borrowing there is raised to prohibitive figures. Sound and strong corporations belonging to other countries would not think of going to Paris for money unless there was no prospect of getting it elsewhere. Thus the best borrowers and the stronger governments go to London; and the weaker borrowers go to Paris submitting to the almost intolerable exactions because they have to. So in this way Paris has accumulated a vast amount of bad or weak loans; and it will be interesting to see how the French bankers comes through the crisis.

NEW YORK POSITION.

In New York money has been dull and not much changed. Call loans are 1⅞ to 2 p.c.; sixty day loans are 2½ to 2¾ p.c.; ninety days, 2¾ p.c. The Saturday bank statement in case of banks and trust companies combined showed a decrease of $3,009,000 in surplus reserve; after which reduction the total stood at $22,337,950. Loans increased $3,713,000 and cash holdings fell $4,800,000. In case of the banks alone the surplus showed an increase of $2,261,750, as a result of loan contraction of $3,398,000 combined with cash gain of $1,640,000. Apparently the trust companies were taking a particularly active part in financing the April dividends and coupons.

RAILWAY PROBLEMS.

The Wall Street market has been giving a large share of its attention in the past few days to the freight rate controversy and to the movements of the railways. It has been supposed that business in general was on the up grade; but the other day the Panhandle, a subsidiary of the Pennsylvania, reduced its dividend, and then the Pennsylvania itself announced the discharge of 25,000 men who had been in its employ. New York Central just recently took similar action and reduced its force of employees very substantially. The railways declare that they are forced to economize, and anyone who has kept track of the taxes and exactions of one kind and another to which they have been subjected in recent years must recognize the reasonableness of their contention. Following these moves the Interstate Commerce Commission is said to be expediting the hearings on the freight rate question; and Wall Street now expects that a decision will be reached very shortly.

A NEW WESTERN BANK.

The news comes from Edmonton that the new Bank of Alberta, which has just been incorporated at Ottawa, will "erect a fine six-storey building in the down-town banking section of the city to house the head offices of the company......The new building will be of granite, with marble finishings, and will be of the most modern construction for banking and office purposes. The cost will be in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million dollars."

If the facts are as stated, then we can only say that in our opinion the promoters of this new bank will be very ill-advised in locking up a considerable proportion of their bank's capital in this permanent form. There is no reason on earth why a new bank started in a small way should own a swagger six-storey building. If the promoters want to go into the real estate business, it isn't necessary to form a bank to do so.

The forthcoming annual statement of National Brick will show, it is said, net profits of approximately $119,000 for the year ended February 28 last, compared with $255,196 for 1912, a decrease of $136,000. This is not likely to occasion much surprise in view of the marked contraction in building operations last year. The company is in a good liquid position and prospects for the coming year are said to be better.

ABSTRACT OF THE BANK STATEMENT FOR FEBRUARY, 1914

(Compiled by The Chronicle).

	February 28, 1914.	January 31, 1914.	February 28, 1913.	Month's Change.	Year's Change.
LIABILITIES.					
Circulation	$ 97,563,982	$ 96,611,909	$ 97,206,713	+$ 952,073	+$ 357,269
Demand deposits	337,516,595	339,811,339	349,661,830	— 2,294,744	— 12,145,235
Notice deposits	640,927,130	635,135,955	630,467,518	+ 5,791,175	+ 10,459,612
Foreign deposits	119,556,649	95,342,345	91,868,886	+ 24,214,304	+ 27,687,763
Total liabilities	1,289,216,072	1,255,440,559	1,252,269,981	+ 33,775,513	+ 36,946,091
ASSETS.					
Specie	$ 44,227,312	$ 44,775,490	$ 37,592,441	—$ 548,178	+$ 6,634,871
Dominion Notes	100,775,031	102,307,841	91,488,344	— 1,532,810	+ 9,286,687
Deposit in Central Gold Reserve	3,000,000	3,500,000	......	— 500,000	......
Securities held	103,739,598	104,255,643	101,612,558	— 516,045	+ 2,127,040
Canadian call loans	71,374,602	71,248,242	71,286,799	+ 126,360	+ 87,903
Foreign call loans	141,143,442	108,776,770	95,229,407	+ 32,366,672	+ 45,914,035
Canadian current loans	*842,084,073	*840,883,750	*882,112,726	+ 1,200,323	— 40,028,653
Foreign current loans	56,052,837	56,051,465	37,673,798	+ 1,372	+ 18,379,039
Loans to municipalities, etc	30,372,854	29,301,620	......	+ 1,071,234	......
Total assets	1,535,980,490	1,499,392,966	1,491,553,448	+ 36,587,524	+ 44,427,042

*Inclusive of loans to municipalities, etc.