

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The monetary situation has remained during the week without any marked change. It is satisfactory, however, to note that the leading events have all been favorable. The drop in the Bank of England minimum from 6 to 5 per cent is of that nature; so also is the decline in the rate for foreign exchange, the latter removing the fear which began to be felt of an export of gold and opening up a possibility of an import movement. Of the same character is the progress making towards a settlement of railroad differences, about which we have remarked below. Scarcely any transaction could contribute more to restore confidence than to have our great carrying industry put upon a safer basis. In an article on a subsequent page we have investigated a remark made a few weeks since by Mr. Gould, and which has been widely discussed and questioned, as to the effect on the net income of the Western roads of a rise in freight charges of one and four-tenths mills per ton mile. We find that Mr. Gould's statement as to tonnage was under the truth rather than over it, and hence the satisfaction now felt over the arrangements making to settle railroad differences. Then there is a further grain of comfort found in the introduction in the Senate of the bill to extend to July 1 the time for the withdrawal of goods held in bond under the old tariff law. The measure of course may not pass, but there appears to be a good prospect of its passage, and under the conditions of our money market speedy action appears very desirable.

We may presume that within a little over a month there will be free arrivals of currency in New York. Even now the banks are discounting paper for their customers a little more liberally than they were. It has been stated that this liberality was possible only because more loan certificates were taken out by some of the Clearing-House institutions. In a sense, that is true. At the same time it is to be said that in important particulars the banks have improved their condition materially during the last two weeks; and with the period for the movement of currency to the West and South nearly over, and a return flow in prospect, it seems likely that the limit of outstanding certificates has been nearly reached. It is well enough to state also that the total certificates outstanding do not even yet aggregate one-half of the amount put afloat in either 1873 or 1884. Still, the condition of money, as already said, has not changed greatly. The offerings on call are confined to bankers' balances, but have been at quite regular rates except on Monday, when the figure was temporarily run up to 15 per cent. For the week the range has been 15 and 3 per cent, and the average has been about 6 per cent, at which renewals have been made; this is also the minimum rate quoted at the banks and trust companies. For time money 6 per cent has been bid, with a commission which would make the rate 8 per cent, but this has failed to bring out offerings. The quotations for commercial paper are nominally $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for sixty to ninety-day endorsed bills, $7\frac{1}{2}$ @8 per cent for four months' acceptances and 8 to 10 per cent for good single names having from four to six months to run; but there are no buyers with the exception of a few out-of-town banks.

The Bank of England's minimum rate was reduced on Thursday to 5 per cent from 6 per cent, at which it had stood since November 7th. The holdings of bullion by the Bank now amount to £24,896,075,

against £19,544,513 on November 6th. Discounts in London are also reported lower, sixty to ninety-day bank bills being quoted at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The Bank of England gained £213,000 bullion the past week; a special cable to us states that this is due to the import of £213,000 from Australia and miscellaneous sources, to receipts from the interior of Great Britain of £81,000 and to an export to Brazil and other points of £81,000. The open market rate at Paris is 3 per cent, at Berlin it is 5 per cent and at Frankfort it is also 5 per cent. The announcement is made that early in January a 3 per cent French redeemable rente amounting to 883,000,000 francs will be issued.

Our foreign exchange market has been weak and unsettled and so closed yesterday. This change in condition has been mainly due to a liberal supply of commercial bills drawn against cotton shipments and a pressure of bankers' bills against outgoing securities, the arbitrage houses having bought freely of stocks since Monday. The easier discounts in London and the close money market here have also had more or less influence. On Thursday some first-class bankers' drafts were sold at a price which is only half a cent above the gold-importing point, while yesterday there were transactions at which imports of gold could be made, though the margin would be slight. It is a notable fact that within a fortnight exchange has been twice close to the importing and once near the exporting point. On Monday Brown Bros. reduced short sterling to 4 88, leaving the long rate at 4 82 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Kidder, Peabody & Co. and the Canadian banks also reduced the sight rate to 4 88, leaving their sixty day rate at 4 83. On Tuesday Brown Bros. posted 4 82 for long and 4 87 for short. These rates were also posted by the Bank of Montreal, while Kidder, Peabody & Co. reduced to 4 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ for sixty day and 4 87 for sight, and the Bank of British North America to 4 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ for the former and 4 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ for the latter. The market was then almost demoralized, and on the following day the Bank of British North America fell to 4 82 for long and 4 87 for short, while Kidder, Peabody & Co. posted 4 82 for the former and 4 86 $\frac{1}{2}$ for the latter. The change in the Bank of England minimum caused a reduction by Brown Bros. and the Bank of British North America on Thursday to 4 86 $\frac{1}{2}$ for sight. The Bank of Montreal fell to 4 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ for sixty day and 4 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ for sight. Yesterday both Brown Bros. and Kidder, Peabody & Co. quoted 60-day sterling at 4 81, but the former placed the short rate at 4 85 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the latter posted 4 85. The rates at the end of the week stood at 4 81@4 82 for long and 4 85@4 86 for short, with actual business done at 4 79@4 79 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ @4 84.

While no meeting of the Western railway presidents has yet been called, it is gratifying to see that very satisfactory progress is being made in placing rates on a more remunerative basis. The work in that direction the present week is of great importance. In the first place it has been agreed to advance on the 1st of January the west-bound rates between Chicago and the Missouri River to conform to the corresponding tariffs on east-bound business, that is from a basis of 70 cents on first-class freight to 75 cents, this advance extending through the various classes of freight and ranging from 1 to 5 cents per 100 lbs. The action relates to all points on the Missouri River from Omaha to Kansas City, and will apply also on traffic to local and intermediate points. This step completes the restoration of tariffs west-bound to the Missouri River. It will be remembered that early last summer in the demoralization

then existing the rate on first-class freight had got down as low as 60 cents, and that from this there was an advance the 1st of August to 70 cents, to which now the 5 cents further is to be added. It deserves to be mentioned that in the case of the tariffs between Chicago and St. Paul much the same policy had been pursued—that is, there were two successive advances, first on August 1 to 50 cents on the basis of first-class freight (from 40 cents on local business and only 30 cents on through business, the previous figures) and then on November 17 a second advance to the basis of 60 cents.

But action has likewise been taken this week to restore east-bound tariffs to Chicago. The one bad feature lately was the reduction in grain rates from Missouri River points, on the order of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, which order, after considerable wrangling, the roads finally put into effect November 17. It seems now that rates are again to be advanced. In any event it has been decided to raise the tariff on corn from the Missouri River to Chicago from 17 cents to 19 cents and on wheat from 20 to 22 cents. West of the Missouri River we are told the advance will average between 1½ and 2 cents per 100 lbs., and furthermore it is stated the idea is simply to put tariffs back to the basis prevailing before the emergency reductions made last February, when grain prices in the markets of the world ruled so extremely low and the condition of the farming industry was very depressed. The managers likewise resolved to advance cattle rates from 22 cents to 23½ cents, a proportionate advance to be made in rates on points between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, and some increase also on shipments from points west of the Missouri River. The 22 cent rate has ruled since August 25th, to which it had been raised from 12½ cents. At that time also other east-bound rates from the Missouri River were marked up—on hogs and sheep, for instance, and on dressed beef, packing-house products, lumber, &c. With regard to the question of the equalization of rates on live hogs and packing-house products, so as to accord with the decision of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, the action of the managers this week has not been quite up to expectations, the live-hogs tariff from Kansas City to Chicago being reduced from 25 to 18 cents, instead of the rates on packing-house products being raised from 18 to 25 cents. Still, prior to the advance on August 25 both live hogs and packing-house products were moved at the ruinously low figure of 12 cents. We have taken pains to recount these various steps, because they show that this week's action is only part of a general movement which has been in progress for some time, and that the Western rate situation is being slowly but very decidedly improved.

The returns of net earnings received make it evident that the action in improving rates is very timely. The Union Pacific preliminary report for October has been issued, and records a falling off as compared with the corresponding month last year of no less than \$482,459. This is the result almost entirely of augmented expenses, gross receipts having increased slightly—\$5,264. No other company makes so bad an exhibit as this, and yet there are quite a good many roads with unfavorable statements and only a few with improved results. Thus the Burlington & Quincy has \$58,459 gain in gross but \$65,946 loss in net; the Canadian Pacific with \$59,447 increase in gross has \$22,068 decrease in net. The Kansas City Fort Scott

& Memphis with only \$12,582 loss in gross, reports \$31,182 loss in net. Then the Louisville & Nashville loses \$43,733 in net, the Central of Georgia loses \$77,171, the Cleveland Cincinnati Chicago & St. Louis \$11,182 and the Louisville New Orleans & Texas \$46,268—all on larger gross. The Erie has lost \$92,264 in gross and \$91,974 in net. We have said there were a few favorable returns. The Rio Grande Western is one of these, having gained \$42,000 in gross and \$13,690 in net. On the Ontario & Western there is an increase of \$45,122 in gross and \$24,494 in net. The West Virginia Central has gained \$33,695 in gross and \$5,720 in net, and the Norfolk & Western \$31,156 and \$4,976 respectively. The Western New York & Pennsylvania suffered a decrease in gross, but managed to reduce expenses heavily, so that the net stands at \$101,376, against \$82,930. The Louisville New Albany & Chicago, the Kentucky Central and the Elizabethtown Lexington & Big Sandy have only just reported results for September, but all show decreased net.

As concerns the condition of general trade, we have this week prepared our statement of bank clearings for the month of November, and the exhibit is quite interesting. In November last year there was an extraordinary increase in the aggregate of clearings, the total being about 650 million dollars, or 15 per cent, in excess of that for the corresponding month of the year preceding. Notwithstanding this heavy gain last year, there is this year a further addition of 151 million dollars, or about 3 per cent. The following furnishes a comparison by months back to January, both with and without New York. It will be observed that outside of New York the increase is about 157 million dollars, or 8½ per cent.

MONTHLY CLEARINGS.

Month.	Clearings, Total All.			Clearings Outside New York.		
	1890.	1889.	P. Ct.	1890.	1889.	P. Ct.
January....	5,225,831,394	4,825,197,819	+8.3	1,951,432,964	1,755,493,935	+11.2
February..	4,400,969,494	4,174,912,846	+5.4	1,579,509,948	1,479,692,829	+6.8
March....	4,588,344,491	4,508,557,785	+1.9	1,765,420,901	1,613,799,504	+9.4
1st quarter	14,215,165,379	13,503,568,450	+5.3	5,296,363,833	4,848,976,268	+9.2
April.....	4,773,031,538	4,343,058,929	+9.8	1,848,350,371	1,503,673,856	+15.9
May.....	5,826,074,131	4,794,806,496	+21.5	2,067,541,399	1,714,512,357	+19.8
June.....	5,032,367,411	4,712,485,117	+6.8	1,873,755,335	1,641,417,832	+14.2
2d quarter.	15,628,473,080	13,850,950,542	+12.8	5,757,647,075	4,949,304,045	+16.3
6 months..	29,843,638,459	27,354,518,992	+9.1	11,054,010,906	9,798,280,513	+13.0
July.....	4,767,435,912	4,642,802,891	+2.7	1,934,278,899	1,738,148,840	+11.3
August....	4,734,973,871	4,308,125,778	+9.9	1,774,836,523	1,559,675,114	+13.7
September.	4,931,853,362	4,250,465,435	+16.0	1,839,860,023	1,550,575,216	+18.7
3d quarter.	14,434,263,145	13,261,394,104	+9.3	5,548,975,415	4,848,399,170	+14.5
9 months	44,277,901,504	40,555,913,096	+9.2	16,602,966,323	14,646,679,488	+13.4
October....	5,742,358,917	5,569,363,949	+3.1	2,175,525,483	1,961,002,625	+11.5
November.	5,191,725,342	5,049,739,800	+3.0	1,993,281,392	1,836,554,278	+8.5

There is one fact that modifies somewhat the favorable conclusions to be drawn from the November exhibit. Stock Exchange speculation was much heavier than last year, and this tended to swell the aggregate of clearings. The value of the stock sales in November, 1890, was about 74 million dollars in excess of November, 1889. If we follow our usual custom and allow an average of 2½ checks to each transaction the 74 millions increase in sales would represent an increase in clearings of 185 million dollars. As the addition to total clearings according to the above has been only 151 million dollars, it follows that there must have been a decrease in the clearings arising from transactions outside of stock sales, and at New York the contraction on this basis has been very heavy. In other words, the indications point to a falling off in mercantile trade here. But as the financial disturbances occurred during November and merchants found it difficult to get

accommodation at the banks, such a result is perhaps not very remarkable.

The Stock Exchange has been as depressed this week as it was strong last week. Under ordinary circumstances the action taken at the West in advancing rates would have had a stimulating influence; as it was, it had no effect whatever. One reason for the weakness is the difficulty in securing time loans, and then also operators for a decline have been active and are pressing their advantage, the bad statement of the Union Pacific being used by them with considerable force against prices. The reduction of the Bank of England rate did not affect the market to any extent. The coal properties were attacked early in the week on reports of differences between the companies, but it was subsequently stated that an understanding had been come to as regards both prices and production. The Rio Grande Western Road has declared a dividend on its preferred stock.

The following gives the week's movements of money to and from the interior by the New York banks.

Week Ending December 5, 1890.	Received by N.Y. Banks.	Shipped by N.Y. Banks.	Net Interior Movement.
Currency.....	\$2,295,000	\$2,522,000	Loss. \$227,000
Gold.....	600,000	1,618,000	Loss. 1,018,000
Total gold and legal tenders....	\$2,895,000	\$4,140,000	Loss. \$1,245,000

With the Sub-Treasury operations the result is:

Week Ending December 5, 1890.	Into Banks.	Out of Banks.	Net Change in Bank Holdings.
Banks' Interior movement, as above	\$2,895,000	\$4,140,000	Loss. \$1,245,000
Sub-Treasury operations.....	13,100,000	14,800,000	Loss. 1,700,000
Total gold and legal tenders....	\$15,995,000	\$18,940,000	Loss. \$2,945,000

Bullion holdings of European banks.

Banks of	December 4, 1890.			December 5, 1890.		
	Gold.	Silver.	Total.	Gold.	Silver.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
England.....	24,890,075	.....	24,890,075	19,954,318	.....	19,954,318
France.....	44,841,000	49,801,000	94,642,000	50,999,000	49,931,000	100,930,000
Germany.....	25,464,667	12,782,333	38,197,000	25,928,667	12,964,333	38,893,000
Aust.-Hung'y.	4,922,000	16,579,000	21,501,000	5,410,000	16,052,000	21,462,000
Netherlands...	3,316,000	5,335,000	8,651,000	5,188,000	5,974,000	11,162,000
Nat. Belgium.	2,818,000	1,409,000	4,227,000	2,664,000	1,338,000	3,999,000
Tot. this week	106,287,742	85,856,333	192,114,075	110,145,985	86,254,333	196,400,318
Tot. prev. w'k.	106,080,075	86,010,000	192,090,075	110,980,566	86,264,333	197,244,899

ILL EFFECTS OF AN INDEPENDENT TREASURY.

We notice that Secretary Windom in his report takes strong ground against a revision of our sub-treasury law. In expressing his opinion he seems to compare the independent-treasury arrangement with the bank-deposit system of 1837 that it superseded, and with the bank-deposit system which is still, to a comparatively small extent, in practice. His argument is two-fold—(1) that banks, if they held the Government money might be unable, and would most certainly be embarrassed, to meet the Government requirements in critical times, and (2) that the Government accumulations serve as a reserve to afford relief to commerce at just such epochs. The Secretary illustrates his argument by stating what he was able to do in the way of disbursements in September to relieve the present stringency, and fortifies it by quoting from the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury for the year 1857 a statement showing the better position of the Treasury with respect to the banks and commerce in 1857 than in 1837.

Mr. Windom is undoubtedly right in saying it would be undesirable to return to the deposit system of 1837 for which the sub-treasury system was substituted. At the same time we might assert without reservation that it would be extremely unwise and wholly unneed-

ful for the Government to withdraw deposits which it had left with the banks in the awkward manner the deposits were withdrawn in 1837 under the direction of Congress. It was done, as is well known, at a time when a spirit of speculation had taken full possession of the people. After merchandise of every kind had felt its influence the speculation turned upon land, and finally upon Government land. The amount received by the Treasurer for sales of land reached \$41,168,000 in 1835 and 1836, or an annual average of \$20,584,000, against an average of \$2,671,730 for the four years 1829 to 1832, both inclusive. To stop this speculation the Government issued in July, 1836, the "Specie Circular," which required all payments for land to be made in specie. That circular and the speculation which was in progress naturally put the banks into a strained condition. This was the occasion Congress took (June, 1836) to pass the act withdrawing the bank deposits (37½ million dollars), in four instalments, making the dates of withdrawal the first of January, April, July and October, 1837.

We cannot think these facts and the result that followed furnish any precedent for any future action or any argument in favor of an independent treasury. So also the experience we have been passing through of late months, and the aid the Secretary extended to the market by his large bond purchases, look to us as hardly sufficient excuse for the retention of the many millions of dollars in Government vaults and outside of commerce during so many months, and years even, merely that it might be on hand for disbursement this fall. In fact we doubt very much the wisdom of the Treasury holding a reserve fund to disburse at odd intervals when the banks need it; we think the influence of such a resource is not favorable to a conservative bank management. The time was when our banks provided beforehand for the fall trade, and so trimmed their sails, if we may be permitted to use the expression, through the summer months as to avert a storm, by preparing themselves for the crop demand. Of late years they have looked to the Treasury wholly, and have gone through the summer trenching on their reserves regardless of any increased drain sure to come later on. Besides, the Treasury cannot always have a surplus to disburse, and yet the habit of leaning on it once formed gets chronic, so that legitimate trade is as a rule sacrificed to speculation.

The chief harm, however, which an independent treasury does, is not the carrying of a large balance steadily for years—that is a loss to commerce of just so much capital, but the loss is measurable; the chief harm is in the taking out of the banks of a few millions one week or month and perhaps not putting it back until two or three weeks or months after. This irregular action of receipts and payments is constantly occurring and no Secretary of the Treasury can prevent it. We have a forcible illustration in the Government operations during the last two months, as may be seen from the subjoined statement of the cash holdings in sub-treasury on the first of each month named.

NET HOLDINGS BY TREASURER.	1890. October 1.	1890. November 1.	1890. December 1.
	\$	\$	\$
Gold coin and bullion	147,981,732	156,315,624	162,439,331
Silver coin and bullion	6,590,212	4,311,693	2,477,691
U. S. Treas'y notes, act July 14, '90	962,500	2,481,649	2,039,144
Legal tender notes.....	5,775,290	5,353,263	4,835,720
National bank notes.....	4,620,511	3,662,638	3,417,095
Fractional silver.....	20,768,255	19,728,007	19,216,599
Total Gov't cash in sub-treasury	186,698,500	191,852,874	194,425,630

These figures show us that the net holdings of cash in the sub-treasury in the month ending with Nov. 1st (that is in October) increased \$5,154,374 and in November increased again \$2,572,756. These are not large items in ordinary times, but under present circumstances they are large, and it is impossible to say how much loss has accrued to individuals and to commerce which would not have accrued had the banks been able to retain this 7½ millions of currency. We do not speak of the item to cast any blame upon Mr. Windom's management. He would have avoided the accumulation if he could have done so. It is the system which is at fault. But we have not room to pursue this subject further to-day.

CURRENCY WANTS OF OUR DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

Under the head of "Reports and Documents" we give up a good many pages to-day to Secretary Windom's report and to the report of Mr. Lacey, Comptroller of the Currency. The suggestions each makes with regard to the currency are especially timely. Particularly are we pleased to find that these documents bring out so clearly the defects of the present system for supplying the needs of the country, defects which prove the inflexibility of the currency and its lack of power to adapt itself to the wants of our internal commerce.

We have received many approvals of our remarks of last week with regard to "Our Currency and Farmers' Needs," and we have also received criticisms, which are perhaps more useful. No doubt the proposals we made were not all of them in harmony with recent precedent and consequently with the drift of current thought in the East. After the experience of the last quarter of a century it is difficult for some minds to get beyond a government bond or a government fiat in their conception of a currency. Moreover the idea of local issues, which we broached, brings up visions of a more remote period when the country was flooded with worthless State issues, and suggests a return of like conditions.

It is well enough to say, however, that we have no wish for, and no intention of favoring, a currency which is not well secured. In our article we stated that what we believed was wanted was liberty to commerce "under certain restrictions as to security" to shape its own currency. But security need not necessarily mean Government bonds. To make bonds a condition would be to make the organization of a permanent system impossible, for it must be assumed, we think, that the people will never create a Government obligation for currency purposes. When we had bonds to market, when the Nation's life depended upon their being marketed—at such a time and under such conditions it is not surprising that it should have been considered a wise measure to widen the demand by creating for the bonds a new use for banking and currency purposes. A very different case is presented when that crisis has passed, and when through severe taxation the nation has almost extinguished its bonded indebtedness. Furthermore, as an independent question, we should much doubt the wisdom of bonds of any kind being made security for paper issues. The bonds have to be first bought with capital that could be actively employed in commerce, and unless it is actually necessary for commerce to make this sacrifice for the sake of security it evidently ought not to be done.

Besides, there is a new force working in the United States which cannot be ignored in any currency discus-

sion now-a-days, and which will of necessity have a share in shaping a new system. What we refer to is to be found embodied in Farmers' Alliances and in their demands for currency issues—demands that are not without reason, for they have their origin in the changed condition which our Western and Southern country has entered into in the last ten years. During that period the South has in a commercial sense been born again, and the activities throughout the immense districts west of the Mississippi River—or we should say west of Lake Superior—have been in great part created. We might almost affirm that Chicago was the extreme centre of trade in 1880, while now the situation can only be described as a network of trade centres all the way to the Pacific. Under this change, new currency facilities are obviously needful. A device that operated well enough when Chicago, in its 1880 shape, was the limit for which provision was to be made, comes far short of meeting the wants of Chicago in its 1890 shape, and much farther from meeting the wants of the centres of activity another thousand or two thousand miles distant from the source of currency supply.

These conditions, too, suggest requirements not for moving enlarged grain crops alone, though that is an immensely increased item, but, as said, for facilitating home activities of every description carried on within new communities outside of, remote from, and in large measure independent of, the old trade centres, and also of each other. For illustration, consider a moment the building trade—a strictly local development which, during the past few years, has been at every point so prosperous. Towns and villages have not only sprung into existence, but cities, say like Denver, which even had a very substantial growth before, have more recently added business blocks and dwellings equal to the best in the United States. These are not what we might call the product of a forced or unnatural growth; they follow in the wake of wealth accumulations and come in response to demands for business; and though of course any such development can be over-done for a time, we doubt whether at most Western points this has been overdone to any greater extent than it has been overdone in the East. And yet what an amount of work that growth affords the lumberman, the quarryman, the brickmaker, the iron founder and the thousands of other laborers in allied industries, the larger number of which find development within each locality or neighborhood. We have cited new building enterprises because they form a constant, necessary, general feature, prominent in the activities of these new *foci* of our internal commerce; and so is the production and marketing of grain a feature common to them all. But if we were to pass along the wide stretch of country referred to, we should find that in addition to these kinds of growth, almost every district is likewise distinguished in some special department,—perhaps of mining, perhaps of smelting, perhaps of fruit-raising, or something else needing local currency facilities while individualizing these independent communities.

Do not such facts disclose not alone an enlarged want for currency but a want for a local source or stores of currency at once responsive to local demands? An uncertain supply at New York, the other end of the Continent, a supply which is always fully occupied when enterprise is active, does not meet the case at all. Farmers' Alliances, under the pressure of these conditions, are just now looking in the direction of silver coinage, because of their

belief that by that means a currency limitless in amount will be secured and every town will have its share. We do not care to stop to-day to refute this claim further than to assert that free coinage would have no such effect. We think our assertion on that point ought to have weight, even among those who abused us so roundly for our facts, figures and opinions when the silver bill now in force was being discussed—opinions, &c., which have since been so literally fulfilled. At all events the settlement of the issue as to the effect of free coinage of silver is not essential in this discussion to-day. It is enough to know that the lack of circulation complained of in the agricultural districts is not due to a small supply in the whole country, and that a greater supply of like character would not cure it. This we proved last week, and we should not recur to the matter were it not that our statements have been reinforced now by those in Secretary Windom's report. He gives the details there which disclose that the United States had on the 1st day of October \$1,498,072,000 of currency in circulation; that there was an increase of \$93,866,813 in the amount afloat from the 1st of March, 1889 to October 1, 1890, and an increase of \$68,354,333 in the three months from July 1 to October 1 of this year. These figures differ from the figures we gave last week only because the dates of comparison are different, and they bring us to the same conclusion. In fact we notice that Secretary Windom's deductions from his results are closely analogous to those we made. That is not surprising, for although there has been all along, as we freely admit, a dearth of currency throughout the agricultural sections, such a volume of currency in circulation and such new supplies thrown upon the market as these statements disclose, without affording any relief, establish beyond controversy the existence of a grave defect in the system.

But Secretary Windom and Comptroller Lacey both seem to reach the conclusion that the remedy for the evils we have suggested is the perpetuation of the national bank system, the currency to be made, by perfect redemption, flexible and adaptable to local wants such as we have described. That method of meeting the conditions would be not only unobjectionable, but desirable if it could be carried out. The local banks would then become the local issuers. Of course bonds could no longer be the security for the note; those features of the law would have to be revised. So also would the redemption machinery now existing have to be remodeled, as the present arrangements are of no avail in keeping the notes at home. Likewise the semi-legal-tender provisions of the present law, especially that provision which requires every national bank to receive at par the notes of every other national bank, would have to be struck out; for while that and the other similar features stand, the laws of trade are set at naught and redemption can be but a farce. What is requisite is a note issue that will not accumulate in New York City during spring and summer. The note must have an unflinching tendency towards the home of the issuer where it is needed.

Along these lines we think a currency system could be easily devised which would be in harmony with the demands of commerce and which would be satisfactory to the localities where the issuers were situated. It has always been the boast of the associations having national currency that when it was once put out the issuer never saw it again, and it was an assertion that proved nearly true. To perpetuate such a system we

need hardly say is not meeting the condition or demands of our domestic trade.

GROWING DIMENSIONS OF TRUNK LINE INCOME.

Only two of the great east and west trunk lines to the seaboard—the Erie and the Balt. & Ohio—now have their fiscal year end on Sept. 30, but these trunk lines constitute such an important body of roads, and their income is so large and keeps so steadily growing, that it seems very desirable to continue the custom of compiling their earnings, gross and net, for the old period, and of bringing the results for the different systems together and giving an aggregate on the same. Accordingly we have this week prepared the figures in our usual form, the publication of the Lake Shore statement for the quarter ended Sept. 30, having furnished the last of the returns needed for this purpose.

In the great industrial activity which has marked and distinguished the last twelve months, we have an especial reason for wanting to see the course of trunk line income in the period in question. The statement may be made, without fear of contradiction, that at no previous period in the history of the United States has trade been of such large proportions as during these twelve months, and the activity practically extended to all branches and departments of business. In this we are referring simply to the volume of trade; profits, as we all know, were unsatisfactory. Contemporaneously with this industrial activity the railroads had a very large grain tonnage as a result of the excellent and exceptionally large harvest of cereal and other crops gathered last season. Indeed, it was these good crops that laid the foundation for the subsequent expansion in trade. The present season's crops, as is known, are short, but this circumstance, while being somewhat of an influence in the current calendar year, hardly exerted much effect in the year ending with September 30. Hence the latter year comprises a period of substantially uninterrupted heavy trade from beginning to end.

The trunk lines, by reason of their position, naturally reflect this state of things in their earnings, and thus these earnings in a certain sense constitute a measure of the growth and expansion that took place. Fortunately there have been few offsetting elements of an unfavorable nature, though the reduction in east bound rates on grain, provisions, &c., which was made last spring (May, 1890) and continued in force all through the summer and up to last week, certainly was an adverse influence of considerable dimensions. Aside from this, however, and low rates generally, the conditions were encouraging to good results. Our compilations cover simply the usual roads—that is, the New York Central with the Nickel Plate and Lake Shore, the Erie with the New York Pennsylvania & Ohio, the Baltimore & Ohio, and the lines east of Pittsburgh and Erie in the Pennsylvania system—and yet the aggregate addition in the gross earnings of these roads reaches very large figures.

While improvement was looked for, probably few persons have any notion just what the amount of increase has been as compared with the twelve months preceding. It will probably be a surprise to hear that roughly these roads enlarged the aggregate of their gross receipts almost 15 million dollars. Yet such is the fact. And the result would be still more striking if we could have the returns of a few other roads in the

same territory. In the case of the Pennsylvania, as already said, our total embraces simply the so-called lines east of Pittsburg and Erie. But the lines west of Pittsburg and Erie gained no less than \$4,028,372 in gross receipts in only the nine months of the calendar year, from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30. In other words, with these included we would have instead of an increase of 15 millions for the twelve months an increase of about 20 millions. But as we cannot incorporate these Western lines of the Pennsylvania in our grand aggregate the comparison will have to be confined to the figures already mentioned.

With the increase of 15 million dollars, the total of the gross earnings has been raised to the large sum of over 181½ million dollars—\$181,611,083. In the year preceding, the increase had been not quite two million dollars, and in the year before the increase was also quite small, or 5½ millions, but in the year before that the increase was as much as 17 million dollars, and in 1885-6 14½ millions. In these earlier years, however, the improvement followed in great measure from the restoration of rates after the settlement of the trunk-line war. The war ended in 1885, and for 1884-5 total gross receipts were only 127½ million dollars, while in the late year, as already stated, they were 181½ millions, so that in the interval there has been an increase of 54 million dollars. In 1883-4 gross receipts were 142½ million dollars and in 1882-3 152½ million dollars; consequently, compared with those years the increase is not so large and yet is striking nevertheless. It is a significant fact that since the settlement of the trunk-line war in 1885 there has been an uninterrupted addition to the aggregate of gross earnings year by year, though in two of those years, as already pointed out, the increase was quite small. The following is a recapitulation of the aggregates for both gross and net results back to 1878-79.

TRUNK LINE EARNINGS YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30.

Year.	Gross.	Net.	Year.	Gross.	Net.
1878-79.....	\$ 110,433,292	\$ 45,616,370	1884-85.....	\$ 127,654,200	\$ 40,052,945
1879-80.....	134,146,355	56,934,669	1885-86.....	142,093,929	50,799,413
1880-81.....	159,540,919	63,461,401	1886-87.....	159,440,369	60,113,773
1881-82.....	139,152,207	50,838,457	1887-88.....	164,952,935	53,399,116
1882-83.....	152,717,243	53,189,286	1888-89.....	166,704,836	54,168,552
1883-84.....	142,637,073	50,552,871	1889-90.....	181,611,083	56,559,240

The most noteworthy feature in this exhibit, next to the gain in gross receipts, is the lack of growth in the net earnings. There is of course very decided improvement as compared with the very bad year 1884-5, but otherwise there is very little of a flattering nature in the comparison of the net. In the late year gross earnings increased 15 million dollars over the year preceding, as already stated; the net increased less than 2½ million dollars. If we compare with 1887 we find an increase of 22 million dollars in gross, but less than half a million increase in net. But the most striking result is reached when we compare with 1879-80—just a decade ago. In that year gross was only 134 millions, while now it is 181 millions, or 47 millions larger. But with this 47 millions addition to gross receipts, net earnings are actually less than at that time (\$375,000 less). In other words, with over one-third more gross earnings than ten years ago there is not quite so much net. The situation in brief is shown in the following:

	1889-90.	1879-80.	Inc. or Dec.
Gross earnings.....	\$ 181,611,083	\$ 134,146,555	Ino. 47,464,528
Expense.....	125,051,843	77,211,896	Ino. 47,839,947
Net earnings.....	56,559,240	56,934,659	Dec. 375,419

This does not reveal any new fact, and yet it shows in a most noteworthy manner how greatly railroad profits have been reduced during the last decade. Of course low rates are not alone responsible for the shrinkage, for railroad employees are now getting very much better pay than formerly, and at the same time the public demands, and is receiving, better accommodations, while in addition railroad managers are spending heavier amounts for repairs and betterments. But it does not matter much how the margin of profit has been reduced. The fact of importance, and which deserves special emphasis, is that with an enormous increase in traffic and income, the benefits have accrued not to the owners of the properties, but solely to their employees and the general public. We now annex the following, furnishing a comparison of gross and net earnings for each road separately for the last six years.

	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.
Pennsylv.—	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Earnings..	45,405,444	40,243,678	54,566,459	57,974,621	59,483,709	65,890,069
Expenses..	29,096,881	31,357,544	35,055,154	39,117,518	40,160,394	45,199,666
Net.....	15,718,613	17,886,130	19,511,305	18,857,108	19,323,315	20,690,403
N. Y. Cent.—						
Earnings..	24,429,441	190,506,361	35,297,955	36,192,920	35,906,239	39,327,437
Expenses..	18,319,972	18,610,377	22,388,923	21,624,388	23,710,543	24,356,471
Net.....	6,110,069	11,895,984	12,908,432	11,568,532	11,995,696	11,970,966
N. Y. W. S. & B.						
Earnings..	3,469,416	7,623,225	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Expenses..	4,043,965	7,903,141	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Net.....	d11,155,549	d17,369,916	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
N. Y. C. & St. L.						
Earnings..	2,111,730	6,595,160	4,569,591	5,059,654	4,303,915	5,015,044
Expenses..	2,419,106	2,539,537	3,355,930	4,074,395	3,927,759	4,466,912
Net.....	692,624	1,055,623	1,213,662	985,259	933,156	1,148,132
L. S. & M. (Ch. S.)						
Earnings..	14,047,606	15,231,437	16,101,050	18,553,490	18,272,484	20,661,513
Expenses..	9,206,373	9,369,632	10,419,096	11,531,573	12,079,319	14,253,965
Net.....	4,839,933	5,861,805	7,684,954	7,026,917	6,593,165	6,428,558
(c) Erie—						
Earnings..	15,496,456	18,310,495	19,889,071	20,495,802	20,249,188	21,447,979
Expenses..	10,663,579	12,979,407	13,160,072	13,371,465	13,202,945	14,021,361
Net.....	4,832,877	6,031,088	6,701,399	7,124,337	7,046,343	6,826,638
N. Y. Pa. & O.						
Earnings..	5,065,161	6,161,106	6,365,127	6,377,967	6,391,302	7,333,955
Expenses..	6,683,697	4,109,231	4,210,061	4,632,001	4,645,580	4,884,539
Net.....	1,381,224	2,051,875	2,155,126	1,745,966	1,745,722	2,349,366
Balt. & O.—						
Earnings..	16,616,642	18,422,438	20,659,036	20,353,491	21,308,002	24,412,696
Expenses..	10,975,585	12,035,743	14,120,131	14,260,591	14,810,644	16,966,670
Net.....	6,643,057	6,386,695	6,538,905	6,192,900	6,497,358	7,445,926
Total of All—						
Earnings..	127,654,200	142,093,929	159,440,369	164,952,935	166,704,836	181,611,083
Expenses..	87,601,951	91,294,519	103,229,716	111,553,619	112,539,284	125,051,843
Net.....	40,052,945	50,799,419	56,113,773	53,399,116	54,168,552	56,559,240

† West Shore operations included for nine months of year.

‡ Including taxes on property.

§ Taxes partly estimated.

¶ Operations up to the time of the termination of the receivership (Dec. 5, 1885.)

(a) Now embraced with N. Y. Central.

(b) Taxes not included in these years, and only partly in the years preceding.

(c) Does not include operations of New York Pennsylvania & Ohio; but amounts due other leased lines operated on a percentage basis are deducted from gross earnings.

It will be noted that while the Pennsylvania gained over 6 million dollars in gross receipts as compared with the year preceding and the Baltimore & Ohio gained over three millions and the Erie and New York Pennsylvania & Ohio together over two millions, and the Lake Shore also over two millions, and the Nickel Plate about three-quarters of a million, the New York Central has gained only \$631,000. But the Central suffered from a strike of its employees in the last quarter of the year. Relatively the Baltimore & Ohio has done about the best of all, its increase amounting to nearly 15 per cent. In net earnings that road has an increase over 1889 of about a million dollars, and the Pennsylvania a similar increase; the New York Pennsylvania & Ohio and the Nickel Plate also show greatly improved results, but the Central, the Lake Shore and the Erie have all lost more or less.

WESTERN RATES AND VOLUME OF
TRAFFIC.

In view of the advances in transportation rates which are being made by the Western roads and the apparently growing determination on the part of the managers of the lines to insist on a strict observance of schedule tariffs, so as to secure a fair remuneration for the work done, the extent of the traffic of these Western roads becomes a matter of considerable importance. In our article on the "Financial Situation" to-day we set out the changes in rates agreed on the present week. It is not our purpose to estimate the volume of traffic to be affected by these changes either singly or as a whole. Such an attempt would be little better than a guess, for there are no sufficient data on which to make a reliable calculation, and, besides, the amount of the different kinds of traffic is all the time changing—for instance with short cereal crops the present season, but with rather large supplies left over from last season's crops in certain sections, it would be extremely hazardous to venture an opinion as to the probable extent of grain tonnage to be moved over the roads the coming six or eight months.

But past experience and present action both prove that while special advances may be important enough on their own account, they are still more important as reflecting the general tendency of rates as a whole. When one class of rates is put up, other classes are sure to follow, the effect being to ensure a higher average on the aggregate tonnage. Certainly the prospect at the moment seems to favor the realization of a higher average. Granting that the rise may be only small, we know that the difference in gross and net results produced by such a small rise may be very great. In the present instance, practically the whole of the traffic west of Chicago and St. Louis is involved. What, then, are the proportions of that traffic?

Mr. Jay Gould undertook to answer this question two or three weeks ago, and it is on account of its bearing on railroad earnings that we refer to the subject to-day. The answer is contained in a letter addressed by Mr. Gould to the editor of the *Sun* of this city and published in the issue of that paper of November 15th. The letter was not a long one, and its purpose was innocent enough, being apparently none other than that of a desire to give emphasis to the familiar truth that under the large volume of traffic which the roads are moving, only a very slight rise in the average would yield very greatly improved results to the companies. After estimating the total number of tons of freight moved one mile by the roads west of Chicago and St. Louis at 16 billion tons, Mr. Gould went on to say that the auditor of one of the roads had furnished him with a statement showing that there was a decrease of 1.4 mills per ton per mile as between the rates at present obtained and those put in force under the Presidents' Agreement. "Applying this difference of 1.4 mills to the 16,000,000,000 gross annual tons one mile, gives the startling figure of \$22,400,000 annual decrease in the net earnings of this system of roads." Mr. Gould concluded by urging that the bankers be induced to call the presidents together again, so that another effort might be made to improve the situation of affairs.

There appeared no special reason to question Mr. Gould's figures of tonnage, and as the letter served the good purpose of showing in a striking way how harmful the prevailing demoralization of rates was proving,

we made no comment on it at the time. The *Railroad Gazette*, however, in its issue of November 21st, reviewed Mr. Gould's statements and results with considerable severity and undertook to prove that they were gross exaggerations. As no reply to these criticisms has been made, and as they have been given renewed prominence by publication in other newspapers, it seems worth while to inquire into the matter and see what the facts are. The *Gazette* claims that 16 billion tons is altogether too large, and then goes on to show that instead of a difference in net earnings of \$22,400,000 as contended by Mr. Gould, the difference at the most could be only about three million dollars. The argument on the inaccuracy of the 16 billion estimate of Mr. Gould is based on the figures given in *Poor's Manual*. Mr. Poor credits the Southwestern group with 5½ billion tons, the Northwestern group with 4½ billions and the Pacific group with 2 billions, the total for the three together being 12,227,500,030 tons. "A considerable share of this," says the *Gazette*, "certainly ought to be excluded, but to make up for what may properly be included by Mr. Gould, but is not shown in Poor's grouping, we may allow the whole and still fall short about 25 per cent."

Only very slight examination, however, is necessary to reveal that this method of computation hardly yields reliable results. The actual extent of road in the three groups referred to is 70,010 miles. But the traffic figures quoted from Mr. Poor are based not on 70,010 miles, but only on 55,156 miles, thus showing that about 15,000 miles are not represented in the aggregate of 12,227,500,030 tons given, and which is cited as proving the inaccuracy of Mr. Gould's estimate of 16 billion tons. If we go one step further we shall find that in what Mr. Poor terms the Central Northern group the traffic figures are based on 49,056 miles, whereas there are only 36,157 miles of road altogether in the whole of that section. In other words, the greater part of the 15,000 miles of road unrepresented in the three groups used by the *Gazette* has been incorporated in and forms part of the Central Northern group. Mr. Poor reports the tonnage movement of this Central Northern group, thus made up, as almost 25 billion tons—in exact figures 24,909,317,676 tons—and it is evident that with a part of this transferred to the groups to which it belongs there would be no difficulty in reaching Mr. Gould's estimate of 16 billion tons. The discrepancy in Mr. Poor's results is owing to the method of grouping followed. It is Mr. Poor's plan to credit each group with the roads "domiciled" within that group. The effect is that the Chicago & Northwestern, the Chicago Burlington & Quincy, the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul, and other roads, are counted as Central Northern lines—being "domiciled" in one of the States comprehended in that group—when they should really be classed with the groups further west. The Quincy, the St. Paul and the Northwest are all very large systems, and the tonnage of any two of them would more than make up the difference between 12,227,500,030 tons and Mr. Gould's estimate of 16,000,000,000 tons.

But we need not rest the presumption that Mr. Gould's estimate is not in excess of the truth on this analysis alone. There is a more direct method of testing the statement, namely by making up a table to show what the tonnage movement is on some of the leading roads in the sections embraced in the estimate. Such a table we present below. The figures, though not of a uniform date, are in all cases the

latest obtainable. We have taken out construction freight and freight carried for a company's own use, wherever information on these points was furnished. We give two separate totals—first a total on the roads directly involved in any changes west of Chicago and St. Louis and then a supplementary total including a few other large systems, which are only partially or more remotely affected by such changes.

TONNAGE MOVEMENT ONE MILE ON LEADING ROADS.

Name of Road.	Year Covered.	Tons One Mile.
Chicago & Northwest	May 31, 1890	2,000,182,603
St. Paul & Omaha	Dec. 31, 1889	411,451,034
Chicago Burlington & Quincy	June 30, 1889	1,721,815,303
Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul	June 30, 1890	1,842,789,845
Chicago Rock Island & Pacific	Mich. 31, 1890	1,157,420,250
Chicago St. Paul & Kansas City	June 30, 1890	423,789,804
Chicago & Alton	Dec. 31, 1889	537,301,926
Wabash	June 30, 1890	1,430,197,332
Missouri Pacific	Dec. 31, 1889	1,428,576,397
Union Pacific system	Dec. 31, 1889	1,578,702,315
St. Louis & San Francisco	Dec. 31, 1889	322,164,176
Denver & Rio Grande	Dec. 31, 1889	260,817,174
Total 12 roads		13,114,708,339
Illinois Central	June 30, 1890	1,189,282,889
Southern Pacific	Dec. 31, 1889	1,491,786,548
Northern Pacific	June 30, 1890	1,028,982,143
Texas & Pacific	Dec. 31, 1889	361,935,642
Manitoba	June 30, 1890	554,752,349
Grand total 17 roads		17,741,447,910

* Not including trans-Missouri system.

† Not including "lines controlled."

Here we have an aggregate of over 13 billion tons (13,114,708,339) on a dozen large systems, and this without counting the Atchison (for which we have no figures as yet), and also without counting a whole host of minor roads like the Burlington Cedar Rapids & Northern, the Minneapolis & St. Louis, the Missouri Kansas & Texas, the St. Louis Arkansas & Texas, etc., etc. Moreover, in several instances we have not been able to get the tonnage for the entire system operated by a company. Thus the Quincy figures do not cover the "lines controlled," nor the Chicago Burlington & Northern, while the Northwestern figures do not cover the trans-Missouri lines. Then the Quincy figures are only up to June 30 a year ago. For a later period they would doubtless be very much heavier, and the same remark applies to the results on roads reporting for the calendar year 1889, such as the Union Pacific and the Missouri Pacific, which certainly had a very much heavier traffic this year than last. The aggregate of 13,114,708,339 tons also does not comprehend the Illinois Central, the Southern Pacific, the Northern Pacific, the Texas Pacific and the Manitoba. The tonnage of these five roads is separately stated in the table, and when added to that of the other twelve roads gives a grand aggregate of 17¾ billion tons (17,741,447,910), as will be seen by the table.

As to whether an average advance of 1.4 mills on 16 million tons is likely to result, that is another matter. We have shown however that the traffic is there, and if the 1.4 mills advance is realized then the gain will be \$22,400,000 as stated by Mr. Gould. While there is room for very great improvement we should not be disposed to count on a gain of such large dimensions, especially as indications point to a falling off in certain classes of traffic. On the other hand, the Gazette estimate of three million dollars gain would seem to understate the possible benefits. The Gazette bases its estimate on the shipments from the Missouri River reported during the month of October, which shipments it multiplies by 12 and then increases 80 per cent in order to cover the traffic of the Northwestern lines. In this way it arrives at a total hardly larger than the entire traffic of one single system like the Quincy or the Chicago & Northwestern.

Of course, the Gazette aims to get simply the competitive traffic, but in our judgment such a limitation

ought not to be made, for, as is known, under the operation of the Inter-State law it has been almost impossible to prevent reductions in through rates from affecting local traffic. Furthermore, while it is true that the rate troubles in their worst form have affected chiefly the "500-miles lines radiating from Chicago," the inference that there have been no reductions from points beyond the Missouri is not warranted. The "emergency" tariffs of last spring applied to traffic from all points in Nebraska and Kansas, and in raising rates now, as the events this week have shown, these points west of the Missouri are to be comprised in the change as well as traffic coming from the Missouri River. Even if that were not so, however, the fact must not be forgotten that it is traffic east of the Missouri which is especially heavy. Thus out of the Quincy's total tonnage of 1,721 million tons for the year ending June 30, 1889, as given above, no less than 1,297 millions came from the lines east. But while differing with the Gazette, we have no desire to enter the realms of speculation and make an estimate of our own. We would, however, credit Mr. Gould with having written his letter out of an earnest desire to secure improvement in railroad affairs.

THE DEBTS OF OUR MUNICIPALITIES.

Perhaps greater interest attaches to the Census report on city and town indebtedness than to the preceding reports on State and county debts, and which were analyzed at length in these columns a few weeks since. In the first place we have much larger figures to deal with than in either of the other cases; and in the second place with the growth, multiplication and expansion of both the larger and the smaller municipalities, a tendency towards additions to this species of debt naturally exists, the requirements of urban life calling for outlays for improvements, accommodations and conveniences, etc., which can not be met out of taxes alone. It is important to know how far the movement in that direction has progressed, and whether it is on a conservative basis, and also how the supply of securities of that class is being affected by the change.

The disposition in some quarters has been to take rather an unfavorable view of the condition of municipal debts, a belief prevailing that a very rapid and very decided increase was going on, and that our cities and towns were incurring new obligations without the exercise of due caution and prudence. It is a source of encouragement to find that the exhibit is on the whole a very satisfactory one, and that the increase in the decade between 1880 and 1890 has been comparatively small—much smaller than generally expected. These results as to municipal indebtedness are not only very valuable in themselves, but they also enable us to present a statement to show the aggregate of all kinds of indebtedness for which the United States and its various political and local subdivisions are responsible. In reviewing the Census bulletin on State debts in our issue of October 25th we gave a preliminary total covering State, national and county debts, but not the municipal debts, the latter not then being known. With the receipt of data for these also we are able to complete the calculation, or rather to give it in a nearly complete form, for all the Census figures are subject to revision and correction according as later and fuller returns may show the need for such corrections.

In giving this grand aggregate of indebtedness, we have undertaken a comparison only on the gross

amount of the bonded and floating debt. It would be pleasing if we could go a step further and show the changes in net amount of debt, after deducting sinking funds, cash and other available resources; but unfortunately information on these points is not available for 1880 on some of the leading classes of debt. The present bulletin on municipal debts is quite comprehensive, and furnishes all the facts needed in the particular mentioned both for 1890 and 1880. But the bulletin on county debts, while giving full data for 1890, undertook comparisons with 1880 only in the case of the debt itself, and not in the case of the offsets against the same. "It has been deemed best," said that bulletin, "not to carry out the comparison between 1880 and 1890 in the matter of resources, net debt and annual interest charge, because the figures are still wanting for 1880 under the head of sinking fund, and in many instances the records are incomplete and the figures cannot be furnished." It is also to be pointed out that though the present report on municipal debts is very comprehensive as far as it goes (it covers 858 cities and large towns), yet it does not embrace all the municipalities in the country, quite a number having failed to furnish returns up to the present time. The omitted municipalities are presumably very unimportant, the most of them, but we also notice among the missing places some rather large cities—for instance, Minneapolis. When these and the minor civil divisions are finally added, the grand aggregate of debt will of course be swelled for both 1890 and 1880 beyond the amount given in the table further below. We may note, too, that the figures now furnished for 1880 differ very materially in some instances from those given in the Census for that year—this remark applies more particularly to the State debts—the alterations we may suppose being due either to a change of methods or to revisions caused by later and fuller information.

It is obvious from what has been said that no direct comparison with the Census period preceding the present is possible, and yet before presenting the 1890 and 1880 results it is desirable to have some general indication of the changes and tendency in the decade between 1870 and 1880. The tabulations in the 1880 Census are the only guide for this purpose. In the comparisons there attempted the net debt was given for 1880, but as regards the 1870 figures there was considerable irregularity, the official report saying that "in some cases the returns may have been net debt and in others the gross debt, regardless of any assets set aside for payment." The comparisons must be accepted with that qualification therefore. They are useful, however, in bringing out very clearly that the tendency in the decade between 1870 and 1880 was decidedly in the direction of higher totals. There was a decrease in the amount of State debt from \$352,866,698 in 1870 to \$226,597,594 in 1880, in part as the result of readjustments by some of the Southern States, but notwithstanding this falling off in the amount of State debts the total of State, county and municipal debt combined increased from \$868,676,758 in 1870 to \$1,048,084,041 in 1880. The increase was entirely in the municipal debts (including townships and school districts), which jumped up from \$328,244,520 to \$697,458,861, being an advance of over 100 per cent. In that decade the national debt was not being diminished at any such rate as in the next decade—that just passed—and yet there was a reduction of about 323 million dollars in the interest-bearing debt and of about 412 million dol-

lars in the net debt. As the increase in State, county and municipal indebtedness was only about 180 million dollars (according to the figures above), the final result, with the national debt included, would give a falling off in net debt of about 232 million dollars.

The heavy increase in municipal indebtedness between 1870 and 1880 reflected the unsatisfactory condition that had prevailed in that regard in that period—a condition which had led to the taking of measures to prevent a repetition and extension of the evil. It was a legacy indeed of the paper money era and the extravagance and prodigality which that era had engendered. Before the panic of 1873 occurred, to bring the people to a realizing sense of the perils they were inviting, local debts were created with the utmost recklessness. At that time borrowing had run wild, and nearly every municipality was adding to its obligations without regard to future consequences. With the depression following the 1873 crisis, the burdens entailed by such a policy became only too apparent, and that checked the movement. But in most States the matter did not end there. Laws were passed making bonding less easy than before and imposing restrictions and limitations on new issues. Further unwise additions had thus become very much less frequent even before the 1880 Census was taken, and it is the cautious spirit then inculcated that tended to prevent undue expansion of local debts in the late decade. On the other hand the growth of population and industries has made necessary the creation of new obligations in many cases, and it is in view of that fact especially that the results now disclosed appear very encouraging.

The contraction of about a thousand million dollars in the national debt in the late decade has frequently been alluded to and was pointed out in our previous article. The point of importance is, how far county and municipal debts have, by their growth, served to offset the decrease in the national debt. State debts, of course, it was known were being reduced. As already said, the showing is a gratifying surprise in indicating only comparatively small additions in the local debts. Here is our summary, prepared in the way already explained.

	1890.	1880.
	\$	\$
United States bonded debt.....	711,313,110	1,709,993,100
Bonded debt of States.....	194,800,371	254,903,212
Bonded debt of counties.....	130,734,959	106,767,946
Bonded debt of municipalities.....	720,665,551	664,915,412
	1,757,513,991	2,730,579,670
Floating debt of States.....	43,596,218	41,514,309
Floating debt of counties.....	14,958,881	18,853,509
Floating debt of municipalities.....	25,234,235	30,579,329
	83,839,334	90,947,147
Grand total bonded and floating debt.....	1,841,353,325	2,827,526,817

Thus with a decrease between 1880 and 1890 of 998½ million dollars in the bonded debt of the United States, the decrease in the total of all classes of bonds—State, national, county and municipal—is almost as large, or 979 million dollars. In other words, the increase in State and local indebtedness in the last ten years has been only about 19½ millions. This increase of 19½ millions is the net result of an increase of about 55½ million dollars in the total of municipal bonds, an increase of about 24 millions in county bonds and a decrease of somewhat over 60 millions in State bonds. It is proper to add that 28½ millions of the decrease in the latter item—the State debt—represents forced reductions in the Southern States through scaling and re-funding, but in the consideration of the whole aggregate of State, national and local indebtedness the amount is not sufficiently large to count for much. Along with

the decrease in the aggregate of the bonded debt there has been a decrease of about 7 million dollars in the aggregate of the floating debt, such debt being less for 1890 than for 1880 in the case of both counties and municipalities, but about two millions larger in the case of the States. Altogether the total of bonded and floating debt combined stands at only 1,841 million dollars in 1890, against 2,827 million dollars in 1880. Excluding the floating debt the total of the bonded debt alone—State, national and local—is 1,757 millions, against 2,736 millions.

Such results are very encouraging. But they make more apparent than ever what a great contraction occurred during the last decade in a class of securities which have ruled as a favorite form of investment. We referred to this aspect of the matter at our previous writing, but at that time, as already stated, we did not have the statements relating to municipal debts, and it was not known how far these might modify general conclusions. We now see that the contribution to the total of outstanding securities from that source has been very small, so that the reduction in the aggregate of Government and county and municipal bonds is not materially less than in United States bonds alone. That is to say, those who from choice or necessity confine their investments to these obligations find their field limited to that extent. As against 1,709 million U. S. bonds in 1880, they now have only 711 millions to put their money into (not counting, however, the Pacific Railroad debt); in fact the amount at the present time is really less than that, since the 711 millions taken represents the outstanding debt on July 1, 1890 (that date being taken so as to conform as nearly as possible to the date of the Census report on other items), and in the interval the total has been further reduced through bond purchases, being on December 1, 1890, according to the debt statement issued this week, only \$629,492,590. As a consequence, the bonded debt of municipalities, though having increased as we have seen only 55½ million dollars, at 720 million dollars is now greatly in excess of the amount of United States bonds, whereas in 1880 the latter were 1,045 million dollars in excess of the municipal bonds. Of course the returns from municipalities which have not yet reported will change these comparisons to a certain extent, but the general result cannot be materially affected, even should these omitted municipalities show a relatively large addition in debt. There will in any event be a reduction of very large dimensions in the aggregate of Government and local debt—a reduction such as the figures already given have indicated.

And this contraction in a prime form of securities occurred at a time when wealth and population were growing at a very rapid rate, and when also, as pointed out in our previous article, life insurance and trust companies were greatly expanding their operations and were under the necessity of finding employment for increasing amounts of money. It would be idle to attempt to measure the force of these circumstances in directing investments into other channels, and in fostering and stimulating trade and business, but that such has been the effect of the circumstances in question—of that there can be no doubt.

All this, however, does not alter the fact that economy in public expenditures and care and conservatism in the creation of new obligations are in the interest of good government and sound morals, while tending at the same time to promote material welfare and prosperity. The exhibit as regards the bonded and

floating debt of municipalities is really more favorable than the above figures would appear to indicate. In bonded debt we have seen there was an increase of about 55½ million dollars in the ten years, and in floating debt a decrease of 5½ million dollars, making the net addition about 50½ million dollars. But this has been accompanied by an increase of over 32 million dollars in the sinking funds held, the total of these sinking funds for 1890 being stated as \$147,181,191, against \$115,158,742 in 1880. With reference to the 1880 figures given, it is well to state that the Census report says that they “are not taken from the “Tenth Census, as reliable statistics on the subject “were not then sufficiently complete to place on “record.” There is also a statement intended to show, besides the sinking funds held, the amount of cash in treasury and other available resources. This statement has been criticised in some instances as not containing available resources in full—Baltimore especially has made a complaint to that effect; but even as it stands, the total shows an increase in such resources of 64 million dollars, being given as \$143,394,655 for 1890, against \$79,185,040 for 1880. In brief, then, the increase in sinking funds and in cash and other available resources largely exceeds the increase in the gross total of bonded and floating debt of the municipalities. We have prepared the following table to show this bonded and floating debt by geographical groups, including in the compilation the State and county debts, divided in the same way, thus furnishing a full presentation of results as regards local and State indebtedness for each group.

	Boned Debt—		Boned & Floating Debt—	
	1890.	1880.	1890.	1880.
NEW ENGLAND STATES—				
State debts.....	38,807,888	49,957,164	39,091,501	51,178,619
County debts.....	8,608,900	1,135,100	5,003,577	2,726,877
Municipal debts.....	130,390,155	114,169,083	139,393,007	124,306,133
	172,806,943	165,261,347	184,388,085	178,210,629
MIDDLE STATES—				
State debts.....	32,861,911	44,649,380	33,493,412	44,885,806
County debts.....	23,855,568	26,016,167	25,369,185	30,925,231
Municipal debts.....	392,788,707	380,162,049	404,473,143	391,288,141
	449,506,186	450,827,596	463,340,740	467,097,177
SOUTHERN STATES—				
State debts.....	96,036,727	126,462,545	117,423,416	145,017,002
County debts.....	22,984,071	20,065,843	25,271,139	30,925,231
Municipal debts.....	70,461,236	61,571,538	71,980,479	67,939,117
	190,062,034	208,099,926	214,675,034	237,516,132
WESTERN STATES—				
State debts.....	26,498,815	33,834,123	47,493,261	55,334,005
County debts.....	77,676,919	59,339,457	83,776,302	66,656,113
Municipal debts.....	128,999,453	109,062,742	130,061,627	111,944,396
	233,175,187	202,236,322	261,331,190	234,234,514
TERRITORIES—				
State debts.....				
County debts.....	2,609,771	211,379	3,274,614	453,221
Municipal debts.....	28,000	19,000	68,530	19,964
	2,637,771	221,379	3,343,174	473,175
WHOLE COUNTRY—				
State debts.....	194,800,371	254,903,212	238,306,589	296,417,621
County debts.....	130,734,959	106,767,946	145,693,840	125,621,485
Municipal debts.....	720,665,651	684,915,412	745,949,798	695,404,741
	1,046,200,981	1,046,586,570	1,130,049,216	1,117,533,717

This does not indicate a very great change in the case of any of the groups. In the Western States, where there has been noteworthy industrial development and a heavy ratio of increase in population, State, county and municipal debts (bonded and floating) have increased from about 234 millions to 264 millions. In the Southern States there has been a decrease from 237 millions to 214 millions, but this is due solely to the reduction in State debts (on scaling and refunding operations), the county debts in the South and also the municipal debts showing a small increase. The Middle States still have the largest aggregate of debt, but the total for 1890 is only 463 millions, against 467 millions in 1880. The New England group have 184 millions now, against 178 millions. It is perhaps well to state in closing that practically the whole of the

increase in the debt of municipalities in the United States between 1880 and 1890 was made in the last three years. The fact is an important one to know, but is deprived somewhat of its significance when we discover that it is in these same three years that sinking funds have chiefly increased, over 24½ millions of the 32 millions increase in sinking funds during the decade having been contributed in those years.

COTTON CONSUMPTION AND OVERLAND MOVEMENT TO DECEMBER 1.

The compilations of the overland movement, receipts, exports, etc., presented below, cover the first quarter of the cotton season of 1890-91—the period from September 1 to November 30, inclusive—and show very clearly with what rapidity the marketing of the crop has progressed. The aggregate movement in November through the ports and interior towns and by the overland routes has been less liberal than in October, but to what an extent the monetary stringency and lower prices for the staple have tended to retard its marketing it is, of course, impossible to determine. That it has had some effect is quite certain. However, nearly one million six hundred thousand bales have come into sight during the month, bringing the total in sight for the season to date up to 4,152,014 bales, or almost one hundred thousand bales in excess of the previous highest aggregate for a like period—Sept.-Nov., 1887. Spinners have taken very freely in November, and for the three months the Northern mills have received 204,206 bales more than in 1889.

OVERLAND MOVEMENT TO DECEMBER 1.

The shipments overland during November have been phenomenally heavy, the gross amount carried being 331,168 bales, a total exceeding any monthly total recorded during the history of the cotton trade. The previous highest aggregate, 317,598 bales, was reached in December of 1887. In November, 1889, the overland shipments were 288,429, or 52,739 bales less than the present total, and in the same month of 1888 there were shipped by rail 288,238 bales. The increased movement in the month this year has been pretty well distributed, all the routes except via Cairo and Evansville sharing in it; but the roads centring at Louisville exhibit the largest gains over last year. For the three months the total is largely in excess of a year ago, and shows an increase compared with 1888 of 31,628 bales. Going back, however, one year further—to 1887—we find that the movement from September 1 to November 30 was 557,648 bales. The net for the month is likewise unusually large, reaching 253,701 bales, which is 3,414 bales greater than for December, 1887. Compared with the month of last year the gain is very heavy, being 40,193 bales, and contrasted with November of 1888 the excess is 51,284 bales. The aggregate for the season to date is in excess of either of the two preceding years, but falls 41,294 bales behind 1887. The details of the whole movement overland are appended, comparison being made with 1889 and 1888.

OVERLAND FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO DECEMBER 1.

	1890.	1889.	1888.
Amount shipped—			
Via St. Louis.....	179,675	167,795	197,007
Via Cairo.....	108,690	113,632	116,372
Via Hannibal.....	28,942	24,870	4,100
Via Evansville.....	4,209	6,073	11,926
Via Louisville.....	72,169	37,722	75,493
Via Cincinnati.....	52,998	56,135	50,529
Via other routes.....	82,530	46,317	48,417
Shipped to mills, not included above....	3,116	2,748	2,857
Total gross overland.....	533,329	455,792	506,701

	1890.	1889.	1888.
Deduct shipments—			
Overland to New York, Boston, &c....	60,501	66,636	57,997
Between interior towns.....	36,001	24,029	30,785
Galveston, inland and local mills.....	60	.....	5,297
New Orleans, inland and local mills....	5,264	7,644	5,871
Mobile, inland and local mills.....	13,827	10,573	12,778
Savannah, inland and local mills.....	454	90	425
Charleston, inland and local mills.....	2,350	7,517	6,006
N. Carol'a ports, inland and local mills.	293	307	266
Virginia ports, inland and local mills..	8,448	10,138	22,394
Total to be deducted.....	127,198	126,934	141,819
Leaving total net overland*.....	411,131	328,858	364,882

* This total includes shipments to Canada by rail, which since September 1 in 1890 amounted to 19,011 bales, in 1889 were 16,057 bales, and in 1888 were 15,002 bales.

RECEIPTS, EXPORTS AND SPINNERS' TAKINGS.

The marketing of cotton through the outports during November has not been so free as in the corresponding month of the two preceding years, the total net receipts being only 1,145,416 bales, against 1,257,520 bales and 1,159,063 bales respectively. The aggregate for the season to date, however, continues in excess of any previous year, the gain over a year ago reaching 98,295 bales. Foreign exports also have been less liberal than in November last year, but exceed by 51,633 bales the figures for the month of 1888. For the three months the total maintains its lead over any preceding similar period, but compared with 1889 the excess is now very meagre—only 8,743 bales. The stock of cotton at the outports exhibits a decrease from last year, but at the interior towns a considerable increase is recorded. Below we give our usual table, covering receipts, exports and stocks:

Movement from Sept. 1, 1890, to Dec. 1, 1890.	Receipts since Sept. 1, 1890.	Receipts since Sept. 1, 1889.	EXPORTS SINCE SEPT. 1, 1890, TO—				Stocks Dec. 1.
			Great Britain*	France.	Continent.	Total.	
Galveston.....	584,705	536,023	272,861	20,241	50,002	343,194	74,093
El Paso, &c.....	5,114	2,559	.....	.....	4,500	4,600	.....
New Orleans... ..	855,891	975,169	281,708	141,620	191,434	614,768	236,839
Mobile.....	145,991	143,066	25,122	.....	.....	25,122	28,260
Florida.....	23,014	10,985	15,119	.....	.....	15,113	.....
Savannah.....	613,181	591,408	82,793	11,135	190,900	264,828	136,761
Brunswick, &c.....	90,397	81,721	50,523	.....	4,350	54,873	23,994
Charleston.....	257,419	230,189	54,647	16,330	99,411	170,388	55,880
Port Royal, &c.....	901	694	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wilmington.....	126,873	89,839	65,930	.....	34,374	100,304	21,252
Washington, &c.....	1,336	1,288	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Norfolk.....	208,047	220,910	113,828	11,544	17,300	142,677	40,891
West Point....	168,911	173,375	61,942	.....	9,940	71,882	.....
Newp't News, &c.....	11,632	20,726	150	.....	.....	150	2,803
New York.....	9,188	24,474	152,790	10,513	70,009	233,612	53,705
Boston.....	19,492	16,384	44,547	.....	760	45,307	20,000
Baltimore.....	15,896	13,917	26,746	2,950	22,349	52,405	12,983
Philadelphia, &c.....	15,925	11,861	9,881	.....	1,137	6,518	4,672
Total 1890.....	3,242,888	.....	1,234,061	214,644	696,556	2,145,281	717,013
Total 1889.....	.....	3,144,588	1,278,391	240,499	617,708	2,136,538	745,744
Total 1888.....	.....	2,624,096	1,039,596	167,951	392,336	1,600,183	778,973

* Great Britain exports include to the Channel.

Using the facts disclosed by the foregoing statements, we shall find that the portion of the crop which has reached a market through the outports and overland, and the Southern consumption since September 1, this year and the two previous years, is as follows:

	1890.	1889.	1888.
Receipts at the ports to Dec. 1..... bales.	3,242,883	3,144,588	2,624,096
Net shipments overland during same time	411,131	328,858	364,882
Total receipts..... bales.	3,654,014	3,473,446	2,988,978
Southern consumption since September 1	160,000	153,000	151,000
Total to Dec. 1..... bales	3,814,014	3,626,446	3,139,978

The amount of cotton marketed since September 1 in 1890 is thus seen to be 187,568 bales more than in 1889 and 674,036 bales greater than in 1888. To determine the portion which has gone into the hands of Northern spinners during the same period, we have prepared the following:

Total receipts to December 1, 1890, as above..... bales.	3,814,014
Stock on hand commencement of year (Sept. 1, 1890) —	
At Northern ports.....	20,295
At Southern ports.....	40,974— 61,269
At Northern interior markets.....	1,327— 62,596
Total supply to December 1, 1890.....	3,876,610

Table with columns for 'Brought forward', 'Of this supply there has been exported', 'Less foreign cotton included', 'Sent to Canada direct from West', 'Burnt North and South', 'Stock on hand end of month (Dec. 1, 1890)', 'At Northern ports', 'At Southern ports', 'At Northern interior markets'.

Table with columns for 'Total takings by spinners in the United States since September 1, 1890', 'Taken by Southern spinners', 'Total takings by Northern spinners since September 1, 1890', 'Taken by Northern spinners same time in 1889', 'Increase in takings by Northern spinners this year'.

The above indicates that Northern spinners had up to December 1 taken 826,997 bales, an increase over the corresponding period of 1889 of 204,206 bales and a gain over the same time of 1888 of 60,333 bales.

AMOUNT OF CROP NOW IN SIGHT.

In the foregoing we have the number of bales which has already been marketed this year and the two previous seasons. An additional fact of interest is the total of the crop which was in sight on December 1, compared with previous years. We reach that point by adding to the above the stock remaining at that date at the interior towns, less stock held by them at the beginning of the season. In this manner we find the result for three years on December 1 to be as follows.

Table with columns for 'Total marketed, as above', 'Interior stocks in excess of Sept. 1', 'Total in sight' for years 1890, 1889, and 1888.

This indicates that the movement up to December 1 of the present year is 280,568 bales more than in 1889 and 719,309 bales greater than in 1888.

As it will interest the reader to see what has come into sight each month of the season during this and previous years, we have prepared the following, which shows the movement for the last four seasons:

Table with columns for 'Months' (September, October, November) and years 1890, 1889, 1888, 1887.

WEIGHT OF BALES.

To furnish a more exact measure of the receipts up to December 1 we give below our usual table of weight of bales. We give for comparison the figures for the same time in the two previous years.

Table with columns for 'Three Months Ending Dec. 1, 1890', 'Same period in 1889', 'Same period in 1888', and rows for various states like Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee.

It will be noticed that the movement up to December 1 shows an increase in the average weight as compared with the same periods of the last two years, the average this year being 507.30 lbs. per bale, against 499.57 lbs. per bale for the same time in 1889 and 498.56 lbs. in 1888.

THE COTTON GOODS TRADE IN NOVEMBER.

The demand for staple cotton goods was light and irregular, operations on the part of jobbers, "cutters" and the manufacturing trade having been checked to

some extent by the stringency of the money market. Prices for plain and colored cottons ruled steady, but it is probable that some makes of bleached goods, &c., have accumulated somewhat, and slight time and price concessions may be found necessary before the end of the year in order to accelerate their distribution. Print cloths were quiet and 64x64s closed at 3 1/2c, the opening price having been 3 5/16c.

Table with columns for '1890' and '1889' and rows for various cotton goods like 'Cotton low mid-dling', 'Printings 64x64', 'Sheetings stand-ard', 'Lan-caster ging-hams', '5 1/2 yd. sheet-ings'.

The above prices are—For cotton, low middling uplands at New York; for printing cloths, manufacturers' net prices; for sheetings, agents' prices, which are subject to an average discount of 5 per cent, except when otherwise stated; Southern sheetings net.

REVIEW OF PRICES IN NOVEMBER—STOCKS, GOVERNMENT BONDS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

The following table shows the highest and lowest prices of railway and miscellaneous stocks at the N. Y. Stock Exchange during the month of November, 1890. The unlisted issues are designated by an asterisk.

Table with columns for 'RAILROAD AND MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS', 'Low', 'High', and rows for various stocks like 'Atchafson Top. & S. Fe.', 'Atlantic & Pacific', 'Bos. & N. Y. Air Line', 'Buff. Roch. & Pitts.', 'Burl. Ced. R. & Nor.', 'Canadian Pacific', 'Canada Southern', 'Central of N. Jersey', 'Central Pacific', 'Ches. & O., Vol. Tr. cert.', 'Chicago & Alton', 'Chic. & At. ben. tr. reo', 'Chic. Burl. & Quincy', 'Chic. & East Ill.', 'Chic. Mil. & St. Paul', 'Chic. & Northwest', 'Chic. & Rock Island', 'Chic. St. L. & Pittsb.', 'Chic. St. P. Minn. & O.', 'Cl. Cm. Chic. & St. L.', 'Cleveland & Pitts.', 'Col. Hook. Val. & Tol.', 'Delaware & Hudson', 'Del. Lack. & Western', 'Den. & Rio Grande', 'Des Moines & Ft. D.', 'Duluth S. S. & Atl.', 'E. Tenn. Va. & Ga. Ry.', 'Eliz. Lex. & Big Sandy', 'Evansv. & Terre H.', 'Flint & Pere Marq.', 'Georgia Pacific', 'Great North'n. pref.', 'Green Bay W. & St. P.', 'Hous. & Texas Cent.', 'Illinois Central', 'Iowa Central', 'Kanawha & Michigan', 'Kingston & Pembroke', 'Lake Erie & West'n.', 'Do', 'Lake Shore', 'Long Island', 'Lon. Ev. & St. L. pref.', 'Louisville & Nashv.', 'Louisv. N. Alb. & Ch.', 'Louis. St. L. & Tex.', 'Mahon. Coal RR. pref.', 'Manhattan, consol.', 'Marq. Hough. & On.', 'Memphis & Charles.', 'Mexican Central', 'Mexican Nat., certs.', 'Michigan Central', 'Milw. L. Sh. & West.', 'Do', 'Minneapolis & St. L.', 'Do', 'M. K. & T., all paid.', 'Do ex. 2d mort.', 'Do', 'Missouri Pacific', 'Mobile & Ohio', 'Morris & Essex', 'Nash. Chatt. & St. L.', 'N. Y. Cent. & Hud. R.', 'N. Y. Chic. & St. Louis', 'Do 1st pref.', 'Do 2d pref.', 'N. Y. Lack. & West.', 'N. Y. Lake Erie & W.', 'Do', 'N. Y. & New England', 'N. Y. N. H. & Hartford', 'N. Y. & North. pref.', 'N. Y. Ont. & West.', 'N. Y. Susq. & West.', 'Do', 'Norfolk & Western', 'Do', 'Northern Pacific', 'Do', 'Ohio & Mississippi', 'Ohio Southern', 'Oregon Ry. & Nav. Co.', 'Oreg. Sh. L. & U. N.', 'Pec. Decat. & E. ville', 'Peoria & Eastern', 'Phila. & Read. certs.', 'Pittsb. Ft. W. & Chic.', 'Pitts. & W., pf. tr. rec.', 'Rensselaer & Sara', 'Richmond Terminal'.

	For the month of October.	For the 4 Months ended Oct. 31.	For the 10 Months ended Oct. 31.
1890.—Exports—Domestic.....	\$101081647	\$287,320,292	\$692,425,529
Foreign.....	3,117,426	9,312,520	27,153,026
Total.....	\$104199073	\$296,632,812	\$719,578,555
Imports.....	71,200,502	270,188,240	679,821,177
Excess of exports over imports	\$32,998,571	\$126,450,562	\$339,757,378
Excess of imports over exports			

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL CUSTOMS DISTRICTS.

CUSTOMS DISTRICTS AND PORTS.	OCTOBER, 1890.		IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	
	Imports.	Exports.	10 months ending Oct. 31.		10 months ending Oct. 31.	
			1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.
Baltimore, Md.	1,803,921	4,492,033	12,439,325	13,325,665	59,010,655	45,015,151
Bost. & Char- leston, Mass.	4,896,790	5,800,428	56,769,531	56,502,470	57,834,462	53,001,193
Buffalo, N. Y.	1,110,797	150,263	5,078,992	4,928,556	510,542	397,199
Champlin, N. Y.	509,711	919,174	3,122,239	3,080,398	1,440,772	1,439,873
Charleston, S. C.	114,985	1,861,850	634,529	600,810	9,840,284	9,875,090
Chicago, Ill.	1,243,732	240,597	12,438,393	11,071,366	1,913,737	2,913,033
Cincinnati, O.	235,831	.....	1,960,545	1,981,191	.....	.....
Detroit, Mich.	342,742	438,759	2,563,481	2,475,928	4,626,565	6,078,201
Duluth, Minn.	10,018	892,302	42,611	59,541	1,620,342	1,492,893
Galveston, Tex.	63,405	5,983,400	862,350	440,542	15,833,054	13,291,921
Milwaukee, Wis.	89,477	.....	725,484	629,072	10,481	100,492
Minn'ota, Minn.	151,796	146,065	1,120,537	812,168	1,537,799	1,147,830
Mobile, Ala.	8,747	456,014	84,809	60,115	2,005,316	2,595,206
New Orleans, La.	1,716,019	14,095,014	13,156,927	12,751,842	72,370,025	66,636,504
New York, N. Y.	46,849,373	32,030,231	437,940,793	416,938,848	257,012,771	283,766,903
Niagara, N. Y.	473,897	78,706	3,410,832	3,240,992	740,506	781,930
Norfolk, Va.	8,753	3,547,456	66,132	164,047	10,480,106	7,003,306
Oregon, Ore.	2,884	112,795	133,122	290,202	390,539	1,390,354
Oswego, N. Y.	234,879	156,422	1,504,968	1,395,375	1,856,631	1,561,915
Oswego, N. Y.	932,778	248,224	5,392,461	2,796,239	1,506,716	1,612,409
Philadelphia, Pa.	3,683,150	3,220,921	47,860,917	44,520,322	31,820,020	25,290,630
Portland, Me.	29,983	27,040	57,463	715,403	1,960,440	2,904,791
St. Louis, Mo.	351,918	.....	2,818,373	2,381,712	.....	.....
San Diego, Cal.	54,101	28,174	898,862	575,559	218,690	596,046
San Fran., Cal.	3,825,577	3,051,602	33,614,112	43,811,410	28,617,691	28,064,804
Savannah, Ga.	44,901	6,165,418	296,091	345,233	19,326,357	15,597,233
Vermont, Vt.	483,860	257,359	5,351,748	5,690,390	2,190,125	1,598,077
Willamette, Or.	118,833	511,931	843,296	931,793	2,523,536	2,456,546
Wilmington, N. C.	20,831	2,342,328	109,525	89,276	5,473,400	3,812,952
Totals, (in- cluding all oth'r Dist.)	72,804,751	96,325,916	695,431,035	651,628,767	670,060,174	636,491,181

Remaining in warehouse Oct. 31, 1889 \$37,190,579
 Remaining in warehouse Oct. 31, 1890 35,094,016

* Interior ports to which merchandise can be transported without appraisement, under act of June 10, 1880.

† Incomplete in the absence of law providing the means of collecting the statistics of exports to adjacent foreign territory by railroad cars and other land vehicles.

Monetary & Commercial English News

[From our own correspondent.]

LONDON, Saturday, November 22, 1890.

Nearly a month ago Messrs. Baring Brothers were obliged to ask help from a banking house which has often been associated with them in their operations. The bankers, however, soon came to the conclusion that the matter was too big for them, and early last week application was made to the Bank of England for assistance. The Bank examined the firm's accounts, and after consultation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, decided to guarantee the payment in full of all the acceptances, provided the other banks and the leading financial houses guaranteed at least four millions sterling to compensate it for any possible losses. The notification to the other banks was made on Friday afternoon of last week, and by Saturday night the guarantee fund exceeded eight millions sterling. Since it has risen to about fifteen millions. The Bank accordingly has guaranteed the payment in full of all the acceptances.

The acceptances amount to fifteen millions sterling, and there are other commitments which raise the total liabilities to between 21 and 22 millions sterling. On the other hand, there are good assets easily realizable amounting to 15 millions sterling, and there are broken assets which are estimated at about 9 millions sterling. If these latter are nursed carefully and circumstances prove favorable, there will then be a surplus of about 4 millions sterling. All this is without reckoning the guarantee fund of 15 millions sterling. It is understood that part of the arrangement was the liquidation of the firm. But now the wealthy relatives of Messrs. Baring have notified that they wish to keep the house standing, and that that they are prepared to put in a large fresh capital for that purpose. The house is to be turned into a limited company, but there is to be no public subscription. The capital is to be a million sterling. Four of the partners, including Lord Revelstoke, who have taken the leading part in the management for years past will retire. When the extent of the disaster first become known to the Bank of England, an offer was made to suspend the Bank Charter Act, so that the Bank might be able to issue notes in unlimited amount; but the Governor refused, and then the plan of a guarantee was decided upon.

The joint-stock and private banks when the matter became known to them took an equally sober view of the matter, and in the hope of restoring confidence they eagerly signed the guarantee. The country banks and the Scotch and Irish banks also hastened to sign, so that practically the guarantors comprised nearly all the important banking institutions of the United Kingdom; also the leading discount companies and the great financial houses. The banks further called in loans from the discount market and Stock Exchange to such an extent that during the week ended Wednesday night over six millions sterling were added to the "other deposits." In the "other deposits" it will be recollected are included the bankers' balances. The "other deposits" now exceed 80¼ millions sterling, a higher total than has ever before been reached. Yet as a matter of fact the alarm created was much less than had been anticipated. Apparently the public were re-assured by the measures taken by the Bank, and no other great house has come to the ground. Consequently there is now a very much more hopeful feeling.

For the first half of this week the joint-stock and private banks and discount houses and bill-brokers, as stated above, practically ceased doing business. The former thought only of increasing their balances at the Bank of England, and the latter finding it difficult to obtain loans refused to discount. As a result almost all the business went to the Bank of England. Consequently the loans and discounts transacted at that institution during the week ended Wednesday night exceeded seven millions sterling. Except to its own customers the Bank charged from 6½ to 7 per cent for discount and occasionally 8 per cent where the amounts offered were excessive, or there was anything else in the transaction the Bank wished to discourage. The rate of interest charged by it ranged from 7 to 8 per cent. On Wednesday the policy of the joint-stock and private banks produced so bad a feeling, not merely in the money market but also in the stock markets and the produce market, that the Governor of the Bank of England found it necessary to intervene. He called a meeting of the principal joint-stock banks at the Bank of England, and addressed them very earnestly, promising to all who might require it the full support of the Bank, hinting if his advice were not followed the Bank might be obliged to take action that would be extremely unpleasant to the other banks. Altogether the conduct of the Governor in this crisis has brought praise from every one. He has shown mingled firmness and liberality, and helped more than all others to prevent a panic. His advice to the banks has been followed, and since Wednesday afternoon they have been lending much more freely at from about 5 to 6½ per cent. The discount houses are still taking bills with caution, the rate ranging at first from about 6¼ to 6¾ per cent, but having now fallen to from 6 to 6¼ per cent.

The silver market, like all others, suffered from the crisis. The price which was 47¾d. at the end of last week, fell on Monday to 46d. and on Tuesday to 45d. On Thursday it recovered to 45½d. per ounce and yesterday to 46¼d. There is a hope here just now that a new speculative movement may take place. People argue that a fall of over 18 per cent in little more than two months is too rapid a fall and that there must be a recovery, and they allege that money is so cheap in India that India will support the movement. Whether the argument is good or not depends entirely upon the United States. If the stringency there is at an end and speculators are prepared for a new movement, no doubt the price can be put up very considerably; but without American support there will be a very early collapse in any movement here, for the banks will not now give accommodation for wild speculation. The Bank of England will do its utmost to discourage it, and the whole public feeling is against further rash transactions. All silver securities fell rapidly up to Wednesday, being depressed not only by the fall in silver, but by the general depression of the stock markets. Since Wednesday there has been a marked recovery.

On Saturday, when the fact that Messrs. Baring had to apply for assistance to the Bank of England became known, it made wonderfully little impression upon the stock markets. Everybody assumed that the Bank would prevent further serious difficulties, and prices were more inclined to go up than to go down. Even on Monday there was not much decline. On Tuesday a gloomier feeling prevailed, and alarmist rumors once more circulated in large numbers. On Wednesday there was every appearance of panic, such as has not been witnessed for years past in this market. Prices of all

The following table shows the exports and imports of specie at the port of N. Y. for the week ending Nov. 29 and since Jan. 1, 1890, and for the corresponding periods in 1889 and 1888:

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF SPECIE AT NEW YORK.

Gold.	Exports.		Imports.	
	Week.	Since Jan. 1.	Week.	Since Jan. 1.
Great Britain.....	.....	\$11,090,225	.....	\$332,174
France.....	.....	710,200	.....	2,520,711
Germany.....	.....	2,772,835	\$5,000	807,969
West Indies.....	\$86,500	2,770,795	302,000	3,511,064
Mexico.....	1,500	12,220	1,151	62,448
South America.....	23,200	1,051,207	930	100,611
All other countries..	.....	157,891	24,145	798,459
Total 1890.....	\$111,200	\$10,174,373	\$332,706	\$8,353,030
Total 1889.....	8,047	45,405,212	109,485	5,822,352
Total 1888.....	1,855,046	25,034,011	33,201	5,896,384

Silver.	Exports.		Imports.	
	Week.	Since Jan. 1.	Week.	Since Jan. 1.
Great Britain.....	\$132,809	\$13,372,342	.....	\$1,685,882
France.....	.....	292,975	.....	1,331
Germany.....	.....	.....	\$1,268	1,362,526
West Indies.....	.....	48,253	5,250	787,776
Mexico.....	.....	22,412	2,400	659,881
South America.....	.....	373,956	350	453,246
All other countries..	.....	115,256	16,189	1,424,269
Total 1890.....	\$132,808	\$16,225,394	\$25,452	\$6,374,931
Total 1889.....	311,063	18,849,229	86,120	1,461,873
Total 1888.....	477,440	12,402,216	120,216	1,805,349

Of the above imports for the week in 1890 \$12,931 were American gold coin and \$300 American silver coin. Of the exports during the same time, \$111,200 were American gold coin.

Tennessee Coal & Iron.—The directors met this week and declared the usual semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent on the preferred stock, payable Jan. 15. Secretary Bowron, who is now in New York, says the company is making substantial growth, and is now turning out a grade of pig iron which at Chattanooga is being used in the manufacture of steel. The net earnings to Nov. 1, ten months of this year, were \$715,400, as against \$563,400 same period last year. A statement of the company's securities, its operations and earnings, for a series of years, together with a map showing the location of the properties, may be found in the INVESTORS' SUPPLEMENT. The two main bond issues, known as the Birmingham Division and the Tennessee Division bonds, are each a first lien on their own property, as described in the mortgage, and a second lien on the property of the other division.

Thomson-Houston Electric Co.—The Boston *Herald* reports the following comparative statement of the earnings of the Thomson-Houston Electric Company, through its Boston office, for the first nine months of the present fiscal year, as compared with the same period last year. The year ends with February:

	—Nine months of fiscal year.—		
	1889.	1890	Increase.
Earnings.....	\$5,247,625	\$7,514,520	\$2,266,895
Expenses.....	4,272,361	5,882,804	1,610,443
Profits.....	\$975,263	\$1,631,715	\$656,452

The expenses include purchases, labor, general, expert, legal, factory expenses, insurance and taxes, freight and express, printing and stationery, patents, interest, royalty, advertising, commission and discount and merchandise returned. The company say:

It will be remembered that a year ago the Thomson-Houston Company carried to its surplus account from the profits of that year \$1,300,000, after dividing among its stockholders 'series D' consisting of \$2,400,000 securities, which cost the company something more than a million and a quarter of dollars, the net profits of the company therefore being for the year 1889 something over \$2,500,000. The last three months of the fiscal year are the largest and most profitable of the whole year. The figures for 1889 do not include estimate for profits in branch offices and increase of stock at the factory, with increase in value of securities, etc., \$500,000; the same for 1890 is \$750,000. The department for mining, which will probably add largely to the business and profits of the company, is just being started, and promises very large results.

The American *Wool Reporter* publishes facts and figures derived from General Manager Coffin of the Thomson-Houston Electric Company. "At the beginning of last February the company had about 100 lines of electric railways under contract, operating over 1,000 cars. It now has 175 lines, operating about 2,000 cars. On February it had 400 incandescent companies operating between 300,000 and 400,000 lights. Now it has 500 incandescent companies operating between 500,000 and 600,000 lights. At the beginning of the year it had 68,203 arc lamps. Now it has about 85,000.

Troy & Boston—Fitchburg.—A decision has been rendered by the New York Court of Appeals in favor of the plaintiff in the suit of Maria T. Polhemus against the Fitchburg Railroad Company. This was one of two cases carried to the Court of Appeals on behalf of holders of first mortgage bonds of the Troy & Boston Road after that road had been absorbed by the Fitchburg in 1887. First mortgage bonds issued by the Troy & Boston Road in 1874 were to run 50 years and to bear interest at the rate of 7 per cent. After the consolidation the railroad people proposed that these bonds be converted into 20-year 4 per cent debentures of the new company. The bondholders protested and formed a syndicate to resist the proposed conversion. The decision is now recorded in favor of the Troy & Boston bondholders, and after noting various

details of the litigation the *N. Y. Times* says: "The effect of yesterday's decision establishes as the law in this State that when two railroad companies consolidate the consolidated company is liable for the mortgage debt and interest of each separate company. The decision also settles that no solvent railroad company can by consolidation compel its bondholders to accept less than the contract rate of interest. The liability of the Fitchburg Company is thus established for the payment of interest on the 7 per cent bonds of the Troy & Boston Company until maturity, or so long as such bonds may remain outstanding. The bond issue involved amounts to \$1,500,000."

From Boston comes the following: "The decision of the Court of Appeals requiring the Fitchburg RR. Co. to pay the interest on the old Troy & Boston bonds is really in favor of the company. The bonds in question are 7 per cent securities issued in 1874, and there are \$1,300,000 now outstanding. As a part of the consolidation agreement in 1887 the Fitchburg Road was guaranteed that the Troy & Boston debt should not exceed, including these bonds, \$3,000,000, and in the event of its being forced to pay interest thereon it should not pay over 3 per cent. The Court authorized it some time ago to withhold dividends on the 13,300 shares of Fitchburg preferred, which is held as a guarantee for the payment of advances to the Troy & Boston Road. This amount, 4 per cent per annum, calls for about \$52,000, out of which the Fitchburg will pay the \$30,000 on the bonds, 3 per cent per annum, while the balance will be applied to other claims."

Westinghouse Electric Co.—This company will issue \$2,000,000 of new stock, making the total issue \$10,000,000, and will make \$3,000,000 of its stock 6 per cent preferred, to be sold at par. A stockholders' meeting has been called for Dec. 10th. The directors of the company have made an official statement, in which they say: "The difficulty in raising new money for carrying on the increasing business of the company and carrying terms has, owing to the stringency in the money market, been very considerable, and it has been finally decided, after a long discussion, that the only practical manner in which to provide for the wants of the company is to exercise the power conferred by its charter of issuing preferred shares, and a meeting of the stockholders has been called for this purpose. A proposition will be submitted to authorize the directors to issue the remaining \$2,000,000 of authorized increase, and to convert a total of \$3,000,000 of the \$10,000,000 into preferred stock, the preferred stock to be entitled to a dividend of 6 per cent in preference to the common stock, and this dividend to be accumulative, and these shares to share equally in the profits when the dividends are more than 6 per cent on both the common and preferred stock. The management expects to have its subscriptions completed by the time of the meeting, to enable the company to carry on its business in a comfortable manner. The recommendation to create preferred stock was adopted unanimously after full discussion and after consultation with parties having a considerable interest in the company. It is believed that these shares will find a ready market as soon as people are in a position to make investments, and that the extinguishment of the debt of the company by the issue of the preferred shares will at once advance all of the shares of the company to the position they should occupy by reason of the very large business which the company is doing. These preferred shares are to be sold at par, and it is proposed to have the interest payable July and January."

—Attention is asked to the advertisement on our eighth page of a reliable party seeking an engagement in a position of trust.

—The business of the late firm of Townsend & Washburn, whose card appears in our columns, will be continued by Mr. Chas. J. Townsend, Mr. Lancing C. Washburn retiring. Mr. John P. Townsend is the special partner.

—The firm of Haskins & Co., at 80 Broadway, has just been organized for the transaction of business in bonds and stocks.

Government Purchases of Silver.—The Government purchases of silver the past week and since the beginning of the month are shown in the following statement:

	Ounces offered.	Ounces purchased.	Price paid.
Previously reported.....	.....	.....	.....
December 1.....	891,000	566,000	\$1.0675 @ \$1.0750
" 3.....	1,301,000	321,000	\$1.0545 @ \$1.0595
" 5.....	1,080,000	255,000	\$1.04 @ \$1.05
*Local purchases.....	.....	(1)	.....
*Total in month to date..	3,272,000	1,142,000	\$1.04 @ \$1.0750

*The local purchases of each week are not reported till Monday of the following week.

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The Bankers' Gazette.

Several tables usually published on this page are omitted for lack of room, but are given on the page preceding.

DIVIDENDS:

Name of Company.	Per Cent.	When Payable.	Books Closed, (Days inclusive.)
Railroads.			
Albany & Susquehanna.....	3½	Jan. 2	Dec. 16 to Jan. 1
Boston & Albany (quar.).....	2	Dec. 31	Dec. 10 to Dec. 30
Cleveland Clin. Chic. & St. Louis.	1½	Jan. 5	Dec. 16 to Jan. 5
Do do prof. (quar.).....	1½	Jan. 2	Dec. 16 to Jan. 5
Columbus Springfield & Cin.....	\$1	Dec. 10	Nov. 30 to Dec. 9
Del. & Hudson Canal (quar.).....	1½	Dec. 15	Nov. 27 to Dec. 15
Old Colony.....	3½	Jan. 1	Nov. 29 to ---
Rio Grande Western, prof.....	2½	Feb. 1	Dec. 25 to ---
Miscellaneous.			
Commercial Cable (quar.).....	1½	Jan. 2	Dec. 21 to Jan. 2
Tennessee Coal & Iron, prof.....	4	Jan. 15	Jan. 2 to Jan. 15
United States Equitable Gas.....	1	Dec. 22	Dec. 14 to Dec. 22

WALL STREET, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1890-5 P. M.

The Money Market and Financial Situation.—The end of the recent financial crisis in London has been distinctly marked by the reduction of the Bank of England rate on Thursday to 5 per cent. This does not mean that there will be no clouds in the future, that the heavy Argentine loans will all be adjusted without trouble, or that there will be no depression in business arising from these financial difficulties; but it does mean that the great emergency is past which arose on Friday, Nov. 7, 1890, when the embarrassment of the house of Baring Bros. & Co. was first grappled with by the Bank of England, and its rate then advanced to 6 per cent.

In our own market things have been less hopeful. The somewhat feverish excitement which attended the sharp advance as well as the decline in stocks is subsiding, and the market is relapsing into a state of dullness and depression. Our remarks of last week rather sounded the key-note to the situation, in saying that the comparative ease of money on call loans with stock collaterals was somewhat misleading in view of the extreme scarcity of money in other quarters. It is evident that business enterprises and speculation throughout the country are feeling the money pinch, and we must look for a continuation of the weeding-out process until those concerns which are unable to keep themselves up without free borrowing have gone to the wall.

At the Stock Exchange there will be discrimination now between the stocks and bonds of companies fully able to earn their interest and dividends and those liable to be crippled by a period of slack business. There are a number of stocks and bonds selling at low prices belonging to companies which up to this time have been showing a large surplus above all their charges, but as to future earnings it is impossible to speak.

The open market rates for call loans during the week on stock and bond collaterals have ranged from 3@15 per cent, 6 per cent having been a fair average. To-day rates on call were 4 to 6 per cent. Prime commercial paper is quoted nominally at 7@9 per cent.

The Bank of England weekly statement on Thursday showed an increase in specie of £212,000, and the percentage of reserve to liabilities was 45·28, against 42·32 last week; the discount rate was reduced to 5 per cent. The Bank of France gained 6,150,000 francs in gold and lost 1,325,000 francs in silver.

The New York Clearing House banks in their statement of Nov. 29 showed a decrease in the reserve held of \$484,100 and a surplus over the required reserve of \$382,350 against \$89,750 the previous week.

	1890. Nov. 29.	Differen's from Prev. week.	1889. Nov. 30.	1888. Dec. 1.
Capital.....	\$ 60,572,700		\$ 61,062,700	\$ 60,762,700
Surplus.....	62,213,100		56,650,100	51,586,000
Loans and disc'ts	384,548,100	Dec. 2,749,100	395,993,000	391,404,200
Circulation.....	3,547,200	Dec. 11,500	4,056,700	5,337,300
Net deposits.....	378,578,200	Dec. 3,106,800	400,561,400	408,161,800
Specie.....	71,658,500	Dec. 1,532,700	75,832,900	82,598,300
Legal tenders.....	23,368,400	Inc. 1,043,600	26,199,300	29,518,700
Reserve held.....	95,026,900	Dec. 484,100	102,082,200	112,117,000
Legal reserve.....	94,644,550	Dec. 776,700	100,140,350	102,040,450
Surplus reserve.	382,350	Inc. 292,600	1,891,850	10,078,550

Foreign Exchange.—The market for sterling exchange has been dull and weak, owing to a small inquiry. To-day, on pressure to sell bills, the market was unsettled. Rates have fallen heavily during the week. Actual rates are: Bankers' sixty days' sterling, 4 79½@4 80½; demand, 4 84@4 85; cables, 4 85@4 86.

Posted rates of leading bankers are as follows:

December 5.	Sixty Days.	Demand.
Prime bankers' sterling bills on London..	4 81 @ 4 82	4 85 @ 4 86
Prime commercial.....	4 77½ @ 4 78	
Documentary commercial.....	4 76½ @ 4 77½	
Paris (francs).....	5 24½ @ 5 23½	5 21¼ @ 5 20½
Amsterdam (guilders).....	39½ @ 39¼	40 @ 40½
Frankfort or Bremen (reichmarks).....	94¼ @ 94	95½ @ 95¼

The following were the rates of domestic exchange on New York at the undermentioned cities to-day: Savannah, buying ¼ discount, selling ½ discount to par; New Orleans, commercial, \$1 25 discount; bank, par; Charleston, buying par, selling ½ premium; St. Louis, par@25c. per \$1,000 premium; Chicago, 70c. per \$1,000 discount.

United States Bonds.—Government bonds have been firm. The registered 4s are now quoted ex January interest. The Secretary of the Treasury has purchased during the week \$432,600 of the 4½ per cents, making the total redemption to date under circular of October 9 \$6,426,550. The daily purchases are shown in the following statement kindly furnished us by the Treasury Department:

Date.	4½ Per Cents due 1891.			4 Per Cents due 1907.		
	Offerings.	Purch'es.	Prices paid.	Offerings.	Purch'es.	Prices paid.
Nov. 29..	\$87,050	\$87,050				
Dec. 1..	66,600	66,000				
" 2..	44,950	44,950				
" 3..	82,600	82,600				
" 4..	74,900	74,900				
" 5..	78,500	78,500				
Total..	\$432,600	\$432,600	Pay with interest to maturity.			

The closing prices at the N. Y. Board have been as follows:

	Interest Periods	Nov. 29.	Dec. 1.	Dec. 2.	Dec. 5.	Dec. 4.	Dec. 5.
4½s, 1891.....reg.	Q.-Mch.	*103	*103	*103	*103	*103	*103
4½s, 1891.....coup.	Q.-Mch.	*104	*103	*103	*103	*103	*103
4s, 1907.....reg.	Q.-Jan.	*x20½	x121	*120½	121	*120½	*120½
Do stamp'd int. pd.		*118	*118	*118	*118	*118	*118
4s, 1907.....coup.	Q.-Jan.	*x22¾	*122¾	*121½	*121½	*121½	*121½
Do ex-cp. to J'ly,'91		*118	*118	*118	*118	*118	*118
6s, cur'cy,'95.....reg.	J. & J.	*x109	*109	*109	*109	*109	*109
6s, cur'cy,'96.....reg.	J. & J.	*x111	*111	*111	*111	*112	*112
6s, cur'cy,'97.....reg.	J. & J.	*x113	*113	*113	*114½	*114	*114
6s, cur'cy,'98.....reg.	J. & J.	*x115	*115	*115	*116	*115	*116
6s, cur'cy,'99.....reg.	J. & J.	*x117	*117	*118	*118½	*119	*119

* This is the price bid at the morning board; no sale was made.

State and Railroad Bonds.—The market for State bonds has been without feature. The sales have been: Arkansas 7s, Little Rock & Fort Smith, \$3,000 at 8; Louisiana consol. 4s, \$20,000 at 93; North Carolina consol. 4s, \$5,500 at 93; South Carolina 6s, Brown consolidations, \$5,000 at 100; Tennessee Settlement 3s, \$2,000 at 70@71.

The market for railroad bonds has been dull and prices have declined. Several important issues are now sold ex-December coupon, a fact which explains in part their apparent decline. Among these are the M. K. & T. 4s 3¼ lower, Northern Pacific consol. 5s 5 lower, Texas & Pacific firsts 4½ and Union Pacific Denver & Gulf firsts 5. Richmond & West Point Terminal 5s have been active in view of the annual report about forthcoming. They have declined 2½ points in the week, and Rio Grande Western firsts about 3½. Reading incomes have likewise been weak, and the second preference bonds have sold lower than at any time before this year. Tennessee Coal & Iron, Tennessee Division, bonds dropped seven points to 80, Laclede Gas 5s went to 71½, the lowest of the year, and Louisville St. Louis & Texas 6s sold at 77 yesterday.

Railroad and Miscellaneous Stocks.—The course of the stock market this week has been the reverse of what it was the week preceding. General weakness has prevailed throughout the list, with a partial recovery on Tuesday, due to covering by shorts. On comparatively small sales prices have fallen so as to nearly wipe out on many stocks the gains noted last week. Dealings have been on a comparatively small scale and have generally borne a professional character. Foreign exchange has fallen, so that there is no longer any immediate danger of gold shipments, and with the reduction of the Bank of England rate of discount there is an easier state of things on the London market. Time loans have been almost unobtainable and call money has at times ruled high, while the New York banks have taken out additional Clearing House certificates, which was looked upon as an unfavorable indication. The decrease in net earnings recently reported on certain roads has also helped the downward course of prices.

To-day the market was feverish.

Union Pacific, so prominent in the advance last week, has been notably weak, and after the publication of the net earnings for October, with their decrease of nearly half a million dollars, the price fell to 45½, and closes at 46, as against 54 at the close last Friday. Atchison and the grangers have also been weak. Northwest fell off over six points, but three of this was on account of selling ex-dividend. Chesapeake & Ohio earnings for November make a good showing, yet the stock has been poorly supported; Big Four common also has fallen in spite of the declaration of a 1½ per cent dividend, payable in January. Northern Pacific has been sold, it is said, to settle accounts open since the recent crisis. The price declined, the last sale of the preferred to-day being at 60½, against 65½ last Friday.

The coalers, though temporarily stimulated by the colder weather, sagged on the possibility of a reduction of the schedule prices for coal. To-day, however, it was announced that the output would be restricted, prices remaining unchanged. Lackawanna closes at 129½, against 133¾ a week ago.

New York & New England has declined and Chicago Gas on reported internal dissensions dropped to 33½, but has latterly been stronger. Over four-fifths of the Sugar certificates having been deposited under the reorganization plan, and no market having been established for the new trust receipts, trading in Sugar has been necessarily restricted. On Wednesday for a brief interval the certificates and the receipts were some 3 points apart. They close, however, at 56¾ and 56½ respectively, against 57½ and 56½ last Friday.

Silver certificates have ranged from 104 to 107½, closing at 104½.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE—ACTIVE STOCKS for week ending DECEMBER 6, and since JAN. 1, 1890.

HIGHEST AND LOWEST PRICES

Table with columns: STOCKS, Saturday, Nov. 20, Monday, Dec. 1, Tuesday, Dec. 2, Wednesday, Dec. 3, Thursday, Dec. 4, Friday, Dec. 5, Sales of the Week, Shares, Range of sales in 1890 (Lowest, Highest). Rows include Active Ill. Stocks, Active N.Y. Stocks, and Miscellaneous Stocks.

* These are the prices bid and asked; no sale made at the Board. † Prices from both Exchanges. ‡ Under the rule, cash. § Ex dividend.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES (Continued)—INACTIVE STOCKS. (‡ Indicates actual sales.)

Table of Inactive Stocks with columns for Bid, Ask, Range (sales) in 1890, and various stock names like Railroad Stocks, Miscellaneous Stocks, etc.

* No price Friday; latest price this week.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.—STATE BONDS DECEMBER 5.

Table of State Bonds with columns for Bid, Ask, and various bond names like Alabama—Class A, 4 to 5, New York—6s, loan, etc.

* New York City Bank Statement for the week ending Nov. 15, 1890, is as follows. We omit two ciphers (00) in all cases.

Table of New York City Bank Statement with columns for Capital, Surplus, Loans, Specie, Legals, Deposits, and various bank names.

Table of Bank Statement with columns for Capital & Surplus, Loans, Specie, Legals, Deposits, Dividends, Clearings, and various bank names.

* We omit two ciphers in all these figures. † Including, for Boston and Philadelphia, the item "due to other banks."

City Railroad Securities—Brokers' Quotations.

Table of City Railroad Securities with columns for Bank, Bid, Ask, and various railroad names like Atlantic Av., B'klyn. St'k, etc.

Bank Stock List—Latest prices of bank stocks this week.

Table of Bank Stock List with columns for Banks, Bid, Ask, and various bank names like America, Am. Exch., Asbury Park, etc.

* No statement has been issued since November 15.

BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA AND BALTIMORE STOCK EXCHANGES.

Share Prices - not Per Centum Prices.

Table with columns for Active Stocks, Share Prices (Saturday to Friday), Sales of the Week, and Range of sales in 1890. Lists various stocks like Aleh. T. & H. Fe, Atlantic & Pac, Baltimore & Ohio, etc.

Table with columns for Inactive Stocks, Bonds, and Miscellaneous. Includes sections for Inactive Stocks (Prices of December 5), Bonds (Penna. Consol, Atl. & Char., etc.), and Miscellaneous (Allouez Mining, Atlantic Mining, etc.).

* These are the prices bid and asked, no sale was made. † Unlisted. ‡ And accrued interest. Latest price this week

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES (Continued). — ACTIVE BONDS DEC. 5, and since JAN. 1, 1890.

Main table of active bonds with columns for Railroad and Miscel. Bonds, Interest Period, Closing Price Dec. 5, Range (sales) in 1890 (Lowest, Highest), and various bond descriptions.

NOTE—"b" indicates price bid; "a" price asked; the Range is made up from actual sales only. * Latest price this week. "Under the rule."

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES—(Continued).—INACTIVE BONDS—DECEMBER 5.

Table of inactive bonds with columns for Securities, Bid, Ask, and various bond descriptions.

* No price Friday; these are the latest quotations made this week.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.—INACTIVE BONDS—(Continued)—DECEMBER 5.

Table with columns for SECURITIES, Bid, Ask, and multiple columns of bond listings including Railroad Bonds, G.H. & S.A., and Pennsylvania RR.

* No price Friday; these are the latest quotations made this week.]

Investment AND Railroad Intelligence.

The INVESTORS' SUPPLEMENT, a pamphlet of 150 pages, contains extended tables of the Funded Debt of States and Cities and of the Stocks and Bonds of Railroads and other Companies. It is published on the last Saturday of every other month—viz., January, March, May, July, September and November, and is furnished without extra charge to all regular subscribers of the CHRONICLE. Extra copies are sold to subscribers of the CHRONICLE at 50 cents each, and to others at \$1 per copy.

The General Quotations of Stocks and Bonds, occupying six pages of the CHRONICLE, are published on the third Saturday of each month.

RAILROAD EARNINGS.

Table with columns: ROADS, Latest Earnings Reported (Week or Mo, 1890, 1889), Jan. 1 to Latest Date (1890, 1889). Lists various railroads and their earnings.

Table with columns: ROADS, Latest Earnings Reported (Week or Mo, 1890, 1889), Jan. 1 to Latest Date (1890, 1889). Lists various railroads and their earnings.

Table with columns: ROADS, Latest Earnings Reported (1890, 1889), Jan. 1 to Latest Date (1890, 1889). Includes various railroad names like South Carolina Spar, Un. & Col. So. Pacific Co., etc.

For the 8d week of November the completed statement covers 89 roads and shows 6.25 per cent gain.

Table with columns: 3d week of November, 1890, 1889, Increase, Decrease. Includes sub-sections like Prev'ly reported (52 roads), At. Top. & S. F. system, etc.

Net Earnings Monthly to Latest Dates.—The table following shows the net earnings reported this week. A full detailed statement, including all roads from which monthly returns can be obtained, is given once a month in these columns, and the latest statement of this kind will be found in the CHRONICLE of November 22. The next will appear in the issue of December 20.

Table with columns: Roads, Gross Earnings (1890, 1889), Net Earnings (1890, 1889). Lists various railroads and their earnings for the months of Oct. and Nov.

* Ft. Wayne Clu. & Louisville included for both years since July 1. a New coal extension operated since July 21 in 1890 and Ulca Clinton & Bing. included for both years since July 1. Mexican currency. q Main Line. 1 From October 1, 1890, the Great Northern runs its own trains over the Eastern's track from Hinckley to West Superior. f Decrease due to a falling off in cotton shipments on account of tight money.

Latest Gross Earnings by Weeks.—The latest weekly earnings in the foregoing table are separately summed up as follows:

For the 4th week of November the 38 roads given below show a gain of 2.14 per cent in the aggregate.

Table with columns: 4th week of November, 1890, 1889, Increase, Decrease. Lists various railroads and their earnings for the week of Nov. 1-4, 1890.

* New Brunswick earnings included for October both years. f After deducting proportion due roads operated on a percentage basis, net in October, 1890, was \$771,331, against \$960,202 in 1889; for ten months, \$5,780,162, against \$5,703,101.

Interest Charges and Surplus.—The following roads, in addition to their gross and net earnings given above, also report charges for interest, &c., with the surplus or deficit above or below those charges.

Table with columns: Roads, Interest, rentals, &c., Bal. of Net. Earns. (1890, 1889). Lists roads like Chtc. Burl. & Quincy, etc.

For the month of November we have returns from 58 roads, and the following is the aggregate of the same: Month of November. 1890. 1889. Increase. P.C. Gross earnings (58 roads) \$26,196,116 \$25,035,410 \$1,110,706 4.43

ANNUAL REPORTS.

Boston & Maine Railroad.

(For the year ending Sept. 30, 1890.)

The annual report for the year ending September 30 says that seven combination cars, two baggage, mail and express cars, seven long box cars, six short box cars, one boarding car, nine butter cars, four baggage cars, nineteen long platform cars, sixteen short platform cars, four cabooses, one dump car, two derrick cars, two wrecking and tool cars have been built at the company's shops. These are classed as renewals, with the exception of one tool car and the butter cars. Two hundred and fifty freight cars and fifteen passenger cars have been purchased.

Property of other companies has been acquired by purchase and lease, with the effect of both cementing and extending the system. The purchases of the Eastern and Conway properties agreed to by the directors, and authorized by chapter 185 of the Acts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the year 1890, and previously authorized by the laws of New Hampshire and Maine, have been perfected, the deeds of conveyance passed, and possession taken under them on May 9, 1890, so that those two corporations are now virtually extinguished and their property merged in and made a part of the B. & M. property.

The Northern Railroad in New Hampshire, extending from Concord to White River Junction, together with the roads of the Concord & Claremont and Peterboro' & Hillsboro', are now operated under lease for ninety-nine years from January 1, 1890, possession having been taken on the first day of October, 1890. The terms of the lease are, in substance, that, besides paying operating expenses and fixed charges, the B. & M. pays 5 per cent on the stock of the Northern Railroad for seven and one-half years from January 1st, 1890, and 6 per cent thereafter. Steel rails are to be laid on the Concord & Claremont, and the main line of the Northern will be re-ballasted and put in thorough repair.

The earnings, operations and income have been compiled for the CHRONICLE for the whole system as below:

Table with columns for 1887-88, 1888-89, and 1889-90. Includes sections for Miles owned/leased, Operations and Fiscal Results, and Income Account.

* Eastern RR. is now owned by B. & M.

Omaha & St. Louis Railway.

(For the year ending June 30, 1890.)

The annual report says that the gross earnings quite came up to expectations, but, owing to the low rates which prevailed during most of the year, and especially during May and June, the net results are not as satisfactory as they should be. In a circular dated Feb. 19, 1890, stockholders were duly advised of the necessity for raising money for renewing the company's bridges and trestles and for buying more ties.

A second mortgage was authorized and offered to stockholders by the circular of June 2, but comparatively few of the bonds were subscribed for; as it had seemed necessary for the safe operation of the road to authorize considerable expenditures for betterments, the failure of the stockholders to respond left the company with a floating debt. The President says: "It is to be hoped that those interested in the securities of the company will see the necessity of assisting the board in disposing of the second mortgage bonds unsubscribed for."

No income account is given in the report, but the annual interest charge on the first mortgage bonds alone, say, \$2,717,-

000 bonds at 4 per cent, is \$108,680, and the earnings for the past three years were as follows:

Earnings and Expenses table with columns for 1887-8, 1888-9, and 1889-90. Includes Earnings from Passengers, Freight, Mail, etc., and Total Earnings, Operating Expenses, and Net Earnings.

GENERAL INVESTMENT NEWS.

Atchison.—The Boston News Bureau reports that all but two \$500 pieces of the Atchison land grant mortgage bonds are now in the hands of the Atchison Company, and arrangements are being made for the discharge of the mortgage. This issue was originally \$3,520,500. Of this amount, in round numbers \$2,300,000 have accepted the reorganization terms. About \$1,200,000 have been purchased by the trustees at different times.

Boston & Maine.—The report to the Massachusetts Railroad Commission for the quarter ending September 30 shows the following:

Table with columns for 1889 and 1890. Includes Gross Earnings, Operating Expenses, Net Earnings, Other Income, Total, Interest, Rentals and Taxes, and Surplus.

California Pacific.—This railroad company gives notice that they have made arrangements to extend their second mortgage bonds maturing Jan. 1 next to Jan. 1, 1911, with interest at 4 1/2 per cent per annum, principal and interest payable in gold. The right is reserved to bondholders to avail themselves of such extension up to Dec. 15 next, depositing their bonds for that purpose with Messrs. Speyer & Co. here or with their Frankfort house. Messrs. Speyer & Co. inform bondholders that they are prepared until further notice to pay a bonus of \$25 on each bond of \$1,000 deposited with them.

Called Bonds.—The following bonds have been called for payment:

CHICAGO CITY SOUTH PARK BONDS.—The numbers of 28 of these bonds, to be paid on and after Jan. 1, 1891, will be found in the advertising columns of the CHRONICLE.

COLUMBUS SPRINGFIELD & CINCINNATI RR. Co. 6 per cent coupon scrip, the whole issue to be paid at the company's office, No. 3 Merchants' Row, Boston, December 1, 1890, after which date interest will cease.

MILWAUKEE LAKE SHORE & WESTERN RAILWAY Co. equipment bonds of January 2, 1885, to be paid at 105 and interest at the office of S. S. Sands & Co., No. 11 Wall Street, on and after January 2, 1891, 100 bonds of \$1,000 each, viz.:

Nos. 10, 11, 15, 19, 22, 28, 31, 32, 37, 39, 45, 48, 60, 64, 71, 76, 88, 93, 103, 116, 123, 127, 128, 139, 141, 144, 146, 156, 161, 163, 170, 174, 175, 177, 178, 179, 181, 183, 188, 193, 199, 203, 206, 209, 224, 230, 232, 239, 257, 258, 262, 269, 273, 276, 281, 285, 286, 295, 297, 300, 308, 310, 311, 331, 337, 339, 343, 347, 353, 359, 361, 366, 372, 373, 374, 376, 377, 380, 399, 402, 404, 408, 414, 418, 421, 422, 429, 436, 437, 447, 463, 464, 468, 470, 471, 482, 483, 487, 490, 493, 496.

NEW ORLEANS premium bonds, numbered as follows viz. : Nos. 212, 227, 617, 1278, 1417, 1467, 1744, 1853, 1883, 2451, 2485, 2620, 2623, 2633, 3041, 3064, 3136, 3185, 3221, 3513, 3556, 3758, 3916, 4024, 4773, 4854, 4935, 5441, 5466, 5525, 5869, 6150, 6252, 6324, 6453, 7214, 7749, 7912, 8372, 8549, 8791, 8974, 9105, 9398, 9649.

OHIO & MISSISSIPPI EQUIPMENT TRUST.—Series "B," bonds to be paid at par, interest ceasing January 1, 1891, ten certificates of \$1,000 each—viz. : Nos. 510, 550, 553, 559, 564, 569, 570, 579, 593, 596.

ST. LOUIS & SAN FRANCISCO RAILWAY Co.'s 7 per cent equipment bonds of 1880, due June 1, 1895, to be paid June 1, 1891, at 105, with interest to that date, thirty-eight bonds of \$1,000 each, viz.:

Nos. 92, 93, 97, 107, 109, 120, 146, 150, 182, 183, 208, 264, 266, 280, 305, 351, 389, 408, 432, 463, 495, 497, 512, 532, 552, 561, 587, 625, 627, 689, 692, 716, 768, 776, 805, 888, 948, 979.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY.—Receiver's certificates, the whole issue to be paid with interest on and after Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1890, at the office of the Fidelity Insurance Trust & Safe Deposit Company, No. 323 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Penn.

UNION PACIFIC.—Omaha Bridge 8 per cent bonds of 1871, to be paid at 110 and interest at the office of Drexel, Morgan & Co. in New York City, or at the London & San Francisco Bank (Limited), No. 22 Old Broad Street, London, on April 1, 1891, 145 bonds of £200 each—viz. :

Nos. 5, 8, 24, 26, 30, 38, 54, 116, 119, 120, 152, 174, 199, 247, 250, 259, 273, 313, 329, 336, 341, 374, 377, 385, 416, 417, 443, 445, 446, 451, 468, 487, 495, 500, 560, 566, 589, 600, 610, 631, 694, 695, 708, 709, 726, 727, 733, 748, 770, 790, 796, 797, 858, 859, 878, 886, 894, 924, 926, 955, 962, 969, 987, 994, 998, 1002, 1012, 1021, 1049, 1072, 1091, 1107, 1121, 1151, 1216, 1219, 1247, 1263, 1351, 1355, 1373, 1376, 1388, 1390, 1423, 1443, 1461, 1475, 1509, 1514, 1544, 1550, 1556, 1575, 1597, 1680, 1691, 1703, 1704, 1708, 1748, 1760, 1773, 1778, 1793, 1824, 1835, 1842, 1846, 1859, 1866, 1890, 1894, 1933, 1934, 1942, 1943, 1949, 1986, 2032, 2034, 2075, 2129, 2131, 2173, 2231, 2233, 2235, 2239, 2247, 2273, 2283, 2285, 2286, 2316, 2336, 2338, 2353, 2378, 2386, 2399, 2400, 2409, 2440, 2482.

Central Pacific.—Press dispatches from San Francisco, Nov. 28, said that a complaint had been filed in the United States Circuit Court by the Government of the United States, through Attorney-General Miller and Special Assistant Charles H. Marvin, of Chicago, against the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Central Pacific Railroad and the Western Union Telegraph Company to secure the cancellation of the lease of the Central Pacific to the Southern Pacific, and also to secure the cancellation of the lease of the Central Pacific's telegraph lines to the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Cheshire.—The Cheshire Railroad will declare an extra dividend to its stockholders, payable partly in cash and partly in shares of the Fitchburg Railroad. It is stated that it will be equivalent to about 10 per cent.

Cleveland Cincinnati Chicago & St. Louis.—At the directors' meeting the following statement was presented: Gross earnings for the four months ended October 31, 1890, \$4,541,806; operating expenses, \$2,998,831; net, \$1,542,975; interest, rentals, taxes, &c., \$976,368; balance, \$566,606; to which should be added the proportion of net earnings of the Sandusky Division for the four months, \$55,000, and for the estimated net earnings in November, \$130,000, making to the credit of income account to Nov. 30, \$751,606; deduct from this the dividend on the preferred stock for the entire six months ending Dec. 31, \$250,000, leaving a balance of \$501,606. Deducting from this the usual 1½ per cent dividend on the total capital common stock of the company leaves \$91,731, which, with the net earnings for December, will be carried forward to the next six months.

The purchase of the White Water Railroad, the St. Louis Alton & Terre Haute, and the lease of the Cincinnati Sandusky & Cleveland and the Columbus & Springfield, have been completed. After taking in these properties the fixed charges of the road are now per month: For bond interest, \$195,775; for proportion of taxes, \$31,750; for rentals, \$24,791; total monthly charge, \$252,317.

While the company has added the Cincinnati Sandusky & Cleveland, the Columbus & Springfield and the White Water roads to its system (nearly three hundred miles, and earning gross over \$80,000 per month), the fixed charges have been increased thereby but \$8,000 per month.

The C. C. C. & St. L. has completed a negotiation with the Mackay interest whereby the Cincinnati Wabash & Michigan Road will become a part of its system. The line extends from Benton Harbor, on Lake Michigan, south to Anderson, 164 miles, and an extension from Anderson to Rushville has just been completed. Four per cent bonds for \$4,000,000 covering the entire line will be issued.

Great Northern.—In the annual report of this company the following exhibit of the St. Paul Minneapolis & Manitoba land grant is furnished:

LAND DEPARTMENT STATISTICS AND OPERATIONS.

Total acreage of land grant computed at 10 sections of land for each mile of completed road.....	3,848,000-00
Total acreage deeded to Company prior to June 30, 1890.....	3,199,498-37
Total acreage sold to June 30, 1890.....	1,911,166-89
Less contracts canceled.....	174,159-19
Remaining unsold June 30, 1890.....	2,110,992-30
Minneapolis & St. Cloud R.R. land grant.....	476,864-00
Less acreage sold to June 30, 1890.....	49,529-84
	427,334-16
Total grant remaining unsold June 30, 1890.....	2,538,326-46

During the year ending June 30, 1890, 86,534-46 acres of land were sold for \$613,959-38, an average price of \$7 09 per acre. There were also sold 118 town lots for \$6,980, an average price per lot of \$59 15.

CASH RECEIPTS OF LAND DEPARTMENT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1890.
 Cash sales and installm'ts of princ'pl on new land contracts \$173,591 75
 Amount of principal received on old contracts..... 23,479 32
 Amount received for trespass, stumpage, &c..... 11,480 74
 Amount received for interest on old and new contracts.... 53,070 65
 Amount rec'd for principal and int on town lot contracts. 7,689 22
 Amount received for interest on sinking fund..... 2,375 10

\$276,686 78
 Less expenses of land department..... 73,399 03
 Net receipts..... \$203,287 75

Amount of deferred payments due this Company on land contracts bearing interest at 7 per cent..... \$696,930 49
 Amount of deferred payments due this Company on town lots bearing interest at 7 per cent..... 7,653 25
 \$704,583 74

The total number of sales during the year was 1,261, with an average of about 69 acres to a purchaser.

—In regard to cutting of rates in the West, Mr. James J. Hill, President of this company, was recently reported by the Sun as making the following pertinent remarks: "Every road going out of Chicago is carrying its full capacity. One of the presidents told me the other day that they were literally crushed with business, yet they are not making money. I tell you the sooner the stockholders of the companies take hold of the matter the better they will be off. If they would pay five traffic agents in Chicago \$100,000 a year a piece to get out of town, to clear out altogether, keep away from the roads entirely, they could make big money. These fellows (traffic agents) seem to think that railroads are not intended to be operated for the benefit of the stockholders but just to give them (the agents) a chance to square some petty grievance

against some other traffic agent, so the cutting of rates goes on, and they draw their \$20,000 a year to keep it going. I wouldn't have one of them working on my road as a brakeman even. I'd kick him off the premises. The situation of the Western roads will not improve until they get rid of these fellows."

In another interview the Sun reported Mr. Hill as saying that in Minnesota, North Dakota and adjoining territory the wheat crop this year was unusually good. The most careful estimates placed it at from 10 to 20 per cent more than it was last year. Fifteen per cent more, he thought, was a conservative estimate. The farmers were having no trouble at all to get their product to market, and at rates of freight lower than it cost farmers in some parts of Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska or Illinois. "The farmers this year," he said, "are better off than I have known them for five years past. I know they are better off because the little banks in which they deposit are carrying larger balances in the banks in St. Paul and New York than they have ever done before. The farmers are putting in their money and taking out 5 per cent certificates. These little banks in the Red valley, with capitals of only \$25,000 or \$50,000 or \$60,000, are actually sending money to St. Paul to invest in good securities. They are loaning money on elevator receipts in Minneapolis, and only last week their money came to New York for Wall Street bargains. These banks depend on the farmers entirely, and when they have so much money to invest it is a sure sign of the prosperity of their depositors. The farmers are all satisfied."

Lehigh & Hudson River.—At the annual meeting of the Lehigh & Hudson River Railroad the purchase of the Orange County Railroad was ratified. It extends from Greycourt to Orange Junction, 12 miles, which, via the Poughkeepsie Bridge, gives the Lehigh & Hudson an outlet to Boston and New England points. It has a capital stock of \$300,000. The Lehigh & Hudson also ratified the purchase of a new connecting road opened a week ago, known as the Phillipsburg & South Easton Railroad, which extends from Easton to a point on the Belvidere division of the Pennsylvania Railroad north of Phillipsburg.

Louisville New Albany & Chicago.—The special meeting of stockholders held in New York October 29th was called and held "to consider and act upon a proposition to extend the lines of the Company and acquire additional property." That proposition was presented to and discussed by the stockholders, and by their votes referred to the directors with power; but the subject of issuing any new stock of the Louisville New Albany & Chicago Railway Company was not mentioned at that meeting or any other meeting of the stockholders or directors of the company.

Of the five per cent gold bonds of this company \$12,800,000 were authorized by the deed of trust to the Central Trust Company, \$10,000,000 of which were reserved to retire prior liens and \$2,800,000 were to be used in paying off the floating debt of the road, purchasing new equipment, rails, ties, etc., and improvements to the road generally. Of these \$2,800,000 available bonds, \$2,000,000 have been duly placed upon the list of the New York Stock Exchange and the other \$800,000 remain in the Central Trust Company and no application to place those upon the list has ever been made.

The following is an official statement of the gross and net earnings of the road for the first nine months of the calendar years 1889 and 1890.

	1889		1890	
	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.
January.....	\$177,419	\$42,000	\$165,360	\$22,239
February.....	170,427	49,203	164,913	30,303
March.....	176,269	41,641	194,442	45,704
April.....	186,396	53,711	199,553	55,014
May.....	200,104	53,564	214,065	71,171
June.....	203,427	64,124	231,423	77,293
July.....	216,810	77,748	240,657	91,519
August.....	249,601	103,172	245,668	88,875
September.....	243,691	104,648	262,095	99,772
Total.....	\$1,824,147	\$591,815	\$1,919,035	\$581,896

The above statement shows that the net earnings for the first nine months of 1890 were \$9,918 less than for the like period in 1889; but it does not show the fact that the costs and expenses of unusual and extraordinary accidents in the current year amount to more than \$60,000, all of which has been defrayed and paid out of the earnings of 1890. But for this fact the net earnings for the first nine months of the current year would show an increase of more than \$50,000 over those for the like period of the previous year. Prior to October 1 in the current year the road handled about 3,000 carloads of materials for use in betterments to its property, for which no charge has been made; and for want of equipment it has been compelled to refuse business which would have added largely to the gross earnings of 1890.

Mobile & Ohio.—The following is a statement of earnings in a comprehensive shape for comparison:

	1888.	1889.	1890.	Inc. in 1890 over 1889.
	November.....	\$277,445	\$289,079	\$344,785	$55,706
July 1 to Nov. 30.....	1,092,024	1,255,509	1,501,191	245,682
Jan. 1 to Nov. 30.....	2,203,781	2,731,558	3,096,527	364,969
17 mos. to Nov. 30.....	3,722,457	4,136,982	4,674,623	537,641

New York City Street Railroads.—The Tribune publishes the statistics for nineteen street railroads in this City for the year ending June 30, 1890. The facts are obtained from the reports filed at Albany, and the following is a summary of the gross earnings and operating expenses, the number of passengers (paying fares) and the amounts paid out in dividends:

PASSENGERS CARRIED AND AMOUNT PAID IN DIVIDENDS.

Table with columns for Passengers Carried (1890, 1889) and Dividends Paid (1890, 1889). Rows include Manhattan Elevated, Suburban Rapid Transit, etc.

Table with columns for N. Y. Ont. & W. (1889, 1890) and Ogden & L. Ch. &c. (1889, 1890). Rows include Gross earnings, Operating expenses, Net earnings, etc.

Richmond & West Point Terminal.—It has been determined that at the annual meeting December 9, the following persons will go into the Board: Jay Gould, Russell Sage, George J. Gould, Abram S. Hewitt and R. T. Wilson. The last two go in at the personal solicitation of President Inman, At the annual election of Richmond & Danville directors December 9 George Gould will be elected in place of Geo. S. Scott, resigned.

Rio Grande Western.—At a meeting of the directors, held in this city Dec. 5, the following was passed:

Whereas, The broad-gauged line having been opened for local business since June 10, and for through business (by the completion of its eastern broad-gauge connections) since Nov. 15, and the gross and net returns since realized having been satisfactory enough to warrant the conviction that the full yearly dividends will be hereafter earned and may be hereafter regularly divided on preferred stock, it is the sense of this Board, and in accordance with the spirit of the reorganization plan under which the preferred stock was issued (to represent the reduction of interest and the coupon certificates), that the payment of dividends should begin without further delay, and

Whereas, The actual surplus net earnings have been as follows: For the eighteen months since reorganization, \$292,000, or 6 per cent on the preferred stock; for the six months of the current fiscal year since July 1, 1890 (December estimated), \$176,000, or 3 per cent on the preferred stock, the last-named rate exceeding 7 per cent per annum, therefore

Resolved, That a dividend of 2 1/2 per cent on the preferred stock is hereby declared, payable on Feb. 1, 1891, in preferred stock at par to holders of record Dec. 24, 1890.

St. Louis Merchants' Bridge & Terminal.—This company has conveyed to the Farmers' Loan & Trust Company all its real and personal property in trust to secure the payment of \$3,500,000 in bonds. At a stockholders' meeting held on the 1st of October it was decided to increase the capital stock of the company from \$2,000,000 to \$3,500,000, and the old bonds, amounting to \$2,000,000, will be taken up by the new loan. The new bonds are payable in forty years, and they draw 5 per cent interest.

San Antonio & Aransas Pass.—At San Antonio, Tex., November 20, Judges Pardee and Maxey rendered their decision in the suit of the Farmers' Loan & Trust Company against the Aransas Pass Railway in the United States Circuit Court. The case came up on a motion to have the matter of the Aransas Pass receivership transferred from the State to the Federal Court. The two circuit judges concurred in their decision and the substance of it is that the case is one which is not removable under the act of March 3, 1877, permitting only a non-resident defendant to remove a case from a State to a Federal Court. The circuit judges held the suit of Johnson & Hansen against the Aransas Pass Railway Company to be in the nature of a creditor's bill for the benefit of themselves and any other creditors who might care to intervene against the railway company, and the intervenors are not such parties as were contemplated by the statute authorizing removal.

A dispatch from San Antonio, December 2, said that Charles W. Armour, of New York, had filed a bill of complaint in the United States Court against the Farmers' Loan & Trust Company, the San Antonio & Aransas Pass Railway, the Central Trust Company, the Union Trust Company and Johnson & Hansen, in whose behalf the receivers were originally appointed. Armour holds 200 of the road's first mortgage bonds, and he claims that by the default of interest on these bonds in July last, and by the terms of the mortgage, he is entitled to foreclose and have a receiver appointed in the interest of the first mortgage bondholders.

Sugar Trust.—Judge Cullen, in the Sugar Trust case, gave the following decision in granting a stay of proceedings till Dec. 8: "No stay should be granted as to the proceedings under the interlocutory judgment entered in this action unless there are grave doubts as to its irregularity. I have such doubts. The question is not as to the power of the courts to compel the plaintiffs to account for all the proceedings as trustees under the Sugar Trust, nor whether they may not be enjoined from interfering or disposing of the assets of the Trust.

"This last relief is granted by the order appointing receivers of the Trust, but the question is whether the plaintiffs against their own wish can be compelled to enter a judgment in court against themselves without a trial of the action, and when issues against some of the parties are still undisposed of. In my opinion the question is a serious one, and proceedings under the judgment should be stayed until the hearing of the appeal at General Term, which meets Dec. 8.

"Upon the hearing, the plaintiffs may apply to the General Term to continue the stay. The plaintiffs must stipulate to bring the appeal on the hearing at the next General Term. This stay will not operate to affect in anywise the appointment of the temporary receivers of the Sugar Trust, and not to relieve the plaintiffs from forthwith transferring to the receivers all the Trust property and assets."

Western New York & Pennsylvania.—The report for the quarter ending September 30, 1890, to the New York State Commissioners is as follows:

Table with columns for 1889 and 1890. Rows include Gross earnings, Operating expenses, Net earnings, Other income, Total, Interest, rentals and taxes, Balance, surplus.

For other Railroad and Investment News see Page 777.

*Estimated.

GROSS EARNINGS AND OPERATING EXPENSES.

Table with columns for Gross Earnings (1890, 1889) and Operating Expenses (1890, 1889). Rows include Manhattan Elevated, Suburban Rapid Transit, etc.

New Bonds and Stocks Authorized or Offered.—The following is a list of new issues of securities now offered for sale, or soon to be offered:

STATES, CITIES, COUNTIES, & C.

ANTONITO, COL.—\$6,000 water-works bonds, due 1905. Proposals will be received by the Town Clerk till Jan. 2, 1891.

BROOKLYN CITY, N. Y.—\$650,000 bonds are offered. Full particulars are given in our advertising columns.

SALEM, MASS.—\$60,000 4 per cent bonds, due 1891 to 1900. Proposals will be received by City Treasurer till Dec. 10.

RAILROAD AND MISCELLANEOUS COMPANIES.

BROOKLYN & ROCKAWAY BEACH.—\$350,000 stock to be issued; making total \$500,000.

BETHLEHEM IRON CO.—\$2,000,000 more stock is to be issued; making total \$5,000,000.

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC & MANUFACTURING CO.—\$2,000,000 new stock is authorized, making total \$10,000,000.

North American.—The following is given out to-day (Dec. 5): A leading director and official of the North American Co. says: "We are working on the business of the North American Co. every working hour of the day and when we get matters into shape where a statement can be made it will be made."

Another director says: "Any stockholder who comes to us and proves to us that he is a stockholder can get all the information we have. As yet not one has come to us to know the affairs of the company in detail. The personal friends of directors have been satisfied with the assurances given them that the company is solvent. Any statement that may be issued will be to stockholders only."—Dow, Jones & Co.

Oregon Improvement Co.—At a meeting of a committee of the bondholders of the Oregon Improvement Company, consisting of Messrs. Edward R. Bell, John S. Tilney, R. Somers Hayes, J. H. Converse and G. Lee Stout, held at the office of the Farmers' Loan & Trust Company, the affairs of the company were discussed, and the committee decided that no antagonism could exist between the two classes of bondholders, and that in any plan for reorganization the superior rights of the first mortgage bondholders, both as to principal and interest, should be recognized and made a part of any plan adopted.

Railroads in New York State.—The roads following have reported for the quarter ending September 30:

Table with columns for N. Y. Lake Erie & W. (1889, 1890). Rows include Gross earnings, Operating expenses, Net earnings, Less percentages paid leased roads, Balance, Other income, Total, Interest, rentals and taxes, Surplus.

Reports and Documents.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 1, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report:

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEAR 1890.

The revenues of the Government from all sources for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1890, were.

From customs.....	\$229,668,584 57
From internal revenue.....	142,600,705 81
From profits on coinage, billion deposits and assays..	10,217,244 25
From sales of public lands.....	6,358,272 51
From fees—consular, letters patent and land.....	3,146,692 32
From sinking fund for Pacific railways.....	1,842,564 52
From tax on national banks.....	1,301,326 58
From customs fees, fines, penalties and forfeitures.....	1,299,324 52
From repayment of interest by Pacific railways.....	705,691 52
From sales of Indian lands.....	372,288 15
From Soldiers' Home, permanent fund.....	308,886 99
From tax on seal skins.....	262,000 00
From immigrant fund.....	241,464 00
From sales of Government property.....	192,123 99
From deposits for surveying public lands.....	112,314 79
From depositions on public lands.....	35,852 37
From the District of Columbia.....	2,809,130 93
From miscellaneous sources.....	1,000,014 81
From postal service.....	60,882,097 92
Total receipts.....	\$463,963 080 55

The expenditures for the same period were:

For civil expenses.....	\$23,638,826 62
For foreign intercourse.....	1,648,276 59
For Indian service.....	6,708,046 67
For pensions.....	106,938,855 07
For the military establishment, including rivers and harbors and arsenals.....	44,582,838 06
For the naval establishment, including vessels, machinery and improvements at navy yards.....	22,006,206 24
For miscellaneous objects, including public buildings, light houses and collecting the revenues.....	43,563,696 85
For the District of Columbia.....	5,677,419 52
For interest on the public debt.....	36,099,284 05
For deficiency in postal revenues.....	6,875,036 91
For postal service.....	60,882,097 92
Total expenditures.....	\$358,618,584 52

The revenues and expenditures of the postal service form no part of the fiscal operations controlled by the Treasury Department, although, under a requirement of law enacted at the last session of Congress, they are included in the tables above presented. Deducting these from the aggregate on both sides of the account there remain as the ordinary revenues of the Government the sum of \$403,080,982 63 and as ordinary expenditures the sum of \$297,736,486 60, leaving a surplus of \$105,344,496 03. Of this amount there was used in the redemption of notes and fractional currency, and purchase of bonds for the sinking fund, the sum of \$48,094,564 66, leaving a net surplus for the year of \$57,249,931 37.

As compared with the fiscal year 1889, the receipts for 1890 have increased \$16,030,923 79. * * * There was an increase of \$15,739,871 in the ordinary expenditures. * * *

In addition to \$48,094,564 66 applied to the sinking fund during the fiscal year 1890, the net surplus for the year, viz., \$57,249,931 37, together with \$5,870 received for four per cent bonds issued for interest accrued on refunding certificates converted during the year, and \$19,601,877 53 taken from the cash balance in the Treasury at the beginning of the year, making altogether \$76,857,678 90, was used in the redemption and purchase of the debt. * * *

FISCAL YEAR 1891.

For the present fiscal year the revenues are estimated as follows:

From customs.....	\$221,000,000
From internal revenue.....	145,000,000
From miscellaneous sources.....	40,000,000
Total estimated revenues.....	\$406,000,000

The expenditures for the same period are estimated as follows:

For the civil establishment.....	\$105,000,000
For the military establishment.....	44,500,000
For the naval establishment.....	23,000,000
For the Indian service.....	6,500,000
For pensions.....	133,000,000
For the District of Columbia.....	5,500,000
For interest on the public debt.....	32,000,000
For deficiency in postal revenues.....	4,500,000
Total estimated expenditures.....	\$354,000,000
Leaving an estimated surplus for the year of.....	\$52,000,000

Including the revenues to be derived from the postal service, which are estimated at \$66,000,000, but which, as already stated, have not been heretofore included in these tables of receipts and expenditures, the total estimated revenues of the Government for the fiscal year 1891 will be \$472,000,000, and the total estimated expenditures \$420,000,000, leaving an available surplus of \$52,000,000, as shown above.

If to the estimated surplus there be added the cash in the Treasury at the beginning of the year and the national bank fund deposited in the Treasury under the act of July 14, 1890, the total available assets for the year, exclusive of fractional silver and minor coin, will be \$162,000,000. There has been paid out during the first four months of the year in the purchase of bonds for the sinking fund and in other redemptions of the debt, including premium, about \$100,000,000. It is estimated that the redemptions of four and a half per cent bonds during the remaining eight months of the year will be \$10,000,000, making a total outlay for bonds purchased during the year, including premium, of \$110,000,000, leaving a net balance on June 30, 1891, of \$52,000,000 available during the next fiscal year.

The estimate of revenue to be derived from customs during the present fiscal year is based upon the assumption that there will be a probable loss from articles placed on the free list, including sugar, during the last quarter of the year amounting to twenty-five million; but as there has been an increase of sixteen million in the duties collected during the first four months of the year, the estimated net loss for the year is placed at nine million dollars.

FISCAL YEAR 1892.

It is estimated that the revenues of the Government for the fiscal year 1892 will be:

From customs.....	\$159,000,000 00
From internal revenue.....	150,000,000 00
From miscellaneous sources.....	34,000,000 00
Total estimated revenues.....	\$373,000,000 00

The estimates of expenditures for the same period, as submitted by the several Executive Departments and offices, are as follows:

Legislative establishment.....	\$3,539,632 75
Executive establishment—	
Executive proper.....	\$173,120 00
State Department.....	155,510 00
Treasury Department.....	8,943,605 80
War Department.....	2,248,370 00
Navy Department.....	426,930 00
Interior Department.....	5,429,324 00
Post Office Department.....	939,720 00
Department of Agriculture.....	2,812,003 50
Department of Justice.....	195,450 00
Department of Labor.....	175,520 00
21,499,553 80	
Judicial establishment.....	462,100 00
Foreign intercourse.....	1,942,605 00
Military establishment.....	26,160,991 77
Naval establishment.....	32,508,204 98
Indian affairs.....	6,846,908 08
Pensions.....	135,263,085 00
Public Works—	
Legislative.....	\$708,600 00
Treasury Department.....	7,269,070 42
War Department.....	10,698,788 93
Navy Department.....	823,375 13
Interior Department.....	307,370 00
Department of Justice.....	4,500 00
19,801,704 48	
Miscellaneous—	
Legislative.....	\$3,018,916 69
Treasury Department.....	10,512,912 75
War Department.....	6,002,226 07
Interior Department.....	3,727,611 00
Department of Justice.....	4,262,800 00
District of Columbia.....	5,450,215 17
32,974,681 68	
Deficiency in postal revenues.....	3,590,892 43
Permanent annual appropriations—	
Interest on the public debt.....	\$27,000,000 00
Refund'g—customs, int'nl rev., &c.....	18,076,386 00
Collecting revenue from customs.....	5,500,000 00
Miscellaneous.....	22,685,500 00
73,261,880 00	

Total est'd expenditures, exclusive of sink. fund.. \$357,852,209 42

Or an estimated surplus of..... \$15,147,790 58

Which, added to the available balance at the beginning of the year (\$52,000,000) will make a total of \$67,147,790 58 available for the redemption of the four and a half per cent bonds falling due September 1, 1891, of which it is estimated there will remain outstanding on July 1, 1891, \$51,531,900, the amount outstanding November 22, 1890, being \$61,531,900. Of the bonds to be so retired \$49,224,928 will be applied to the sinking fund.

The revenue and expenditures of the postal service for the fiscal year 1892 are estimated at \$73,955,031 98, which, added to the ordinary revenues and expenditures of the Government, will make a total revenue for the year of \$446,955,031 98, and a total expenditure of \$431,807,241 40, leaving an estimated surplus, as shown above, of \$15,147,790 58.

The increase of \$65,580,804 72 in the estimates for 1892 over the estimates for 1891 is to be found under the following heads: Pensions, \$36,676,000 increase; naval establishment, \$8,217,700 increase; executive establishment, \$3,517,700 increase; Indian service, \$1,042,500 increase; public works, \$794,000 increase; military establishment, \$753,000; making a total of \$60,005,900. The balance of the increase is due to the estimated expenditure for redemption of national bank notes, and for bounty on the production of sugar, less a decrease of \$4,500,000 in the estimate for interest on the public debt, and a further decrease of about \$3,000,000 under the respective heads of "permanent annual appropriations" and "miscellaneous."

In estimating the revenue for the next fiscal year the loss from articles transferred to the free list is placed at fifty million, but as the increasing demands of the people must swell the volume of imports in other commodities, and the enforcement of the customs laws under the operations of the administrative act of June 10, 1890, by the prevention of under-valuations and the closer collection of duties, will materially increase the revenue, it is estimated that an additional collection of not less than eighteen million will be obtained under these conditions. Upon this basis the net loss of revenue for the year is put down at thirty-two million dollars.

PENSIONS.

The above estimate of \$135,263,085, made by the Interior Department, for the year 1892, is based upon the fact that over 250,000 of the claimants for pensions under old laws have availed themselves of the right to present their claims under the act of June 27, 1890. Claims presented under the new law will draw a less monthly rate and carry arrearages for only a short time, and for small amounts, while under the old laws many of them carry very large arrearages, and many of which will have been paid during the fiscal year 1891. The transfer of claims from the old to the new law will therefore very largely reduce the average annual value of pensions, and a reduction in the amount of arrearages alone is estimated at \$10,000,000 for the year 1892. For these reasons it is estimated that the amount above named for 1892 will be sufficient to meet the aggregate requirements for that year.

It is deemed advisable and opportune at this time to recommend a change in the periods of paying pensions. At present the law requires that payments to pensioners shall be made quarterly on the fourth day of March, June, September and December in each year, which necessarily involves the accumulation of large sums in the Treasury, amounting to from thirty to thirty-five millions of dollars for each quarterly payment. This unnecessary withholding of money from circulation may be obviated by making twelve monthly payments instead of four quarterly payments, as now required. Upon consultation with the Secretary of the Interior it is suggested that the law be changed so as to divide the eighteen pension agencies into three groups, as follows: The pension agencies at Columbus, Ohio, Washington, D. C., Boston, Mass., Detroit, Mich., Augusta, Me., and San Francisco, Cal., to make their payments quarterly on the fourth day of March, June, September and December; the pension agencies at Indianapolis, Ind., Des Moines, Iowa, Buffalo, N. Y., Milwaukee, Wis., Louisville, Ky., and Pittsburg, Pa., to make their payments quarterly upon the fourth day of April, July, October and January; and the pension agencies at Topeka, Kans., Chicago, Ill., Philadelphia, Pa., Knoxville, Tenn., New York City, N. Y., and Concord, N. H., to make their payments quarterly on the fourth day of May, August, November and February of each year.

During the last fiscal year the first group of agencies disbursed \$33,953,822; the second group disbursed \$35,987,186; and the third group disbursed \$36,552,882, and it is probable that this ratio will be substantially maintained in the future.

If the change herein recommended should receive favorable consideration, a provision should be incorporated, in any amendment to the present law that may be adopted, providing for preliminary payments for fractional quarters rendered necessary by the change at all the agencies, the date of whose regular payments is changed, and also in all cases of transfer of pensioners from one agency to another.

SINKING FUND.

Under the requirements of the act of February 25, 1862 (Revised Statutes, §§ 3688, 3689), establishing a sinking fund for the gradual extinguishment of the public debt, there have been purchased during the months of July, August, September and October of the current fiscal year \$27,859,100 of the funded loan of 1891 and \$16,134,000 of the funded loan of 1907, at a cost to the fund for premium and anticipated interest of \$1,226,329 76 on the former and \$3,844,450 93 on the latter loan. There have also been added to the fund, by the redemption of fractional currency, Treasury notes and United States bonds which had ceased to bear interest, the sum of \$8,764, making a total of \$49,072,784 97 applied to the fund as against an estimated requirement for the year of \$49,077,270.

SURPLUS REVENUE.

The surplus revenue was largely increased last summer by the pending changes in tariff legislation. And the available balance in the Treasury was also greatly augmented by the act of July 14, 1890, which transferred over \$54,000,000 from the bank note redemption fund to the available cash. This sudden and abnormal increase was the cause of much concern and some embarrassment to the Department.

To prevent an undue accumulation of money in the Treasury, and consequent commercial stringency, only two methods were open to the Secretary, namely, to deposit the public money in national banks, or to continue the purchase of United States bonds on such terms as they could be obtained. For reasons heretofore stated, the former method was deemed unwise and inexpedient, and the policy of bond purchases was continued. On account of the rapidly diminishing supply of United States bonds on the market, and of the fact that the sudden and great increase in the surplus compelled the immediate purchase of large quantities, it became very difficult to obtain them in sufficient amounts and at fair prices. The following is a brief statement of the successive steps taken to dispose of the constantly accumulating surplus:

There were outstanding on June 30, 1889, United States interest-bearing bonds, issued under the refunding act, in the amount of \$815,734,350, of which \$676,095,350 were four per cents and \$139,639,000 four and one-half per cents. During the fiscal year 1890 there were purchased of these bonds \$73,923,500 fours and \$30,623,250 four and one-half per cents, and there remained outstanding June 30, 1890, \$602,193,500 fours, including \$21,650 issued for refunding certificates and \$109,015,750 four and one-half per cents. Of the bonds so purchased there were applied to the sinking fund for the fiscal year 1890 \$27,695,600 fours and \$12,136,750 four and one-half per cents, the residue being ordinary redemptions of the debt.

During this period the Secretary was able to purchase United States bonds at constantly decreasing prices, so that at the end of the fiscal year 1890 the Government was paying for four per cent bonds seven per cent less than at the beginning of that period, and for four and one-half per cent bonds four and one-half per cent less; but the diminished supply of bonds held for sale, together with the lower prices which were being paid, had been gradually curtailing the Government purchases, and soon after the beginning of the present fiscal year the growing surplus and the prospective needs of the country made it advisable that steps be taken to obtain more free offerings of bonds to the Government.

Accordingly, on July 19, 1890, a circular was published rescinding that under which purchases had been made since April 17, 1888, and inviting new proposals, to be considered July 24, for the sale of the two classes of bonds before mentioned. Under this circular there were offered on the day prescribed \$6,408,350 four per cents and \$594,550 four and one-half per cents, at prices varying from 121-7/63 to 128-2/63 for fours and from 103-1/4 to 104-40 for four and one-half, of which there were purchased all the four per cents offered at 124, or less, amounting to \$6,381,350, and all the four and one-half offered at 103-3/4, or less, amounting to \$584,550. As the amount obtained on this day was less than the Government desired to purchase, the provisions of the circular were extended, with the result that further purchases were made, amounting in the aggregate to \$9,652,500 fours and \$706,450 four and one-half per cents.

It was soon apparent that these purchases were inadequate to meet existing conditions; therefore, on August 19, the Department gave notice that four and one-half per cent bonds would be redeemed with interest to and including May 31, 1891; and two days later the circular of August 21 was published, inviting the surrender for redemption of twenty millions of these bonds, upon condition of the prepayment after September 1, 1890, of all the interest to and including Aug. 31, 1891, on the bonds so surrendered. Under this circular there were redeemed \$20,060,700 four and one-half per cents.

Notwithstanding the disbursements resulting from purchases and redemptions of bonds under the circulars of July 19 and August 21, the industrial and commercial interests of the country required that large additional amounts should be at once returned to the channels of trade. Accordingly, a circular was published August 30, 1890, inviting the surrender of an additional twenty millions of four and one-half per cents upon the same terms as before. This was followed by another, dated September 6, inviting holders of the four per cent bonds to accept prepayment of interest on those bonds to July 1, 1891, a privilege which was subsequently extended to the holders of currency sixes. Under this circular of August 30, there were redeemed \$18,678,100 four and one-half per cent bonds, and under that of September 6 there was prepaid on the four per cent bonds and currency sixes interest amounting to \$12,009,951 50.

These prepayments of interest are expressly authorized by section 3699 of the Revised Statutes. They were deemed expedient because of the disposition of the holders of bonds to demand exorbitant prices for them.

The amount of public money set free within seventy-five days by these several disbursements was nearly \$76,660,000, and the net gain to circulation was not less than forty-five millions of dollars, yet the financial conditions made further prompt disbursements imperatively necessary. A circular was therefore published September 13, 1890, inviting proposals, to be considered on the 17th, for the sale to the Government of sixteen millions of four per cent bonds. The offerings under this circular amounted to \$35,514,900, of which \$17,071,150 were offered at 126-3/4 or less, and were accepted. The total disbursements since June 30, 1890, by the means above set forth are recapitulated as follows:

	Bonds Redeemed.	Disbursement.
Under circular of April 17, 1888.....	\$2,133,350	\$2,358,884 00
Under circular of July 19, 1890.....	17,324,850	21,225,989 46
Under circular of August 19, 1890.....	560,050	581,138 12
Under circular of August 21, 1890.....	20,060,700	20,964,868 42
Under circular of August 30, 1890.....	18,678,100	19,518,176 83
Under circular of September 6, 1890.....	*	12,009,951 50
Under circular of September 13, 1890...	17,071,150	21,617,673 77
Total.....	\$75,828,200	\$98,276,682 10

* Prepayment of interest.

And the annual reduction of the interest charge, with total saving of interest, is shown in the following statement, viz.:

	Reduction of Interest Charge.	Total Saving.
Under circular of April 17, 1888.....	\$91,548 75	\$448,553 94
Under circular of July 19, 1890.....	699,449 00	7,074,411 29
Under circular of August 19, 1890.....	25,202 25	6,300 56
Under circular of August 21, 1890.....	902,731 50	.....
Under circular of August 30, 1890.....	840,514 50	.....
Under circular of September 13, 1890.....	682,846 00	7,061,889 73
Total since June 30, 1890.....	\$3,242,292 00	\$14,592,455 52
Add fiscal year 1890.....	4,834,986 25	34,046,079 20
Totals since June 30, 1889.....	\$7,577,278 25	\$48,638,534 72

It should be stated that there is no saving of interest on the 4-1/2 per cent bonds redeemed under the circulars of August 21 and 30, since all the interest on those bonds to September 1, 1891, the date on which they become redeemable, has been prepaid, and that the reduction in the annual interest charge on the same bonds takes effect only from that date.

Another circular inviting the surrender of 4-1/2 per cent bonds for redemption, with interest to and including August 31, 1891, was published October 9, 1890. The amount surrendered under that circular during the month of Oct. was \$3,203,100.

The total amount of 4 and 4½ per cent bonds purchased and redeemed since March 4, 1889, is \$211,833,450, and the amount expended therefor is \$246,620,741 72. The reduction in the annual interest charge by reason of these transactions is \$8,967,809 75, and the total saving of interest is \$31,576,706 01.

It will be seen from the above statement that during the three and one-third months from July 19 to November 1, 1890, over \$99,000,000 were disbursed in payment for bonds and interest.

There are many grave objections to the accumulation of a large surplus in the Treasury, and especially to the power which the control of such surplus gives to the Secretary. I am sure those objections appeal to no one with so much force as to the head of the Department, upon whom rests the difficult and delicate responsibility of its administration.

In my judgment, the gravest defect in our present financial system is its lack of elasticity. The national banking system supplied this defect to some extent by the authority which the banks have to increase their circulation in times of stringency and to reduce when money becomes redundant, but by reason of the high price of bonds this authority has ceased to be of much practical value.

The demand for money in this country is so irregular that an amount of circulation which will be ample during ten months of the year will frequently prove so deficient during the other two months as to cause stringency and commercial disaster. Such stringency may occur without any speculative manipulations of money, though unfortunately it is often intensified by such manipulations. The crops of the country have reached proportions so immense that their movement to market in August and September annually causes a dangerous absorption of money. The lack of a sufficient supply to meet the increased demand during those months may entail heavy losses upon the agricultural as well as upon other business interests. Though financial stringency may occur at any time and from many causes, yet nearly all of the great commercial crises in our history have occurred during the months named, and unless some provision be made to meet such contingencies in the future, like disasters may be confidently expected.

I am aware that the theory obtains in the minds of many people that if there were no surplus in the Treasury a sufficient amount of money would be in circulation, and hence no stringency would occur. The fact is, however, that such stringency has seldom been produced by Treasury absorption, but generally by some sudden or unusual demand for money entirely independent of Treasury conditions and operations. The financial pressure in September last, which at one time assumed a threatening character, illustrates the truth of this statement. There was at that time no accumulation of money in the Treasury from customs or internal revenue taxes, nor from any other source that could have affected the money market. On the contrary, the total disbursements for all purposes, including bond purchases and interest prepayments, during the last preceding fifty-three days had been about \$29,000,000 in excess of the receipts from all sources.

The total apparent surplus on September 10, when the money stringency culminated, was \$99,509,220 53. Of this amount \$24,216,804 96 was on deposit in the banks, and presumably in circulation among the people, and \$21,709,379 77 was fractional silver, which had been in the Treasury vaults for several years, and was not available for any considerable disbursements. Deducting the sum of these two items, viz, \$45,926,184 73, left an actual available surplus of only \$56,217,321 25. The amount of the bank-note redemption fund then in the Treasury, which had been transferred to the available funds by the act of July 14, 1890, was \$54,000,000, being substantially the amount of the available surplus on September 10, 1890. This bank-note fund had been in the Treasury in varying amounts for many years. In August, 1887, it was \$105,873,095 60, which had been gradually reduced by disbursements to the amount above named. It is apparent, therefore, that the financial stringency, under discussion, was not produced by the absorption of money by the Treasury, but by causes wholly outside of Treasury operations. At the time when the financial pressure in September reached its climax, the extraordinary disbursements for bond purchases had substantially exhausted the entire ordinary Treasury accumulations, and but for the fact that Congress had wisely transferred the bank-note redemption fund to the available cash, there would have been no money at command in the Treasury, by which the strained financial conditions could have been relieved, and threatened panic and disaster averted. Had this fund been in the banks instead of the Treasury the business of the country would have been adjusted to the increased supply, and when the strain came it would have been impossible for the banks to meet it. The Government could not have withdrawn it from the banks without compelling a contraction of their loans, and thus diminishing their ability to give relief to their customers.

The more recent financial stringency in November, immediately after the disbursement of over \$100,000,000 for the purchase and redemption of bonds within the preceding four months, furnishes another forcible illustration that such stringencies are due to other causes than Treasury operations.

INTERNAL REVENUE.

The report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, showing in detail the operations of this Bureau, is transmitted herewith. The following summary will disclose at a glance the satisfactory condition of that branch of the public service, and the very efficient and economical manner in which it has been conducted:

The receipts from all sources of internal revenue for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1890, were..... \$142,594,096 57
The receipts from the same sources for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1889, were..... 120,894,434 20

Making an increase in the receipts for the fiscal year just ended of..... \$11,700,262 37

The total cost of collection for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1890, was..... \$4,005,119 60

The total cost of collection for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1889, was..... 4,195,728 05

Making a reduction in the cost of collection for the fiscal year just ended of..... \$90,617 85

The estimated receipts from all sources of internal revenue for the current fiscal year will aggregate \$145,000,000.

This estimate has carefully kept in view the reduction made in the tax on tobacco and snuff, and the repeal of the law imposing special taxes on dealers in tobacco, manufacturers of tobacco and cigars, and peddlers of tobacco. Upon the basis of the receipts for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1890, from the various sources of internal revenue affected by the act of October 1, 1890, the following table has been prepared, which presents in detail the estimated decrease to be expected in receipts:

ESTIMATED REDUCTION IN RECEIPTS.

Tobacco, chewing and smoking:
Estimated receipts for six months ending December 31, 1890, tax 3 cents per pound..... \$9,162,740 68
Estimated receipts for six months ending June 30, 1891, tax 6 cents per pound..... 6,872,055 51

Total estimated receipts from tobacco for fiscal year ending June 30, 1891..... \$16,031,796 19

Estimated reduction in receipts from tobacco for fiscal year ending June 30, 1891..... \$2,290,685 17

Snuff:
Estimated receipts for six months ending December 31, 1890, tax 8 cents per pound..... \$307,865 63
Estimated receipts for six months ending June 30, 1891, tax 6 cents per pound..... 276,649 22

Total estimated receipts from snuff for fiscal year ending June 30, 1891..... \$645,514 86

Estimated reduction in receipts from snuff for fiscal year ending June 30, 1891..... \$92,216 41

Special taxes:
Dealers in leaf tobacco..... \$14,492 40
Dealers in manufactured tobacco..... 1,331,118 24
Manufacturers of tobacco..... 5,197 50
Manufacturers of cigars..... 122,896 49
Peddlers of tobacco..... 11,776 51

Total estimated reduction in special taxes for fiscal year ending June 30, 1891..... \$1,515,481 14

RECAPITULATION.

Estimated reduction in receipts from tobacco..... \$2,290,685 17
Estimated reduction in receipts from snuff..... 92,216 41
Estimated reduction in receipts from special taxes..... 1,515,481 14

Total estimated reduction in receipts from tobacco, etc., for fiscal year ending June 30, 1891..... \$3,898,382 72

The further reduction of \$450,000 may be expected under the operation of those provisions of the act of October 1, 1890, which authorize the fortification of wines with grape brandy free of tax.

It is estimated that about two million five hundred thousand gallons of wine will be fortified, and that about one-fifth of their bulk will be required in grape brandy—say five hundred thousand gallons will be used in the process, tax on which is \$450,000. This would make the total estimated reduction in receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, aggregate \$4,348,382 72.

INCREASE IN EXPENSES FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

In connection with the estimate of expenses for the next fiscal year, attention is called to the fact that section 231 of the act of October 1, 1890, provides as follows:

That on and after July 1, 1891, and until July 1, 1905, there shall be paid, from any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, under the provisions of section 3689 of the Revised Statutes, to the producer of sugar testing not less than ninety degrees by the polariscope, from beets, sorghum, or sugar-cane grown within the United States, or from maple sap produced within the United States, a bounty of 2 cents per pound; and upon such sugar testing less than ninety degrees by the polariscope, and not less than eighty degrees, a bounty of ¼ cents per pound, under such rules and regulations as the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, shall prescribe.

It is impossible at present to make even an approximate estimate of the expenses necessary to carry into effect this provision of the law. It is believed, however, that it will require a very considerable sum of money to enable the Department to ascertain upon what sugars this bounty shall be paid, and the rate of bounty to which claimants for same may be entitled.

Congress also enacted a law authorizing the makers of sweet wines to use grape brandy, free of tax, for the fortification of their wines, and I have not yet been able to make an estimate of what additional sums will be required to carry into effect the provisions of this law.

The ascertaining of the amount of bounty to be paid to the producers of sugar is an entirely new feature in the internal revenue system. The Bureau has none of the machinery required to execute the law. It is simply a collection office. It will be necessary to make a chemical analysis in all cases where bounty is claimed.

It is not deemed practical to have samples sent to this office for analysis, and rely upon the tests made here as to the entire production. The law requires that the tests shall be

made by the polariscope, and this will require the services of a large number of chemists of considerable experience. Only one chemist and one microscopist are now employed in the Bureau of Internal Revenue. I am informed that the Department of Agriculture now employs a number of chemists, and gives much attention to the culture of sugar-producing plants and the methods of manufacturing sugar.

In view of these facts, it is respectfully recommended that the law be so amended as to require this bounty to be ascertained and paid by the Department of Agriculture.

If, however, it shall be decided that this Department shall remain charged with the duty of ascertaining and paying the bounty upon sugar, the Secretary is compelled to ask the privilege of being allowed to make a supplemental report upon these two subjects, and to ask for such additional appropriations as may be necessary to give these laws full force and effect, and to fully protect the interests of the Government in their execution.

PUBLIC MONIES.

The monetary transactions of the Government have been conducted through the Treasurer of the United States, nine Sub-Treasurer officers and 275 national bank depositaries. The number of such depositaries on November 1, 1890, was 204.

The amount of public moneys held by national bank depositaries, including those to credit of the Treasurer's general account and disbursing officer's balances, on March 1, 1889, was \$48,818,991 63, which being largely in excess of the needs of the public service, I have endeavored, as far as practicable, to reduce to the amount necessary to be kept with such depositaries for the business transactions of the Government. To accomplish this purpose without seriously disturbing the business of the people, who may have been borrowers of these depositaries, by any sudden withdrawal of large amounts, each depositary holding any public money in excess of that needed was notified on November 30, 1889, to transfer to the Sub-Treasurer on or before January 15, 1890, an amount equal to 10 per cent of the excess, or, if preferred, the whole amount could be transferred at once. This gave ample time for the adjustment of any business changes made necessary by the withdrawal of funds, and resulted in a reduction of about \$9,000,000. A similar notification was given January 28, 1890, allowing until March 1, 1890, to make the transfer, which resulted in a reduction of about \$6,000,000. No further notifications for withdrawals have yet been made, but the holdings of the depositaries have been further reduced by the purchase and redemption of United States bonds held in trust as security for deposits, and the payment of the deposits, with these depositaries, from the proceeds of the purchases or redemptions, so that on November 1, 1890, the amount held by banks was \$29,937,687 68, a reduction since March 1, 1889, of \$18,881,303 95.

The entire amount thus withdrawn from the banks was in excess of the needs of the public service with those depositaries and was used in payment of United States interest-bearing bonds purchased either from the banks relinquishing the deposits or from others, and resulted in a saving to the Government, by reason of the purchase of these bonds and the consequent stoppage of interest, of about \$400,000 per annum. Such withdrawal also increased the circulation, for in no case was a bank allowed to hold public funds to the amount of the market value of the United States bonds furnished as security therefor. On four and a-half per cent bonds a balance equal to par was allowed, and on four per cent bonds a balance equal to 110 per cent of face value, so that for each \$100,000 withdrawn from the banks, payment from the Treasury was made for like amount of bonds, with premium at an average rate of 105½ for four and a-half per cent and 127 for four per cent bonds, thus returning to the channels of trade the amount of the deposit, and from \$5,000 to \$17,000 additional on each \$100,000. The increase of circulation by these operations was about \$2,000,000.

The amount now held by the national-bank depositaries is still in excess of the requirements of the public service, and further withdrawals will be made whenever it can be done without detriment to business interests.

Some of the objections, believed to be conclusive, against this method of restoring the surplus to circulation, were stated specifically in the Secretary's last annual report. Subsequent experience has confirmed the convictions then expressed, that this policy is unwise and inexpedient, and should never be employed except as a last resort.

During the recent financial stringency the Secretary was frequently urged to adopt this method of reducing the surplus, but he declined to do so for the reasons stated in said report, and also for the further reason that such relief was wholly impracticable to meet a sudden emergency. The law does not permit the transfer of money, once covered into the Treasury, to banks for commercial purposes, and it specifically forbids such transfer of money received from customs duties. The only authorized method of making such deposits is to designate certain banks as depositaries of public moneys, after which they may deposit United States bonds to the amount designated, and then be authorized to receive such funds as may be thereafter collected under the internal-revenue laws. This is necessarily a very slow process, which would require several weeks, if not months, to produce any substantial effect upon the circulation. Such a policy would certainly prove a most unsatisfactory way of affording relief to the business interests of the country in an impending commercial crisis.

There are doubtless some defects in the independent Treasury system, but an experience of forty-four years has, in my

judgment, fully demonstrated its superiority to the bank deposit policy, which it superseded. In the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury, for the year 1857, will be found a very forcible statement of the relative advantages of the two systems in their ability to meet commercial crises, as illustrated in 1837 under the bank deposit policy, and in 1857, when the independent treasury system was in full operation:

The operations of the independent treasury system, in ordinary times, had been found by experience eminently successful. The danger of loss from unfaithful and inefficient officers, the expense of conducting its operations without the intervention of bank agencies, its deleterious effects upon commercial progress and the general business of the country—all of which were apprehended by the opponents of the measure at the time of its adoption—have been demonstrated to be unfounded. It only remained to encounter a commercial crisis like the present to vindicate the justice and wisdom of the policy against all cause of complaint or apprehension. A brief comparison of the operations of the Treasury Department during the suspension of 1837 and the present time will place the subject before the public mind in the most satisfactory manner.

On the 30th of June, 1837, immediately after the general suspension, the deposit banks held to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, and subject to his draft, the sum of \$24,994,158 37—a larger amount, in proportion to the receipts and expenditures of the Government, than there was in the Treasury at the time of the suspension by the banks the present year. The funds of the Government being then under the control of the banks, and they either unwilling or unable to pay, the Government was placed in the anomalous condition of having an overflowing Treasury, which it was seeking to deplete by distribution or deposits with the States, and yet unable to meet its most ordinary obligations.

The effort of the Government to withdraw its deposits and get control of its funds was felt as an additional blow aimed at the banks. Every dollar which could thus be drawn from the vaults of the banks diminished to that extent their ability to afford relief to their customers. Their loans had to be contracted, and the demand made by them upon their debtors for settlement increased the pressure already felt in the money market, and thereby added to the general panic and want of confidence, which are the usual attendants of a monetary crisis. The Government was not only embarrassed for want of its money, but in the effort to obtain it became obnoxious to the charge of adding to the general distress, which many persons thought it was its duty to relieve. To avoid a recurrence of these difficulties, the plan of separating the Government from all connection with the banks was suggested, and in 1846 was permanently adopted. The result is before the country in the occurrences of the last few weeks. The banks, as in 1837, have suspended specie payments, but the analogy ceases there, so far as the operations of the Treasury Department in its disbursements are concerned. The Government has its money in the hands of its own officers, and in the only currency known to the Constitution. It has met every liability without embarrassment. It has resorted to no expedient to meet the claims of its creditors, but with promptness pays each one upon presentation. If the contrast between the operations of 1837 and the present time stopped here it would be enough to vindicate the policy of the independent treasury system; but it does not. The most remarkable feature distinguishing the two periods has reference to the effect upon the commercial and general business interest of the country produced by the present operations of the independent treasury. It is the relief which has been afforded to the money market by the disbursements in specie of the general Government. In 1837 the demand of the Government for its funds with which to meet its obligations weakened the banks, crippled their resources and added to the general panic and pressure. In 1857 the disbursements by the Government of its funds, which it kept in its own vaults, supplied the banks with specie, strengthened their hands, and would thus have enabled them to afford relief when it was so much needed, if they had been in a condition to do it.

This item of history, and the many subsequent operations of the independent treasury system under like circumstances are commended to the careful consideration of those persons who now insist upon its repeal, and upon a return to the old bank deposit policy. It is worthy of observation, also, that the policy of affording "relief to the money market," now so much criticized in certain quarters, is by no means a new thing. It has been the uniform policy of the Government, when possible, in all commercial crises from 1846 to the present time. The difficulty which the Department has encountered during the last year in withdrawing a part of our present bank deposits, even by the careful and conservative methods adopted, and at times when there was no financial pressure, gives some conception of what those difficulties would be in making such withdrawals in times of stringency and commercial distress. The experiences of 1837, related in the above quotations, would be repeated more or less in every commercial crisis.

CIRCULATION.

The following tables exhibit the comparative amounts of the various kinds of money in actual circulation at several different periods. I have chosen the Census years 1870, 1880 and 1890 because of the convenience afforded for comparing the amount of circulation with population. The various sums stated in the tables are all exclusive of money in the Treasury. They represent, as nearly as is possible, the exact amounts of the several kinds of money in actual circulation among the people at the periods named.

TABLE NO. 1.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, SHOWING THE CHANGES IN CIRCULATION DURING TWENTY YEARS FROM OCTOBER 1, 1870, TO OCTOBER 1, 1890.

	In circulation Oct. 1, 1870.	In circulation Oct. 1, 1890.	Decrease or Increase.
	\$	\$	\$
Gold coin.....	78,985,305	386,939,723	+307,954,418
Stand'd silver dollars.....		62,132,454	+62,132,454
Subs'd silver and frac. cur.	38,988,995	56,311,846	+17,322,851
Gold certificates.....	28,511,000	158,104,739	+129,593,739
Silver certificates.....		309,321,207	+309,321,207
Treas. notes, Act July 14, '90		7,106,500	+7,106,500
United States notes.....	329,489,221	340,805,726	+11,416,505
National bank notes.....	294,337,479	177,250,514	-117,086,965
Totals.....	770,312,000	1,498,072,709	+727,760,709
Average net increase per month.....			\$3,032,336
Circulation per capita in 1870.....			19,978
Circulation per capita in 1890.....			23,969

TABLE NO. 2.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE CHANGES IN CIRCULATION DURING TEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 1, 1880, TO OCTOBER 1, 1890.

	In circulation Oct. 1, 1880.	In circulation Oct. 1, 1890.	Decrease or Increase.
Gold coin.....	\$ 261,320,020	\$ 386,939,723	+125,618,803
Standard silver dollars..	22,014,075	62,132,454	+39,218,379
Subsidiary silver.....	48,368,543	56,311,846	+7,943,303
Gold certificates.....	7,480,100	158,104,739	+150,624,639
Silver certificates.....	12,203,191	309,321,207	+297,118,016
Treas. notes act Jly. 14, '70		7,106,500	+7,106,500
United States notes.....	329,417,403	340,905,726	+11,488,323
National bank notes.....	340,329,453	177,250,514	-163,078,939
Totals.....	1,022,033,685	1,498,072,709	+476,039,024
Average net increase per month.....			\$3,966,992
Circulation per capita in 1880.....			20,377
Circulation per capita in 1890.....			23,969

[Tables Nos. 3 and 4 are omitted—ED.]

TABLE NO. 5.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE CHANGES IN CIRCULATION DURING PERIOD FROM JULY 1 TO OCTOBER 17, 1890.

	In circulation July 1, 1890.	In circulation Oct. 1, 1890.	Decrease or Increase.
Gold coin.....	\$ 371,396,381	\$ 386,939,723	+12,543,342
Standard silver dollars....	5,186,356	62,132,454	+5,946,098
Subsidiary silver.....	54,069,743	56,311,846	+2,242,103
Gold certificates.....	131,380,019	158,104,739	+26,724,720
Silver certificates.....	297,210,043	309,321,207	+12,111,164
Treas. notes, Act Jly 14, '70		7,106,500	+7,106,500
United States notes.....	334,876,826	340,905,726	+6,028,900
National bank notes.....	181,619,008	177,250,514	-4,368,494
Totals.....	1,429,718,376	1,498,072,709	+68,354,333
Net increase.....			\$72,722,827
Average net increase per month.....			22,784,778

Table No. 1 shows that during the last twenty years the net aggregate increase of money in actual circulation among the people was \$727,760,709. Average monthly increase during that period, \$3,032,336. Per capita increase, \$4,991.

Table No. 2 shows that for the last ten years the aggregate increase has been \$476,039,024. Average monthly increase for same period, \$3,966,992. Per capita increase, \$3,592. * * *

Table No. 5 shows that for the period of three months from July 1 to October 1, 1890, the aggregate increase of circulation in actual use among the people was \$68,354,339. Average monthly increase for same period of three months \$22,784,778. * * *

SILVER.

In my last annual report I presented for the consideration of Congress a plan for the utilization of the silver product of the United States.

The measure proposed was briefly this: To purchase, at the market price, the silver bullion product of our mines and smelters, and to issue in payment legal tender notes redeemable in a quantity of silver bullion equivalent in value at the date of presentation to the face of the notes, or in gold, at the option of the Government, or in silver dollars, at the option of the holder.

This measure was suggested with a view to promote the joint use of gold and silver as money, to increase the volume of paper currency by the annual addition of an amount equal to the value of our silver product, to provide a home market for the American product of silver, and, by so doing, enhance the value of that metal until a point were reached where we could with safety open our mints to the free coinage of both metals at a fixed ratio.

A bill embodying, with some modifications, the measure suggested was favorably reported in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-first Congress from the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, and was adopted by the House.

The bill was amended in the Senate by the substitution of a free coinage measure.

As the result of a conference between the two bodies, a bill was passed and approved by the President July 14, 1890, the essential provisions of which are: The monthly purchase by the Government of 4,500,000 ounces of silver at the market price, to be paid for in legal tender notes, redeemable in coin, and the repeal after July 1, 1891, of the mandatory coinage of silver dollars.

The material points of difference between the measure recommended and the one adopted by Congress are that the new silver law limits the purchases of silver to 4,500,000 ounces per month, without distinction as to domestic and foreign production, instead of taking the entire silver bullion product of the United States as proposed, and omits the bullion redemption feature.

Immediately on the passage of the law new forms of legal tender notes were designed, in denominations of one, two, five, ten, twenty, fifty, one hundred, and one thousand dollars, and were engraved and printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Owing to the fact that the purchases under the act were to commence thirty days after its passage, it was necessary that the larger denominations of notes should be engraved first, but at this time a sufficient supply of the smaller denominations of notes are being received, and it will be the policy of the Department to pay out small notes as far as practicable in the purchase of silver.

Regulations were also prepared inviting offers for the sale of silver for consideration at the Treasury Department at 1 o'clock P. M. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of each week, and the effort has been to distribute the purchases as nearly as possible throughout the month.

Under the operations of this law, the amount of silver purchased from August 13, 1890, to December 1, 1890, aggregated 16,778,185 fine ounces, costing \$18,671,076, an average of \$1,128 per fine ounce.

The price of silver advanced rapidly after the passage of the new law; indeed, the immediate effect of the law had been largely anticipated in the advance in price prior to its passage.

On the 1st of July, 1890, the price of silver was \$1 04 6. To July 14, the price had advanced to \$1 08; to August 13, \$1 13, and to September 3, \$1 21, the highest point reached.

Since that date there has been a decline, with some fluctuations, to the present time, the price falling as low as \$0 97.

Notwithstanding the fact that the advance in the price of silver following the passage of the law has not been maintained, the Secretary ventures to express the belief that the new silver act is a great improvement over the law repealed, and that its beneficial results will eventually commend it to general approval. As yet the period of time has been too brief to really test the merits of the law, and the permanent effect which it will have on the price of silver.

One thing is certain, that it has been the means of providing a healthy and much-needed addition to the circulating medium of the United States.

The amount of Treasury notes issued on purchases of silver bullion from August 13 to November 23, 1890, has been \$18,807,000.

It must be apparent to any careful observer of the movement of silver that the recent violent fluctuations in price are mainly due to speculative operations in the large surplus of from eight to ten million ounces, which has not been absorbed by Treasury purchases. This downward tendency has been materially assisted by a severe and almost constant stringency of the money market. This surplus was accumulated in the first instance by the withholding from the market, by producers and speculators, for some months prior to the passage of the new silver act, of the current product of American silver, in the hope of securing a better price. It has been maintained and augmented both by importations of foreign silver and by a falling off in the export of domestic silver, the latter occasioned doubtless by the fact that in the purchases of silver under the new silver law the Treasury Department has paid, as a rule, a price considerably in excess of the price of silver in London. The imports into the United States of foreign silver from May 1 to November 1 of the present year have exceeded the exports of domestic silver by some \$7,750,000, while for the corresponding period of last year the exports exceeded the imports by some \$7,860,000, a difference of \$15,610,000, an amount in excess of the value of the present visible stock of silver on the American market. So, too, in regard to the movement of silver from San Francisco to the Orient; not one ounce of silver bullion has been shipped since the first of May, against an average export for prior years of from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000. So that the present surplus stock of silver may at any time be augmented by imports or diminished by exports, and as the current product of silver from our mines does not differ very widely from the monthly purchases by the Government, it is probable that the existing surplus will remain for some time an impediment to the permanent and steady advance of silver. Even if the present surplus should be purchased by the Government, importations from abroad might at any time accumulate an additional stock of silver, the manipulations of which by speculators would result in wide fluctuations in price. Had the law provided for the purchase of only the product of the United States, this surplus would have been absorbed ere this, and as none would have been imported for speculative purposes no surplus would have been accumulated. The withdrawal of the entire silver product of our mines and smelters, which amounts to nearly one-half of the world's annual output of silver, would probably soon create a shortage abroad, and this in turn would cause a steady and permanent advance in price.

CANADIAN RAILWAY TRANSPORTATION.

The Secretary's attention has been frequently directed to the unsatisfactory conditions of Canadian railway traffic with the United States, and many complaints have been made that the rules and regulations of this Department, touching the bonding and sealing of cars, discriminate against our own people. It is manifestly unjust to accord Canadian railroads privileges denied to our own. It certainly was not the intent of Congress to relieve those roads from obligations imposed upon our own transportation companies. Yet the practical working of the law, under the construction insisted upon by the Canadian companies, leads to that result. If their construction be accepted, Canadian railroads, not under bonds for the purpose, may transport dutiable merchandise from seaports in Canada to places within the United States, with only nominal customs supervision, while our own railroads can not carry like merchandise from Atlantic and Pacific ports, in the United States, to points wholly within our own territory, except under heavy bond and strict customs control.

It is also urged with much earnestness and force that the combined effect of the Inter-State Commerce act and Treasury regulations, operate greatly to the disadvantage of our own transportation interests in competition with Canadian lines.

In order that these movements may be properly understood they have been classified so as to indicate the points drawn upon, as will appear below. In doing this the operations in reserve cities have been separately tabulated, as follows:

AMOUNT OF DRAFTS DRAWN BY BANKS IN THE SEVERAL RESERVE CITIES.

RESERVE CITIES.	On New York.	On Chicago.	On St. Louis.	On other Reserve Cities.	On All Other Banks.	Total.
New York	\$ 4,735,000	\$ 29,076	\$ 50	\$ 59,555,183	\$ 99,918	\$ 68,409,527
Chicago	617,399,927	189,489,974	4,560,458	67,530,559	57,224,972	966,004,990
Boston	778,099,469	2,073,370	981	34,099,520	5,514,174	817,398,579
Philadelphia	348,040,883	2,165,872	114,361	33,093,198	14,758,033	399,532,869
Kan. City	188,515,313	95,200,833	38,520,931	9,744,914	138,301	307,111,693
Cleveland	244,469,183	7,889,586	138,605	19,357,319	19,944	295,942,597
Baltimore	200,584,249	81,567	20,062	29,146,518	291,608	290,942,384
Pittsburg	165,637,906	6,990,181	85,960	45,039,947	75,488	218,418,711
Cincinnati	165,390,565	10,090,389	4,590,209	28,554,941	4,390,292	210,935,711
Omaha	101,099,165	58,174,851	8,907,991	8,822,337	1,914,479	176,178,719
St. Louis	134,058,578	10,820,901	.....	9,832,613	48,814	150,681,091
St. Paul	117,829,259	7,738,171	85,000	6,914,798	1,078,000	133,175,228
Albany	118,704,854	821	.....	1,930,584	.....	120,435,761
N. Orleans	104,232,978	1,888,522	441,299	1,865,799	3,951	108,321,909
Minneapolis	50,209,542	22,701,733	.....	3,749,598	9,556,812	86,370,685
Louisville	58,937,813	1,874,133	650,795	4,399,888	600,719	61,429,389
Milwaukee	35,677,513	21,811,948	.....	3,074,749	11,659	59,004,846
Wash'tn	37,701,643	69,911	.....	4,712,709	406,292	42,935,575
St. Joseph	21,816,909	6,463,512	.....	4,840,055	2,037,561	40,959,132
San Fran.	20,869,231	2,218,111	.....	1,432,758	895,035	24,916,035
Brooklyn	745,500	.....	.....	.....	15,000	760,500
Total reserve cities	3582,488,903	445,556,284	74,308,561	418,169,574	104,589,981	4025,069,308
Total all others	3792,493,731	689,018,274	114457251	2109857903	300,247,758	8925,804,952
Grand tot.	7284,982,634	1134574558	188765812	6297575482	404,837,739	11950694952

The magnitude of the transactions exhibited by the reports tabulated above is the feature which first attracts attention. It must be remembered that 109 national banks, with an aggregate capital of \$15,413,900, failed to report. Assuming that the amount of drafts drawn by the reporting and delinquent banks bore a like proportion to the capital employed, it would appear that \$287,334,573 must be added to the total of \$11,550,898,255, given above, in order to arrive at the entire amount of drafts drawn by all the banks in the national system during the year ended June 30, 1890. This would fix the estimated aggregate sum of all drafts drawn by all national banks at \$11,838,232,828.

But this does not include all operations of this character. Under the national bank act it is made the duty of the Comptroller to prepare for his annual report a statement exhibiting under appropriate heads the resources and liabilities and condition of the banks, banking companies and savings banks organized under the laws of the several States and Territories, such information to be obtained from other authentic sources when official information is not obtainable. In the discharge of this duty for the current year statistics have been procured which show the condition of 3,445 State banks and private banking companies, having a combined capital of \$229,579,345, all of which do a commercial banking business. There are also 149 loan and trust companies and 234 savings banks, having capital stock, all of which transact more or less business of a commercial character. In addition to these there are a large number of institutions which decline to furnish statements to this Bureau. It will be observed that savings banks having no capital are not taken into consideration, as they draw very little exchange.

Basing the computation upon the amount of capital employed by these 3,873 institutions, operating outside of the national system, and assuming that their business operations bear the same proportion to their capital as in the case of national banks, it is estimated that drafts aggregating \$6,089,291,932 were drawn by banks and banking companies other than national banking associations, exclusive of those not reporting to this office.

In our endeavor to ascertain the entire amount of drafts drawn by all the banking institutions in the United States doing a commercial banking business, it is necessary to combine the following items drawn by—

3,329 national banks (official).....	\$11,550,898,255
109 national banks (estimated).....	287,334,573
3,878 State banks, private bankers, etc. (estimated) ...	6,089,291,932
Total.....	\$17,927,524,760

This is probably below the true amount rather than above it, for the reason that the amounts drawn by institutions neglecting to report and not estimated will exceed the amounts in the official statements representing transfers between banks in the same or different cities, thus duplicating considerable sums and unduly increasing the aggregates reported.

SUBSTITUTES FOR MONEY.

In 1881 Hon John Jay Knox, then Comptroller of the Currency, called upon all national banks to report their entire receipts and payments for two days designated, so classified as to separately show the amount of gold coin, silver coin, paper money, and checks and drafts, including clearing-house certificates. The reports received in response to the call then made were compiled and tabulated, and published in his annual report for that year.

Being profoundly impressed with the importance of the great interests involved, and desiring to assist so far as possible in the ascertainment of all facts necessary to a perfect understanding of the situation, the Comptroller deemed it best to again ask the associations under his supervision to carefully note and report their receipts for two days named. As a com-

parison with the results obtained in 1881 was important, it was thought best to select corresponding days in 1890. In the former year, June 30 and September 17 were designated; in 1890, July 1 and September 17. In the call for 1890, July 1 was substituted for June 30, for the reason that the latter date this year fell on Monday, which day of the week it was thought would not exhibit an average day's business.

The necessary communications were prepared on the 16th day of June last and mailed to 3,433 national banking associations, that being the number authorized to do business at that date. A blank form was furnished upon which the entire receipts for the day designated were to be entered and properly classified.

Reports were received from 3,361 national banks out of the 3,433 addressed, exhibiting their receipts for July 1, 1890. Similar statements have come to hand from 3,474 associations out of 3,484 addressed, giving the same information as to the transactions of September 17, 1890.

On both these days a few banks neglected to take the necessary precautions, and in these cases other near dates, which would represent an average day's business, was substituted. Several of the banks not reporting were recently organized and had not opened for business on the dates for which statements were required.

The total receipts of the 3,361 banks on July 1 last were \$421,824,726. Of this sum \$3,726,605 was in gold coin, \$1,352,647 in silver coin, \$6,427,973 in gold Treasury certificates, \$6,442,638 in silver Treasury certificates, \$7,881,786 in legal tender Treasury notes, \$5,244,967 in national bank notes, \$520,000 in United States certificates of deposit for legal tender notes, \$189,408,708 in checks, drafts, certificates of deposit and bills of exchange, \$4,391,177 in clearing-house certificates, \$194,290,203 in exchanges for clearing houses, and \$2,138,022 in miscellaneous items not classified.

Of the total receipts on that day 89 per cent was in gold coin, 32 per cent in silver coin, 1.52 per cent in gold certificates, 1.58 per cent in silver certificates, 1.87 per cent in legal-tender notes, 1.25 per cent in national-bank notes, 1.12 per cent in United States certificates of deposit for legal-tender notes, 44.90 per cent in checks, drafts and bills of exchange, 1.04 per cent in clearing-house certificates and 46.56 per cent in exchanges for clearing-houses, including miscellaneous items.

It will thus appear that of the total receipts, 7.50 per cent was of coin and paper money, and the remainder, 92.50 per cent, consisted of checks, drafts, bills of exchange, &c., in which is included exchanges for the clearing-houses, clearing-house certificates and miscellaneous items.

The total receipts for the 3,474 national banks on September 17 last is stated at \$327,278,251. Of this amount \$3,702,772 was in gold coin, \$1,399,991 in silver coin, \$6,159,305 in gold Treasury certificates, \$5,908,714 in silver Treasury certificates, \$7,665,666 in legal-tender Treasury notes, \$4,371,778 in national-bank notes, \$105,000 in United States certificates of deposit for legal-tender notes, \$168,803,756 in checks, drafts and bills of exchange, \$2,428,834 in clearing-house certificates, \$128,596,873 in exchanges for clearing-houses and \$135,562 in items not classified. The relative proportions of the several items is stated thus:

Gold coin, 1.13 per cent; silver coin, 0.43 per cent; gold certificates, 1.88 per cent; silver certificates, 1.81 per cent; legal tender notes, 2.34 per cent; national bank notes, 1.34 per cent; United States certificates for legal tender notes, .03 per cent; checks, drafts and bills of exchange, 51.58 per cent; clearing-house certificates, .74 per cent, and exchanges for clearing houses, including items not classified, 38.72 per cent.

By consolidating the several items into two classes, we find that 8.96 per cent was in cash and 91.04 per cent in checks, drafts, and other substitutes for money.

The first table introduced exhibits the total receipts of all reporting banks for July 1 and September 17, 1890, so classified as to show the separate amounts received in gold coin, silver coin, the various kinds of paper money, and all substitutes for money, and also the percentages which each of these items bear to the total receipts.

CHARACTER, AMOUNT AND PERCENTAGE OF RECEIPTS OF NATIONAL BANKS ON JULY 1 AND SEPTEMBER 17, 1890.

Character of receipts.	July 1, 1890.		Septemb'r 17, 1890.	
	3,364 banks.	Per cent of total receipts.	3,474 banks.	Per cent of total receipts.
Gold coin.....	\$3,726,605	.89	\$3,702,772	1.13
Silver coin.....	1,352,647	.32	1,399,991	.43
Gold Treas'y certificates.	6,427,973	1.52	6,159,305	1.88
Silver Treasury certificates	6,442,638	1.53	5,908,714	1.81
Legal tender notes.....	7,881,786	1.87	7,065,606	2.34
National bank notes.....	5,244,967	1.25	4,371,778	1.34
United States certificate of deposit for legal tenders	520,000	.12	106,000	.03
Checks, drafts, etc.....	189,408,708	44.90	168,803,756	51.58
Clear'g house certificates	4,391,177	1.04	2,428,834	.74
Exch'ges for clear'g house	194,290,203	46.00	128,596,873	39.68
Miscellaneous receipts....	2,138,022	.50	135,564	.04
Total.....	\$421,824,726	100.00	\$327,278,251	100.00

Our attention is at once drawn to the fact that the total receipts for September 17 are \$94,546,475 less than for July 1, 1890. This is undoubtedly due to the great stringency in the money market prevailing at the latter date. Of this difference \$92,678,055 is found in the items which represent substitutes for money. In order to show the relative receipts for July 1, 1890, in the several central reserve cities, other reserve cities, and all other banks, the following table has been prepared:

CHARACTER AND AMOUNT OF RECEIPTS OF NATIONAL BANKS IN NEW YORK, CHICAGO, ETC., ON JULY 1, 1890.

Table with columns: CHARACTER OF RECEIPTS, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Other reserve cities, All banks outside of reserve cities. Rows include Gold coin, Silver coin, Gold Treasury certificates, etc.

It will be observed that more than 78 per cent of the total receipts are reported by 380 banks located in reserve cities and only 22 per cent by 3,034 banks doing business elsewhere.

CHARACTER AND AMOUNT OF RECEIPTS OF NATIONAL BANKS IN NEW YORK, CHICAGO, ETC., ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1890.

Table with columns: CHARACTER OF RECEIPTS, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Other reserve cities, All banks outside of reserve cities. Rows include Gold coin, Silver coin, Gold Treasury certificates, etc.

In order that the relative proportions of the several items to the total receipts may be shown the following has been prepared, exhibiting percentages instead of amounts for July 1, 1890:

CHARACTER AND PROPORTIONS OF TOTAL RECEIPTS OF NATIONAL BANKS IN NEW YORK, CHICAGO, & C., ON JULY 1, 1890

Table with columns: Character of receipts, New York, Chic'go, St. Louis, Other reserve cities, All banks outside of reserve cities. Rows include Gold coin, Silver coin, Gold Treasury certificates, etc.

A similar exhibition of the returns for Sept. 17 1890, follows: CHARACTER AND PROPORTIONS OF TOTAL RECEIPTS OF NATIONAL BANKS IN NEW YORK, CHICAGO, ETC., ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1890.

Table with columns: Character of receipts, New York, Chic'go, St. Louis, Other reserve cities, All banks outside of reserve cities. Rows include Gold coin, Silver coin, Gold Treasury certificates, etc.

The percentages above tabulated indicate a much larger relative circulation of coin and paper money among the depositors in country banks, as distinguished from those located in cities, except gold Treasury certificates, which seem most prominent in the reports from New York and other reserve cities.

In order to further facilitate comparison with the reports for 1881, a series of tables has been prepared, the first of which shows the amounts received by banks located in the city of

New York on each of the four dates, June 30 and September 17, 1881, July 1 and September 17, 1890, separately stating gold coin, silver coin, paper currency, and checks and drafts:

Table comparing receipts for June 30, 1881 and Sept. 17, 1881, and July 1, 1890 and Sept. 17, 1890. Rows include New York City, Gold coin, Silver coin, Paper currency, Checks, drafts, &c.

The changes indicate a marked increase in the amount of paper currency received, the extremes being represented by '65 per cent on September 17, 1881, and 4'29 per cent on September 17, 1890.

The diminished proportion of receipts in checks and drafts is very remarkable, the average per cent for the two days in 1881 being 2'91 per cent greater than for the average of the two days in 1890.

Another fact which attracts attention is that the receipts of the 47 banks on July 1, 1890, are very nearly the same in the aggregate as those reported by 48 banks on September 17, 1881.

Table comparing receipts for June 30, 1881 and Sept. 17, 1881, and July 1, 1890 and Sept. 17, 1890. Rows include All reserve cities except New York, Gold coin, Silver coin, Paper currency, Checks, drafts, &c.

Boston, Albany, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Baltimore, Washington, New Orleans, Louisville, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Omaha and San Francisco.

There has been a marked increase in the number of banks located in reserve cities, 187 having reported for June 30, 1881, and 286 for September 17, 1890.

The table next introduced covers the transactions of banks located outside of the reserve cities:

Table comparing receipts for June 30, 1881 and Sept. 17, 1881, and July 1, 1890 and Sept. 17, 1890. Rows include All banks located outside of reserve cities, Gold coin, Silver coin, Paper currency, Checks, drafts, etc.

A very great increase in the number of banks reporting is here apparent, the lowest number being 1,731 for June 30, 1881, and the highest 3,141 for September 17, 1890.

The next table exhibits the total receipts of all reporting banks on all four dates, similarly classified:

Table comparing receipts for June 30, 1881 and Sept. 17, 1881, and July 1, 1890 and Sept. 17, 1890. Rows include United States, Gold coin, Silver coin, Paper currency, Checks, drafts, etc.

It will be noticed that 110 more banks reported for September 17, 1890, than for July 1 of the same year.

The receipts of silver coin have considerably increased, the percentage in 1881 being less than one-half that for 1890.

Of the paper currency receipts on July 1, 1890, nearly one-fourth was in silver certificates, and the same is true of like receipts on September 17 of the same year.

It may be suggested that a great change has taken place during the past nine years in the manner of conducting business by both wholesale and retail dealers in merchandise.

In order to exhibit the comparative importance of the transactions taking place in four principal cities, a table is added showing the total receipts by banks located in New York City, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago, separately stated for the four days, to which is added like information in respect to the other reserve cities and all other banks.

RECEIPTS.

Table showing receipts for New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Chicago from June 30, 1881, to Sept. 17, 1890.

If we compare the receipts of September 17, 1881, with those of July 1, 1890, we will notice that they are almost exactly the same for the two dates in the city of New York.

The following table will give like information stated in percentages:

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS BY ALL BANKS.

Table showing percentages of total receipts by all banks for New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and other localities.

It will be noted that the receipts in New York City and Boston, as compared with the total receipts, is represented by a smaller percentage in 1890 than in 1881.

The Comptroller entered into correspondence with Mr. W. Talbot Agar, secretary of the Institute of Bankers in London, England, with a view of ascertaining whether any recent information could be obtained as to the relative use of cash and checks and drafts.

It will be observed that the proportional use of checks and drafts in the cities named does not greatly differ from that disclosed by reports from like cities in the United States.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL BANKS FOR SIX YEARS.

The following table exhibits the resources and liabilities of the national banks for six years, in round numbers, at nearly corresponding dates from 1885 to 1890, inclusive.

Large table showing resources and liabilities of national banks from 1885 to 1890, including categories like Loans, Bonds, Capital stock, etc.

The following table presents an abstract of the resources and liabilities of the national banks at the close of business on October 2, 1890.

Table showing resources and liabilities of national banks on Oct 2, 1890, categorized by New York City, other reserve cities, and country banks.

AGGREGATE RESOURCES, LIABILITIES AND CONDITION OF STATE BANKS, LOAN AND TRUST COMPANIES, AND SAVINGS AND PRIVATE BANKS. (FROM UNOFFICIAL SOURCES.)

Table with columns: State Banks, Loan and Trust Companies, Savings Banks, Private Banks, Total. Rows include RESOURCES (Loans on real estate, Loans on collateral security, etc.) and LIABILITIES (Capital stock, Surplus fund, etc.).

the various classes nearest thereto, the average of those per capita, and the per capita average of such resources in each class of banks, from which it appears that the population of the United States was 62,490,540, and the total banking funds, \$5,613,747,167, an average of \$90.85. The per capita averages of such resources in each class of banks are: National banks, \$9.31; State banks, \$13.05; loan and trust companies, \$7.27; savings-banks, \$27.74; and private banks, \$2.48.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF GOLD, SILVER, &c., HELD BY NATIONAL BANKS ON JULY 18, 1890, AND BY OTHER BANKING INSTITUTIONS ON OR ABOUT THE SAME DATE.

Table with columns: Classification, National banks, Other (4,515) banking institutions, Total. Rows include Gold coin, Gold Treasury cert., Gold (Clearing House) certificates, Silver dollars, etc.

AGGREGATE RESOURCES, LIABILITIES, AND CONDITION OF ALL STATE BANKS, LOAN AND TRUST COMPANIES, AND SAVINGS AND PRIVATE BANKS.

Table with columns: Official, Unofficial, Total. Rows include RESOURCES (Loans on real estate, Loans on collateral security, etc.) and LIABILITIES (Capital stock, Surplus fund, etc.).

*And coin certificates.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding this report the Comptroller desires to emphasize the fact that the national banking system has arrived at a point in its history when continued neglect on the part of Congress is as potent for evil as unfriendly action. Certain burdens resting upon it must be removed without unnecessary delay if immediate stagnation and ultimate decay are to be prevented.

The Comptroller deems it his duty, however, to express the opinion that the steady retirement of national bank notes is gradually destroying that elastic property which is necessarily one of the characteristics of a perfect circulation. Its volume should automatically expand and contract so as to adjust itself to the varying requirements of business.

NUMBER, CAPITAL STOCK, SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS, AND DEPOSITS OF ALL STATE BANKS, LOAN AND TRUST COMPANIES, AND SAVINGS (MUTUAL AND STOCK) AND PRIVATE BANKS, 1889-90.

Table with columns: Classes, No. banks, Capital, Surplus and undivided profits, Deposits. Rows include Official (State banks, Loan and trust companies, etc.) and Unofficial (State banks, Loan and trust companies, etc.).

The coin and paper money issued by the Government is distinctively non-elastic.

This arises from the fact that the legal tender quality attaches to most of the various issues, and all are available for the lawful money reserve required to be held by national banks. For these reasons every incentive to redemption and temporary retirement during those periods of temporary redundancy which periodically occur in each year is wanting.

During recent years relief has been afforded through the operations of the Treasury Department in the purchase at opportune dates of unmatured bonds with its surplus revenues. It is evident, however, that relief from this source cannot be safely relied upon in the future, for diminished revenues or increased expenditures, either of which may unexpectedly occur, would render such extraordinary disbursements impossible.

EDWARD S. LACEY, Comptroller of the Currency.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A table in the Appendix shows by States and Territories, the population of each on June 1, 1890, and the aggregate capital, surplus, undivided profits and individual deposits of national and State banks, loan and trust companies, and savings and private banks in the United States, at date of reports of

In addition to above exports, our telegrams to-night also give us the following amounts of cotton on shipboard, not cleared, at the ports named. We add similar figures for New York, which are prepared for our special use by Messrs. Carey, Yale & Lambert, 24 Beaver Street.

Table with columns: Dec. 5 at—, On Shipboard, not cleared—for (Great Britain, France, Other Foreign, Coast-wise, Total), Leaving Stock. Rows include New Orleans, Mobile, Charleston, Savannah, Galveston, Norfolk, New York, Other ports, and totals for 1890, 1889, and 1888.

The speculation in cotton for future delivery at this market opened the week under review with some show of strength, due mainly to the comparatively small crop movement; but on Monday there was a fresh and important decline. On Tuesday there was a slight improvement, especially in the spring months; and on Wednesday a stronger closing at Liverpool caused a buoyant market, a brisk demand from the "Bears" to cover contracts, and the notably small receipts at the ports on that day. On Thursday a small advance at the opening was soon lost. Fresh buying to cover contracts, however, stimulated by the small crop movement, caused renewed buoyancy. The market opened this morning at a smart advance, in response to a decidedly stronger report from Liverpool, but the advance was soon checked by the larger receipts at interior towns and the early advance was soon lost. Then a further decline took place, ascribed to the depression in tone due to the difficulty in negotiating sterling exchange. Cotton on the spot was easier to buy on Tuesday, but not quotably lower. To-day the market was quiet at 9 7-16c for middling uplands.

The total sales for forward delivery for the week are 533,300 bales. For immediate delivery the total sales foot up this week 1,871 bales, including 205 for export, 1,666 for consumption, — for speculation, and — in transit. Of the above — bales were to arrive. The following are the official quotations for each day of the past week—November 29 to December 5.

Table of cotton prices for UPLANDS, GULF, and STAINED. Columns include days of the week (Sat, Mon, Tues, Wed, Th, Fri) and various grades of cotton (Ordinary, Strict Ordinary, Good Ordinary, etc.).

MARKET AND SALES.

The total sales of cotton on the spot and for future delivery each day during the week are indicated in the following statement. For the convenience of the reader we also add a column which shows at a glance how the market closed on same days.

Table with columns: SPOT MARKET CLOSED, SALES OF SPOT AND TRANSIT (Export, Consumption, Speculation, Transit, Total), Sales of Futures. Rows include days of the week and a total row.

THE SALES AND PRICES OF FUTURES are shown by the following comprehensive table:

Large table showing Market Prices and Range and Total Sales of FUTURES. Columns include Month (Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June, July, August, September, October) and various cotton grades (Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, etc.).

* Includes sales in September, 1890, for September, 228,300; September-October, for October, 349,300.

We have included in the above table, and shall continue each week to give, the average price of futures each day for each month. It will be found under each day following the abbreviation "Aver." The average for each month for the week is also given at bottom of table.

Transferable Orders—Saturday, —c.; Monday, 9 10c.; Tuesday, 9 10c.; Wednesday, 9 15c.; Thursday, 9 20c.; Friday, —c.

The following exchanges have been made during the week: 29 pd. to exch. 100 Sept for Aug. 10 pd. to exch. 1,300 Feb. for Feb. 25 pd. to exch. 100 Sept. for July. 09 pd. to exch. 600 Feb. for April 12 pd. to exch. 100 Jan. for Feb. 60 pd. to exch. 400 Jan. for Aug. 10 pd. to exch. 1,000 Feb. for Feb. 13 pd. to exch. 500 Dec. for Jan. 10 pd. to exch. 1,000 Jan. for April 14 pd. to exch. 600 Dec. for Jan. 10 pd. to exch. 100 Feb. for April 22 pd. to exch. 200 Jan. for Feb. 13 pd. to exch. 1,000 Jan. for Feb. 10 pd. to exch. 1,500 June for Aug.

THE VISIBLE SUPPLY OF COTTON to-night, as made up by cable and telegraph, is as follows. The Continental stocks, as well as those for Great Britain and the afloat are this week's returns, and consequently all the European figures are brought down to Thursday evening. But to make the totals the complete figures for to-night (Dec. 5), we add the item of exports from the United States, including in it the exports of Friday only.

Table showing stock at Liverpool, London, Hamburg, Bremen, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Havre, Marseilles, Barcelona, Genoa, Trieste, and total continental, European, and American stocks.

Table showing total visible supply and breakdown by American and East Indian/Brazil categories.

Table showing total American stock and breakdown by Liverpool, London, Continental, India afloat, and Egypt/Brazil/Amor.

Table showing total East India and American stocks.

Table showing price mid-upland, Liverpool, and price mid-upland New York.

The imports into Continental ports this week have been 106,000 bales.

The above figures indicate an increase in the cotton in sight to-night of 150,547 bales as compared with the same date of 1889, an increase of 530,294 bales as compared with the corresponding date of 1888 and an increase of 52,621 bales as compared with 1887.

AT THE INTERIOR TOWNS the movement—that is the receipts for the week, and since September 1, the shipments for the week and the stocks to-night, and the same items for the corresponding period of 1889—is set out in detail in the following statement.

Large table titled 'TOWNS' showing movement to and from December 5, 1890, and December 6, 1889, listing towns like Augusta, Columbus, Macon, etc., with columns for Receipts, Shipments, and Stocks.

* Louisville figures "net" in both years.

† Last year's figures are for Griffin.

‡ This year's figures estimated.

The above totals show that the old interior stocks have increased during the week 35,285 bales, and are to-night 115,575 bales more than at the same period last year. The receipts at the same towns have been 31,939 bales more than the same week last year, and since Sept. 1 the receipts at all the towns are 227,657 bales more than for the same time in 1889.

QUOTATIONS FOR MIDDLING COTTON AT OTHER MARKETS.—In the table below we give the closing quotations of middling cotton at Southern and other principal cotton markets for each day of the past week:

Table titled 'CLOSING QUOTATIONS FOR MIDDLING COTTON ON—' showing prices for Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington, Norfolk, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Augusta, Memphis, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Louisville from Saturday to Friday.

The closing quotations to-day (Friday) at other important Southern markets were as follows:

Table showing closing quotations for Atlanta, Columbus, Ga., Columbus, Miss., and Eufaula.

RECEIPTS FROM THE PLANTATIONS.—The following table indicates the actual movement each week from the plantations. The figures do not include overland receipts nor Southern consumption; they are simply a statement of the weekly movement from the plantations of that part of the crop which finally reaches the market through the exports.

Table showing receipts at the ports, stock at interior towns, and receipts from plantations from October 31 to December 5.

The above statement shows: 1.—That the total receipts from the plantations since September 1, 1890, are 3,810,788 bales; in 1889 were 3,623,167 bales; in 1888 were 3,194,812 bales.

2.—That, although the receipts at the outports the past week were 241,318 bales, the actual movement from plantations was 279,181 bales, the balance going to increase the stocks at the interior towns. Last year the receipts from the plantations for the same week were 288,337 bales and for 1888 they were 277,989 bales.

AMOUNT OF COTTON IN SIGHT DEC. 28.—In the table below we give the receipts from plantations in another form, and add to them the net overland movement to Dec. 1, and also the takings by Southern spinners to the same date, so as to give substantially the amount of cotton now in sight.

Table showing receipts at the ports to Dec. 5, interior stocks on Dec. 5 in excess of September 1, net receipts from plantations, net overland to Dec. 1, and total in sight December 5.

WEATHER REPORTS BY TELEGRAPH.—Our telegraphic advices to-night indicate that the weather conditions have been very favorable during the week, and picking has made excellent progress.

Galveston, Texas.—The weather has been dry all the week. The thermometer has ranged from 50 to 74, averaging 62. During the month of November the rainfall reached two inches and thirty-five hundredths.

Palestine, Texas.—There has been no rain all the week. Average thermometer 53, highest 72 and lowest 34. During November the rainfall reached one inch and ninety-one hundredths.

Huntsville, Texas.—We have had dry weather all the week. The thermometer has averaged 51, the highest being 68 and the lowest 34. November rainfall three inches and fifty-three hundredths.

Dallas, Texas.—No rain has fallen all the week. The thermometer has averaged 54, ranging from 36 to 72. Month's rainfall two inches and fifty-seven hundredths.

San Antonio, Texas.—We have been without rain all the week. The thermometer has ranged from 36 to 74, averaging 55. Rainfall for November sixty-one hundredths of an inch.

Luling, Texas.—There has been no rain during the week. Average thermometer 52, highest 72 and lowest 32. During the month of November the rainfall reached sixty-five hundredths of an inch.

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

PARIS, steamer (Fr.), Chevalier, at Havre, from New Orleans, with her cargo on fire, was docked on Monday, Dec. 1. Hoises were cut in her deck to allow the flooding of the after hold. Twenty partly burned bales of cotton were lauded, when it was found necessary to again close the hatches.

Cotton freights the past week have been as follows:

Table with columns for destination (Liverpool, Havre, Bremen, Hamburg, Amst'd'm, Reval, Barcelona, Trieste, Antwerp) and days of the week (Sat., Mon., Tues., Wednes., Thurs., Fri.).

* Per 100 lbs.

LIVERPOOL.—By cable from Liverpool we have the following statement of the week's sales, stocks, &c., at that port.

Table showing weekly statistics for Liverpool: Sales of the week, Sales American, Actual export, Forwarded, Total stock, Total import, Amount admt., and their values for Nov. 14, 21, 29, and Dec. 5.

The tone of the Liverpool market for spots and futures each day of the week ending Dec. 5, and the daily closing prices of spot cotton, have been as follows:

Table showing daily market conditions for Liverpool: Spot (Market, Mid. Upl'ds, Sales, Spec. & exp.) and Futures (Market, 4 P. M.) for Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The opening, highest, lowest and closing prices of futures at Liverpool for each day are given below. Prices are on the basis of Uplands, Low Middling clause, unless otherwise stated.

The prices are given in pence and 64ths. Thus: 5 63 means 5 63-64th, and 6 01 means 6 1-64th.

Table showing opening, high, low, and closing prices for futures from Dec. 1 to Oct. 1, organized by month and day.

Table showing daily closing prices for futures from Dec. 3 to Dec. 5, organized by day and price range.

BREADSTUFFS.

FRIDAY, December 5, 1890.

The market for wheat flour showed early in the week considerable strength and a moderate degree of activity. But much depression followed; stocks were found to be greatly in excess of last year; the pressure of money at the West became very severe, and it is reported that considerable lines were closed out for prompt cash at material concessions. On the surface, however, the market maintained an appearance of equanimity, and current quotations are only slightly reduced. To-day the tone at the close was somewhat steadier, but trade very dull.

The speculation in wheat opened with a considerable show of strength, but values soon took a downward turn, and on Wednesday there was a heavy and general selling to realize, under which there was a further reduction in values. There was a good demand from home millers for wheat on the spot, but the export business was light, sterling exchange being lower and difficult to negotiate at any rate. The fall of snow in the Northwest was considered favorable to prospects for the next crop of fall-sown wheat. To-day the market was steadier, the movement at the West showing some reduction.

DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF NO. 2 RED WINTER WHEAT.

Table showing daily closing prices for No. 2 Red Winter Wheat from December to July, with columns for month and price.

Indian corn has shown some irregularity. The sudden closing of the Erie canal by ice prevented the arrival of supplies that were designed to complete current cargoes for export. Consequently lots that were available for prompt delivery brought more money, while the remote futures, and especially way deliveries, were cheaper. This was especially the case on Wednesday, when No. 2 mixed brought 63 1/2c afloat. To-day the scarcity on the spot continued, and the sales embraced No. 2 mixed at 64 1/2c in store and afloat and steamer yellow at 62c in elevator to arrive.

DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF NO. 2 MIXED CORN.

Table showing daily closing prices for No. 2 Mixed Corn from December to May, with columns for month and price.

Oats have sympathized with corn to a large extent, and to-day were quite buoyant, especially for mixed grades, the high prices current having but little effect upon speculation.

DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF NO. 2 MIXED OATS.

Table showing daily closing prices for No. 2 Mixed Oats from December to May, with columns for month and price.

Rye is held for a decided advance, but our figures are wholly nominal. Barley is rather firmer, especially for choice grades.

The following are closing quotations for wheat flour in barrels. (Corresponding grades in sacks sell slightly below these figures):

Table showing prices for various flour types: Fine, Superfine, Extra No. 2, Clear No. 1, Clears, Straights, Patent, City shipping, Rye flour, Corn meal, Western, Brandywine, and Buckwheat flour.

GRAIN.

Table showing prices for various grains: Wheat (Spring, Red winter, Red winter, White), Rye (Western), Oats (Mixed, White, No. 2 mixed, No. 2 white), and Buckwheat.

The movement of breadstuffs to market is indicated in the statement below, prepared by us from the figures of the New York Produce Exchange. We first give the receipts at Western lake and river ports, arranged so as to present the comparative movement for the week ending Nov. 29, 1890, and since August 1, for each of the last three years:

Table showing receipts of flour, wheat, corn, oats, and barley from August 1 to 1888, with columns for commodity, quantity, and value.

The receipts of flour and grain at the seaboard ports for the week ended Nov. 29, 1890, follow:

Table showing receipts of Flour, Wheat, Oorn, Oats, Barley, Rye, and Peas at various ports including New York, Boston, Montreal, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, and New Orleans.

Total week.. 319,090 827,190 804,680 947,870 273,352 55,747
Cor. week '89. 391,130 1,456,889 1,074,935 1,123,160 421,910 122,416

The exports from the several seaboard ports for the week ending Nov 29, 1890, are shown in the annexed statement:

Table showing Exports from various ports for Wheat, Oorn, Flour, Oats, Rye, and Peas, including a comparison for the same time in 1889.

The visible supply of grain, comprising the stocks in granary at the principal points of accumulation at lake and seaboard ports, and in transit by water, Nov. 29, 1890:

Table showing the visible supply of grain (Wheat, Oorn, Oats, Rye, Barley) in store at various ports like New York, Boston, Albany, Buffalo, Chicago, Milwaukee, Duluth, Toledo, Detroit, Oswego, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Toronto, Montreal, Philadelphia, Peoria, Indianapolis, Baltimore, Minneapolis, St. Paul, On Missisippi, On Lakes, and On canal & river.

Tot. Nov. 29, '90. 24,527,826 3,144,494 3,359,302 578,429 4,750,468
Tot. Nov. 22, '90. 24,189,819 4,328,559 3,530,236 561,901 5,095,909
Tot. Nov. 30, '89. 31,472,359 6,204,128 5,116,954 1,262,331 2,992,573
Tot. Dec. 1, '88. 38,082,738 7,058,076 7,557,018 1,851,236 2,329,903
Tot. Dec. 3, '87. 40,260,032 5,238,431 6,384,738 280,218 3,593,765

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

NEW YORK, Friday P. M., December 5, 1890.

The weather was seasonably cold the past week, and therefore favorable for the distribution of such heavy fall and winter fabrics as have been sluggish of late. Business in retail circles was quite brisk, but retailers are pretty well supplied for the present, and the jobbing trade was consequently moderate. The demand for spring and summer goods at first hands was less active, the stringency of the money market having caused wholesale buyers to pursue a somewhat cautious policy. For reasonable goods the demand by jobbers and the manufacturing trade was almost wholly for such small re-assortments as are necessary for the pursuance of current trade. A feature of the week was an auction sale of about 2,000 cases satinetts, which brought fair prices, and another important event was the failure of the Rittenhouse Manufacturing Co. of Passaic, N. J., with liabilities of nearly \$1,000,000, and nominal assets of about \$300,000.

DOMESTIC WOOLEN GOODS.—The commission houses continued to make liberal shipments of spring clothing woolsens on account of back orders, but new business in this relation was by no means active. Leading makes of light-weight wool and worsted suitings are, however, so largely sold in advance of production that values are steadily maintained by the mill agents. Heavy cassimeres were in moderate request, as were heavy worsted suitings and trouterings, but no real animation in such fabrics can be expected until the commission houses are prepared to show full lines for the fall of 1891. Overcoatings and cloakings were in light demand, as were satinetts and doekin jeans, while a slightly increased business in flannels and blankets was reported by agents and jobbers. Dress goods were in fair request and the prevailing cold weather was the incentive to freer operations in heavy shirts and drawers, wool hosiery, cardigans and fancy knit woolsens.

DOMESTIC COTTON GOODS.—The exports of cotton goods from this port for the week ending Dec. 2 were 2,310 packages, valued at \$141,847, their destination being to the points specified in the table below:

Table showing Domestic Cotton Goods exports to various countries (Great Britain, Other European, China, India, Arabia, Africa, West Indies, Mexico, Central America, South America, Other countries) for 1890 and 1889, with weekly and since Jan. 1 data.

* From New England mill points direct.

The value of the New York exports since January 1 have been \$7,389,345 in 1890, against \$7,453,646 in 1889.

The market for staple cotton goods has presented no new features calling for special mention. The demand at first hands was steady but moderate, and the jobbing trade was comparatively quiet. Brown cottons were in irregular demand, but fair-sized "round lots" were secured by converters at fractionally lower prices. Bleached goods were in fair request by the manufacturing trade, but jobbers were cautious in their purchases. Colored cottons were in light demand at unchanged quotations, and patterned cottons, as prints, gingham, &c., were lightly dealt in by package buyers. Print cloths were dull and easier, the market closing barely steady on the basis of 3 1-16c. for 64s and 2 1/2c. for 56x60s.

Table showing Stock of Print Cloths held by Providence manufacturers, Fall River manufacturers, Providence speculators, and Outside speculators (est.) for Nov. 29, Nov. 30, and Dec. 1, 1890, 1889, and 1888.

Total stock (pieces)..... 878,000 263,600 30,000

FOREIGN DRY GOODS.—The demand for foreign goods in importing circles was noticeably light during the week, and the jobbing trade was restricted in volume, though a good many small orders were received from some of the interior markets by mail and wire. Staple goods are steadily held as a rule, and stocks are by no means excessive considering the demand in sight.

Importations of Dry Goods.

The importations of dry goods at this port for the week ending Dec. 4, 1890, and since Jan. 1, and the same facts for the corresponding periods of last year are as follows:

Large table showing Importations of Dry Goods by category (Manufactures of - Wool, Cotton, Silk, Flax, Miscellaneous) and Total on market, comparing Dec. 5, 1889; Dec. 4, 1890; and Since Jan. 1, 1890.