this figure too large by at least 100,000 bales, and there are some who still think so. At the moment the estimates vary between 150,000 and 300,000 bales—let us say 235,000 bales; but as there are 66,000 bales less afloat than there were at the beginning of 1877, the increased import would be only 159,000 bales, which, added to last year's figures (97,000), would give 1,156,000 bales—in round numbers let us say 1,160,000 bales—as the probable import into Europe in 1878. From Egypt it is thought that the imports will not exceed 400,000 bales, against 420,000 bales last year, and from Smyrna, &c., 90,000, against 102,000. The Brazil supply is not expected to exceed 300,000 bales, against 363,000 last year. From Peru, the West Indies, &c., we may get 80,000, against 86,000.

A recapitulation of these figures gives the following as the estimated supply for 1878 compared with the actual imports in the previous three years :

Table comparing 1878, 1877, 1876, and 1875 for American, Brazilian, Egyptian, Smyrna, West Indian, and East Indian supplies.

The weight of import of each description we estimate as follows :

Table showing Bales, Average, and Lbs. for American, Brazilian, Egyptian, Smyrna, West Indian, and East Indian.

We have already estimated the minimum requirements of Europe at 2,245,000,000 lbs., so that, even with an American crop of 4,700,000 bales, there is a deficit of 37,440,000 lbs., or 93,600 bales of 400 lbs. each. There is, besides, a reduction of 257,000 bales in the stocks in the ports and a decrease of at least 249,000 bales in the quantity held by spinners—making a total deficit of about 590,000 bales.

Probable Course of Prices.—With a supply of cotton based upon liberal estimates, but nevertheless about 2,000 bales per week less than what may be taken as a minimum rate of consumption, we expect that the average price of middling uplands will be somewhat higher in 1878 than it was in 1877. There will, of course, be numerous fluct-

nations, and it is not unlikely that the difference between the highest and lowest quotations for the year will, as in the past three years, exceed 1d. per lb., and perhaps 1½d.; the extreme range being 17.16d. in 1877, 13.16d. in 1876, and 15.16d. in 1875. The lowest prices will probably be witnessed during the first half of the year; but that they will sink to the lowest touched in 1877 and 1876 is doubtful, unless the peace negotiations now going on fail to accomplish the end they have in view. Our impression is that the efforts of the diplomatists will be successful, and that in a short time Europe will be tranquil; but we do not anticipate that sudden outburst of commercial activity which seems to be expected in some quarters. Eventually trade will improve, and the cotton industry will partake of the general amelioration; but as the supply of cotton during the early part of the year will, if the American and Indian movements confirm our estimates, be on a liberal scale, it may be that prices will not gain much. It is true that we commence the year with 247,000 bales less in the ports, and 240,000 less at the mills than at the opening of 1877; but, unless the revival in business be such as to compel spinners to depart from the hand-to-mouth policy which for months past has neutralized the so-called strong statistical position, it is not likely that we shall witness any serious advance in prices.

But if the demand for yarns and manufactures should develop to such an extent as to bring the rate of consumption up to the full capabilities of the machinery in existence, and at the same time cause spinners to replenish their exhausted stocks, then an important rise in prices would be inevitable. In another portion of our report we show that the spindles in existence in Europe are capable of using 2,347,960,000 lbs. of cotton per annum. This rate of consumption compares as follows with our estimated supply :

Table comparing Consumption and Supply in Lbs. and Bales of 400 lbs.

Such a rate of consumption, however, is impossible, unless the American crop considerably exceeds 4,700,000 bales, especially as the above figures do not allow for any addition to the meagre stocks now held at the mills. With reference to stocks at the mills, however, we would point out the very important circumstance that the facilities now afforded by high-class merchants to spinners for covering their contracts by purchases of cotton, for forward shipment or delivery, renders it unnecessary for consumers to hold the large stocks which were formerly indispensable. In this way the present deficit in this invisible supply is shorn of much of the strength it would have had in former times.

Taking a broad view of the question of supply and demand, the position of cotton is unquestionably one of considerable strength, provided, of course, that what may be termed the war brake on the wheels of trade be removed by the conclusion of peace on a permanent basis. But if, unfortunately, the present peace negotiations should come to nothing, the entire situation would be changed, as the cotton requirements of the world might not exceed those of last year—namely, 2,200,096,000 lbs., in which case our estimated supply of 2,207,560,000 lbs. would more than meet the wants of consumers.

In another portion of our report we have drawn special attention to the unsatisfactory—not to say disastrous—results of the year's business in the Oldham district. This ruinous state of things was unquestionably largely owing to the bad state of trade which affected the cotton industry in general, but not a little of the mischief was due to the scarcity and relatively high prices of Surats and the grades of American below Middling, which form the staple consumption of the Oldham district. In 1878, however, there will be a largely-increased supply of East Indian and low American; and from this circumstance alone, whatever may be the general course of trade, we expect that the balance sheet of the Oldham mills will compare very favorably with those of 1877.

THE EXPORTS OF COTTON from New York this week show a decrease, as compared with last week, the total reaching 9,528 bales, against 11,673 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

Large table showing Exports of Cotton (bales) from New York since Sept. 1, 1877, with columns for Week Ending (Jan 23, Jan 30, Feb 6, Feb 13), Total to date, and Same period previous year.

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

Table with columns: RECEIPTS FROM, NEW YORK (This week, Since Sept. 1), BOSTON (This week, Since Sept. 1), PHILADELPHIA (This week, Since Sept. 1), BALTIMORE (This week, Since Sept. 1). Rows include New Orleans, Texas, Savannah, Mobile, Florida, Sth Carolina, Nth Carolina, Virginia, North'n Ports, Tennessee, &c, Foreign, Total this year, Total last year.

SHIPPING NEWS.—The exports of cotton from the United States the past week, as per latest mail returns, have reached 115,392 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.

Table of shipping news with columns: Destination (NEW YORK, MOBILE, CHARLESTON, SAVANNAH, TEXAS, WILMINGTON, NORFOLK, BALTIMORE, BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA), Ship Name, and Total bales.

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

Summary table of shipment particulars with columns: Destination (New York, N. Orleans, Mobile, Charleston, Savannah, Texas, Wilmington, Norfolk, Baltimore, Boston, Philadelp'a), and various port-specific counts (Liver-pool, Cork, Bremen, Havre & Amster-dam, Ant-werp, Spanish port, Genoa & Trieste, Total).

Included in the above totals are, from New York, 40 bales to Christiana.

Below we give all news received to date of disasters to vessels carrying cotton from United States ports, &c.:

BALTIMORE, str. (Ger), which left her wharf at Baltimore Feb. 7 for Bremen, grounded at 3 P. M. off Fort McHenry, on account of the obstructions of numerous smaller vessels in her path near that point. The officers saw that in order to prevent accidents she would have to be grounded, and the latter alternative was preferred to the former. She was pulled off an hour afterwards by the ice-boat Maryland and returned to her wharf. The Baltimore sailed again on the 8th.

PRINCETON, ship, at Liverpool Jan. 24th, from Savannah, was in collision in the river Mersey, evening of the 25th, with bark T wee Zusters. BREIDABLIK, bark (Nor.), Nielson, at Dunkirk, Jan. 25th from Savannah, lost anchor and chain. CASPIAN, bark (of Liverpool), Cook, at Havre Jan. 25th from Savannah, took the ground off the entrance to former port Jan. 25th, and was obliged to slip her anchor and 30 fathoms chain and take the assistance of a steamer in order to avoid driving ashore, in consequence of the heavy gale prevailing.

LIVERPOOL, February 15—5:00 P. M.—BY CABLE FROM LIVERPOOL.—Estimated sales of the day were 8,000 bales, of which 1,000 bales were for export and speculation. Of to-day's sales 6,350 bales were American. The weekly movement is given as follows:

Table of weekly cotton sales with columns: Date (Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15), Sales of the week, Forwarded, Sales American, Total stock, Total import of the week, Actual export, Amount afloat.

The following table will show the daily closing prices of cotton for the week:

Table of daily closing prices with columns: Day (Sat., Sun., Mon., Tues., Wednes., Thurs., Fri.), Mid. Upl'ds, Mid. Or'n's.

Futures. These sales are on the basis of Uplands, Low Middling clause, unless otherwise stated.

SATURDAY. Mar.-Apr. delivery, 6 1/2 @ 3-32d. Apr.-May delivery, 6 5-32 @ 1/2 d. May-June delivery, 6 5-32d.

MONDAY. Mar.-Apr. delivery, 6 1/2 d. Apr.-May delivery, 6 1/2 d. May-June delivery, 6 5-32d. June-July delivery, 6 3-16d. Jan.-Feb. shipments, new crop, sail, 6 5-32d. Mar.-Apr. delivery, 6 3-32d.

TUESDAY. Feb.-Mar. delivery, 6 1-16d. Mar.-Apr. delivery, 6 1-16d. Apr.-May delivery, 6 1-16d. May-June delivery, 6 3-32d. June-July delivery, 6 1/2 d.

WEDNESDAY. Feb. delivery, 6 1-32d. Feb.-Mar. delivery, 6d. Mar.-Apr. delivery, 6d. Apr.-May delivery, 6 1-32d. May-June delivery, 6 1-16d. June-July delivery, 6 3-32d. July-Aug. delivery, 6 1/2 d.

THURSDAY. Feb.-Mar. delivery, 6 1-32d. Mar.-Apr. delivery, 6 @ 1-32 @ 6d. Apr.-May delivery, 6 1-16 @ 1-32d. June-July delivery, 6 1/2 @ 3-32d. July-Aug. delivery, 6 1/2 d. Jan.-Feb. shipment, new crop, sail, 6 3-32d.

FRIDAY. Feb. delivery, 6d. July-Aug. delivery, 6 3-32d. Jan.-Feb. shipment, new crop, sail, 6 1-32d. Feb.-Mar. shipment, sail, 6 1-16d.

Cotton freights the past week have been as follows:

Table of cotton freights with columns: Destination (Liverpool, Havre, Bremen, Hamburg), Mode (Steam, Sail), and Price (d., c., cp., comp.).

BREADSTUFFS.

FRIDAY, P. M., Feb. 15, 1878. The indications that Great Britain will become involved in active hostilities with Russia, from her relations with Turkey, have caused an active export demand for flour, and prices of low grades have advanced 10 @ 25c. per bbl., while the better grades have become more salable at full prices. The sales for export amount to about 60,000 bbls. at \$5 @ 5 25 for common extras, up to \$5 40 @ 6 15 for good to choice. Production has of late been

somewhat curtailed by the disproportionate values of flour and wheat. In rye flour and corn meal there has been little change. To-day, the market was very firm, but quiet.

The wheat market has been buoyant, but the views of holders have advanced so much more rapidly than the orders of buyers that business was somewhat restricted. Transactions on Wednesday and Thursday embraced No. 3 Milwaukee, \$1 24; No. 2 New York & Chicago spring, \$1 27@1 28; No. 2 Milwaukee, \$1 30; No. 1 Minnesota at \$1 34, and choice white at \$1 43@1 45; but the close last evening was at bids somewhat reduced. Receipts at the Western markets continue greatly in excess of last year, and liberal supplies are coming forward to the seaboard by rail. To-day, the market was buoyant but not active; winter red sold at \$1 37 for No. 2 and \$1 40 1/2 for No. 1.

Indian corn was in fair demand throughout the week, and prices were steadily advancing to the close of yesterday's business, when old No. 2 mixed sold freely at 59 1/2@60c. in store; steamer mixed, new, at 56@56 1/2c., afloat, and No. 3 at 49@49 1/2c. Supplies are light at this point, and receipts not excessive anywhere, while the views of holders have been strengthened by the belief that diplomatic complications, and possibly open hostilities, may for some time to come prevent supplies from the Danube reaching Western Europe. To-day, No. 3 mixed advanced to 50c and there were large sales of No. 2 for Feb. at 59 1/2c.

Rye was slightly lower early in the week, but with a fair demand prices recovered strength and the close is firm. No. 2 Western sold at 71@72c., and State No. 1 at 74@75c., closing with 76c. reported paid for Canada in bond. Barley has been fairly active and closes steadier, but the business has embraced much irregular stock, and quotations are difficult to fix. The demand has been mainly for export. Oats have met with a moderate demand, and there is some recovery from late inside prices, closing to-day firmer, with No. 2 graded at 35 1/2c. for mixed and 36c. for white.

The following are closing quotations:

Table with columns for FLOUR and GRAIN, listing various types like Superfine State & Western, Wheat-No. 3 spring, etc., with their respective prices.

The movement in breadstuffs at this market has been as follows:

Table showing RECEIPTS AT NEW YORK and EXPORTS FROM NEW YORK for 1878, 1877, and 1876, categorized by Flour, C. meal, Wheat, Corn, Rye, Barley, and Oats.

The following tables show the Grain in sight and the movement of Breadstuffs to the latest mail dates:

RECEIPTS AT LAKE AND RIVER PORTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEB. 9, 1878, FROM DECEMBER 31 TO FEB. 9, AND FROM AUG. 1 TO FEB. 9.

Table showing receipts at Lake and River ports for Flour, Wheat, Corn, Oats, Barley, and Rye, comparing current week, previous week, and corresponding week of 1877 and 1876.

* Estimated.

SHIPMENTS OF FLOUR AND GRAIN FROM WESTERN LAKE AND RIVER PORTS FROM DEC. 31 TO FEB. 9.

Table showing shipments of Flour, Wheat, Corn, Oats, Barley, and Rye from Western Lake and River ports from Dec. 31 to Feb. 9, comparing current week, previous week, and corresponding week of 1877 and 1876.

RECEIPTS OF FLOUR AND GRAIN AT SEABOARD PORTS FOR THE WEEK ENDED FEB. 9, 1878, AND FROM DEC. 31 TO FEB. 9.

Table showing receipts of Flour, Wheat, Corn, Oats, Barley, and Rye at seaboard ports for the week ended Feb. 9, 1878, and from Dec. 31 to Feb. 9, comparing current week, previous week, and corresponding week of 1877 and 1876.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

FRIDAY, P. M., Feb. 15, 1878.

Business was very quiet the past week, taking into consideration the number of buyers in the market and the time of year. The Western and Southwestern trade continued to operate in strict accordance with their actual requirements, because of the prevailing uncertainty in regard to freights; but Southern buyers—of whom there were a good many in the market—were a little more liberal in their purchases. The woolen-goods branch of the trade was exceptionally quiet, and clothiers are carrying such large stocks of heavy clothing that the outlook for autumn woollens is by no means encouraging. Gingham, cotton dress goods and piques were severally in good demand by package buyers, and there was a fair movement in cotton hosiery on account of previous orders; but all other descriptions of domestic goods were more or less depressed, and the dealings in foreign goods were light and unimportant. Despite the above condition of the market, values remained steady and without quotable change.

DOMESTIC COTTON GOODS.—There was a very light demand for domestics by exporters, and the shipments for the week ending Feb. 12 were only 558 packages, which were sent as follows: Brazil, 137 packages; Venezuela, 109; Great Britain, 93; Mexico, 86; British Honduras, 70; British Australia, 24, and small lots to other markets. Brown sheetings and drills were in moderate request and steady, while bleached cottons and wide sheetings ruled quiet. Colored ducks, denims and tickings were in fair demand by converters and the trade, and corset jeans were moderately active. Checks, stripes and osnaburgs continued quiet, and chevots were in irregular request; but cottonades were rather more freely taken. Print cloths were fairly active at 3 9-16c., cash, to 3 1/2c., less 1 per cent, cash, for extra 64x64s, and 3 1/2c., 30 days, for 56x60s. Prints were very quiet for the time of year, and stocks are rapidly accumulating in agent's hands; but, as above stated, gingham were in good demand.

WOOLEN GOODS.—Agents have almost completed their deliveries of spring woollens to the clothing trade, and light-weight cassimeres were consequently very quiet. There was some inquiry for heavy cassimeres, and a few sales were effected by means of low prices; but transactions were light in the aggregate. Worsted coatings were in moderate request with most relative activity in stripes and diagonals, but cotton-warp worsteds continued depressed. Black cloths and doeskins were in light request, and cheviot coatings were less active. Kentucky jeans were distributed in small lots to a moderate amount, as were printed satinets; but black and mixed satinets ruled quiet. Worsted dress goods were only in limited demand, and shawls were lightly dealt in.

FOREIGN DRY GOODS.—There was a comparatively light movement in foreign goods from importers' hands, and the jobbing trade was devoid of animation. Dress goods and silks were in irregular request, and ribbons and millinery goods moved slowly. Dress linens were more active, but housekeeping, shirting and clothing linens were only in moderate request. White goods, Hamburg embroideries, and imitation laces and nets were severally in fair demand. Men's-wear woollens ruled quiet, and hosiery was inactive. The offerings at auction were meagre and unimportant, but fair average prices were realized for the goods sold.

Importations of Dry Goods.

Table showing importations of Dry Goods for the week ending Feb. 14, 1878, categorized by Manufactures of wool, cotton, silk, flax, and Miscellaneous dry goods, comparing 1878, 1877, and 1876.

WATER-DRAWN FROM WAREHOUSE AND THROWN INTO THE MARKET DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

Table showing water-drawn from warehouse and thrown into the market during the same period, categorized by Manufactures of wool, cotton, silk, flax, and Miscellaneous dry goods, comparing 1878, 1877, and 1876.

ENTERED FOR WAREHOUSING DURING SAME PERIOD.

Table showing entered for warehousing during same period, categorized by Manufactures of wool, cotton, silk, flax, and Miscellaneous dry goods, comparing 1878, 1877, and 1876.

