—	Chartered Banks.	Govt. Savings Banks.	Total.
30th June, 1892	$ 160,942,778	$ 39,529,547	$ 200,472,325
30th June, 1893	170,817,433	41,849,658	212,667,091
30th June, 1894	174,930,936	43,036,012	217,966,948
30th June, 1895	180,664,121	44,450,498	225,114,619
30th June, 1896	183,769,992	46,799,318	230,569,310
30th June, 1897	201,141,688	48,934,975	250,076,663
31st December, 1897	222,002,147	49,466,656	271,468,803

That is to say, that in the six months from June last to December the deposits have increased by over $21,000,000.

To carry on the increased business of the country there has been a very heavy demand for Dominion notes and bank notes, which the elasticity of our banking system has been fully able to meet. I append the figures relating to note circulation for six years past:

—	Government.	Banks.	Total.
31st October, 1892	$38,688,129	$18,647,063	$57,335,492
31st October, 1893	36,906,941	19,844,248	56,751,189
31st October, 1894	34,516,651	22,212,884	56,729,535
31st October, 1895	34,671,028	22,893,259	57,564,287
31st October, 1896	35,955,150	21,607,553	57,562,703
31st October, 1897	41,580,928	24,751,932	66,332,860

Mr. FOSTER. May I ask my hon. friend if he took the same date in each case for the Government bank figures?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes, the figures in both cases are for the 31st of October, 1892, and continuing at the same date each year.

The October circulation, which is, as a rule, the highest of the year, on account of the moving of the crops, ran about 56 or 57 millions of dollars for the year 1896 and the four preceding years. The business of October, 1897, required over 66 millions, or an increase of close to nine millions over 1896.

The volume of the general business of the country was such as to very markedly increase the aggregate bank clearings of the five principal cities—Montreal, Toronto, Halifax, Winnipeg and Hamilton. The total clearings for the three years, 1895, 1896 and 1897, according to the "Monetary Times," were:

1895	$1 039,967,000
1896	1,025,960,000
1897	1,151,906,000

or an increase of $126,000,000 in the clearings of 1897 over 1896. For the four weekly periods—ending Thursday—in January, 1898, the total clearings were $108,509,673, against $89,901,000 for the similar periods of January, 1897, or an increase of over $18,000,000. For February last, the total clearings for the five cities mentioned were $108,385,302, as compared with $74,612,552 for February, 1897, an increase of $33,772,750.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC.

The railways, too, have experienced the benefits of this upward movement in trade,