

in the banking operations of California, and furnish the following synopsis as the result. Of the nineteen commercial banks operating in this city, the Bank of California occupies the foremost rank, both by reason of its larger operations, and its recognized standing in all business communities throughout the civilized world. Its capital and deposits amount to \$14,000,000, and its transactions are on a gigantic scale. The stockholders are all men of wealth, and its affairs have been managed with ability. Next in rank is the London and San Francisco Bank, limited. During the past year, the Anglo-Californian Bank has filled an important position, and all its contemporaries have been measurably successful. Not one of them sustained the slightest abrasion from the financial shock which demolished so many eminent Eastern banks. The united capital of our metropolitan commercial banks is about \$20,000,000, controlling an equal amount of deposits, and if we add the \$46,000,000 comprising the capital and deposits of our savings institutions, we have a working total of \$86,000,000 in this city alone. Interior savings banks hold \$10,000,000 of deposits, and by making a liberal allowance of \$5,000,000 more, for private interior banking capital, we find a grand total of \$110,000,000 of funds employed in the business of this State. The rates at which discounts have been made in the metropolis were one to one and one quarter per cent., monthly, in commercial banks, and nine to twelve per cent., per annum, on mortgage and State securities, in the savings institutions. The amount of dividends disbursed by our banks of all classes during the past year, was about \$10,000,000, of which the savings banks paid in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000.

**NATIONAL GOLD NOTE BANKS.**—These institutions are peculiar to California, and operate in accordance with Federal regulations as established by Act of Congress passed in July, 1870. Their success in this State has been very satisfactory to shareholders, and they have largely contributed to the general ease of the money market. The capital is restricted by law to one million each, and for the privilege of issuing notes, each bank doing business on a million capital, is required to deposit with the United States Sub-Treasurer the sum of one million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in Government six per cent. bonds, and to keep on hand gold enough to redeem its notes on presentation. Gold notes, received at first with hesitancy, are now eagerly sought, as they are more readily transported in large sums than gold, and are exchangeable for gold at any time, but they are not receivable in payment of Custom House duties.

The gold note banks of San Francisco are two in number, viz.: The First National Gold Note Bank of San Francisco, and the National Gold Bank and Trust Company of San Francisco. The resources of the first named, as reported by the Controller on the 27th of February, 1874, amounted to \$3,511,508, and those of the National Gold Bank and Trust Company were \$4,758,825. Whenever visited by the Controller these banks are summoned to give an exact account of their condition some two or three weeks anterior to the date of summons. They are flourishing institutions, and have thoroughly acquired public confidence.

**Meteorological Observations made at San Francisco from November, 1850, to April, 1874.**

BY HENRY GIBBONS, M.D.

In the following tables the reader will find, in a condensed form, the results of twenty-three years' diligent observation of the climate of San Francisco, with more particular reference to rain. A single glance at the rain tables will present the quantity of rain which has fallen in each month since 1850; the quantity in each season; the quantity before and after the end of the year; the date of the beginning and ending of each rainy season, and the date of the first and last scattering rains. The following are some of the deductions presented by this record:

Rain has fallen in every month of the year. In July it has rained only in one year; August has furnished rain in four years; June in six years; September in seven years; October in eleven years. No account is made of a mere sprinkle, nor of the deposit of summer mist. The greatest quantity of mist which ever falls in twenty-four hours is about three hundredths of an inch. But this quantity is very rare. Near the ocean the mist is much more copious.

The driest season was 1850-51, which gave only seven inches. Next to that was 1863-64, with eight and one half inches. The winter of 1867-68 gave the most rain—forty inches. The average is between twenty-one and twenty-two inches.

The earliest setting in of the rainy season was November 1; the latest, January 12. An