FOUR YEARS' GROWTH IN CANADIAN BANKING OPERATIONS. 1908-12

(Compiled by The Chronicle).

	Dec. 31, 1908.	Dec 31, 1909.	Increase, 1908-9.	Dec. 31, 1910.	Increase, 1909-10.	Dec. 30, 1911.	Increase, 1910-11.	Dec. 31, 1912.	Increase, 1911-12.	Increase, 1908-12.
Paid-up capital	$ 96,457,573	$ 97,808,617	$ 1,351,044	$ 99,676,093	$ 1,867,476	$ 107,994,604	$ 8,318,511	$ 114,881,914	$ 6,887,310	$ 18,424,341
Rest	74,427,630	77,847,333	3,419,703	83,965,869	6,118,536	96,868,124	12,902,255	106,840,007	9,971,883	32,412,377
Circulation	73,058,234	81,325,732	8,267,498	87,694,840	6,369,108	102,037,305	14,342,465	110,048,357	8,011,052	36,990,123
Demand deposits	210,180,147	261,268,387	51,088,240	280,910,695	19,642,308	335,020,693	54,109,998	379,777,219	44,756,526	169,597,072
Notice deposits	429,719,218	499,082,024	69,362,806	544,220,710	45,138,686	591,068,932	46,848,222	632,641,340	41,572,408	202,922,122
Foreign deposits	66,903,834	75,088,499	8,184,665	70,574,871	*4,513,628	80,606,935	10,032,064	87,050,132	6,443,197	20,146,298
Total deposits other than Government	706,803,199	835,438,910	128,635,711	895,706,276	60,267,366	1,006,696,560	110,990,284	1,099,468,691	92,772,131	392,665,492
Securities held	74,317,795	85,796,855	11,479,060	97,302,682	11,505,827	94,905,903	*2,396,779	102,140,511	7,234,608	27,822,716
Call loans, Canada	43,827,771	63,554,222	19,726,451	63,983,912	429,690	72,640,526	8,656,614	70,655,661	*1,984,865	26,827,890
Foreign call loans	97,136,400	138,505,379	41,368,979	90,710,437	*47,794,942	92,106,695	1,396,258	105,962,101	13,845,406	8,815,701
Total call loans	140,964,171	202,059,601	61,095,430	154,694,349	*47,365,252	164,747,221	10,052,872	176,607,762	11,860,541	35,643,591
Current loans, Canada	511,808,969	592,741,812	80,932,903	677,064,829	84,323,017	774,909,172	97,844,345	881,331,981	106,422,809	369,523,072
Foreign Current loans	30,351,721	40,072,793	9,721,072	40,400,839	328,046	37,970,839	*2,430,000	40,990,126	3,019,287	10,638,405
Total current loans	542,160,630	632,814,605	90,653,975	717,465,668	84,651,063	812,380,011	95,414,313	922,322,107	109,442,096	380,161,477
Aggregate loans to public	683,124,801	834,874,206	151,749,405	879,159,017	37,284,811	977,627,232	105,468,215	1,098,929,869	121,302,637	415,805,068
Assets	1,001,352,290	1,157,783,629	156,431,339	1,229,790,859	72,007,230	1,390,069,518	160,278,659	1,526,081,158	136,011,640	524,728,868

*Decrease.

an advance of over $20,000,000 in foreign deposits. The banks have considerably increased during the period their ratio of rest to paid-up capital, which is largely accounted for by the many issues of new capital, to which reference is made below, at high premiums. At December 31, 1908, the proportion of rest to the paid-up capital of the banks was just above 77 p.c.; by December 31 last, it had been raised to 93 per cent. Circulation has made tremendous strides from $73,000,000 (1908) to $110,000,000 (1912), the greatest advance being in 1911. Besides this advance, there was last year the issue of $5 Government bills, which account for an additional $9,000,000 of circulation at December 31 last.

It would seem to be necessary that the banks should continue the policy of freely increasing their capitals. In 1909 and 1910 the increases of capital were mere driblets, and it is only in 1911 and 1912 that the banks have adopted a freer policy in this respect. The aggregate increase in paid-up capital for the four years is $18,424,000. The conservatism of the banks in regard to the increase of their paid-up capitals can be readily understood. In the interests of their dividend standards it is necessary that caution should be used in this matter. A reduction by a Canadian bank of its dividend rate has not taken place for so long that were an announcement of this kind to be now made, it would be likely to arouse grave suspicions. But the adoption of a policy whereby bonuses are paid in good years, as is now being done by several of the banks, would seem to render this difficulty less formidable. So conservative a banker as Mr. Laird, the general manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, at the recent annual meeting, emphasised the necessity for additional capital to meet the increasing demands for bank note currency, and this would seem to be in fact a logical method of meeting the demands upon the banks, which promise to continue exceedingly heavy. With this and a renewed free flow of capital from abroad, the banks' resources should continue to show very large increases.

Announcement is made of the retirement on pension of Mr. Robert Inglis, for the past twelve years manager of the Toronto branch of the Bank of British North America, after a service in the bank of over thirty-six years. Before taking charge at Toronto, Mr. Inglis had been manager for some years at London, Ontario, and before that at Fredericton, N.B. Mr. Inglis' health has not been good of late.

He will be succeeded as manager of the Toronto branch by Mr. G. F. Laing, son of the late Mr. J. B. Laing, provincial auditor of Ontario. Mr. Laing entered the service of the bank at Toronto in 1889, and subsequently served at London, Ottawa, Kaslo, Vancouver, Victoria, Brandon and Winnipeg. In 1903 he was appointed manager at Yorkton, and since 1907 has been manager at Calgary. Mr. Laing will take up his new duties in Toronto about March 1.