

766. The average rate of discount on local bills was lower in 1890 than in either of the former periods, as shown by the following figures:—

RATES OF DISCOUNT ON LOCAL BILLS, 1878, 1885, 1890.

YEAR.	Average rate of discount.
1878.....	7½ per cent.
1885.....	7 “
1890.....	6½ “

The above figures are for the city of Montreal, in which place as well as in Toronto and other commercial centres, discount rates are, as a rule, from one to two per cent. lower than they are in country towns, and, moreover, in cities, rates are more frequently graded according to the standing of customers. As far as has been learned, the custom does not prevail in Canada to the same extent as in many other countries, of regulating the rate according to the date of the bill, and though sometimes an additional one per cent. may be charged on bills over 6 months, as often as not, no distinction is made.

767. The rates of sterling exchange fluctuates, as is well known, very considerably, and it is difficult to lay down any figures as representing an exactly correct average, but the following may be taken as fairly accurate for the years named:—

AVERAGE RATES OF STERLING EXCHANGE.

YEAR.	60 days.	YEAR.	Demand.
1878.....	8½	1878.....	9½
1885.....	9	1885.....	9½
1890.....	8½	1890.....	9½