

comfortable, has resulted in decidedly stiffening the quotations for money in Wall Street. Call loans there rule at $5\frac{1}{4}$ to 8 p.c. with most of the business at $5\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Time loans are firm: sixty days, 5 p.c.; ninety days, 5 p.c.; and six months, $4\frac{3}{4}$ to 5 p.c.

The Saturday statement showed the surplus reserves of the New York clearing house institutions to have been again wiped out. As reported by banks and trust companies, the loan account decreased \$16,116,000; the cash holdings decreased \$21,070,000; and the surplus reserve decreased \$13,334,500—changing the preceding week's surplus of \$12,338,500 to a deficit of \$995,950. The banks taken by themselves reported a loan contraction of \$8,779,000 and a cash loss of \$21,500,000—the net result being to decrease the surplus by \$13,374,000.

The basic feature of the statement was the loss of cash; and that was largely caused by the gold movement to Canada. Since the northerly movement ceased quite an extensive movement to San Francisco has set in and promises to affect the bank statement for the current week. The San Francisco movement is said to be due to the placing of Panama Exposition bonds in the New York market.

THE NEW CURRENCY BILL.

During the last week the Secretary of the Treasury at Washington has thought it advisable to issue a statement reassuring the banks as regards the new currency bill. In all parts of the country the banks have been curtailing their advances in the belief that the new measure will lessen their lending power or their control over cash reserves. It is not likely that the Secretary's pronouncement will have much effect on their policy.

MUNICIPAL BOND ISSUES IN QUEBEC.

We understand that representations have been made to the Quebec Government by a number of municipal authorities and the Canadian Bankers' Association advocating an amendment of the Cities and Towns Act, so that the municipalities of the Province may issue bonds bearing a higher rate of interest than the 5 per cent. to which they are now restricted by law. In other provinces the municipalities are allowed to issue bonds bearing up to 6 per cent. interest, and it is contended that the present law acts unfairly upon the Quebec municipalities, since they are at a disadvantage in the competition for capital.

Notice of an amendment of the Cities and Towns Act covering this point has been given this week in the Legislature by Mr. Cousineau, the member for Jacques Cartier. Mr. Perron has also given notice of a bill which would legalise sales of bonds which have taken place at a figure yielding an interest of more than 5 per cent. There is, it appears, some question as to whether under present legislation it is legal even for the municipalities to sell, say, 5 per cent. bonds at less than par. Many of them have, of course, done so during recent months, and the present action is taken absolutely to legalise their action. Several minor alterations in the law are also proposed by Mr. Perron.

THE TRUST AND LOAN COMPANY OF CANADA.

A particularly satisfactory half-yearly statement is issued by the Trust and Loan Company of Canada. In view of the stringency in the money market and the slowness of collections it would scarcely have been matter for surprise had overdue payments shown up somewhat prominently. But, in fact, while the Company's mortgages in Canada aggregate \$17,308,107, and the interest account for six months was \$686,125, the interest overdue at September 30, was only \$31,025. This is an excellent exhibit, and strong testimony regarding the admirably conservative way in which this well-known Company's affairs are administered throughout Canada. The net profits for the six months amounted to \$360,915, comparing with \$284,919 in the corresponding six months of 1912. The usual allocations have been made to the reserve funds, bringing the statutory reserve up to \$1,760,130 and the special reserve to \$525,000, and after writing down the cost of issue of debenture stock by \$61,000 and making other customary allowances an interim dividend of 9 per cent. per annum for the six months is paid, free of income tax, as against an interim dividend a year ago of 8 per cent. The figures are sufficient to indicate that the shareholders of the Trust and Loan Company may rest assured that their interests are not likely to suffer during the present halt in Canada's progress. With an increased dividend, and reserve funds (a large portion of which are invested in the highest grade of securities) aggregating about 75 per cent. of the paid-up capital, they are in a particularly favored position.

NOVEMBER BANK CLEARINGS HEAVY.

Although Canadian bank clearings for the month of November reflect a decrease of approximately 2 per cent. from those of October, when payments were of large proportions, the total now reported, \$846,846,136, is the fourth heaviest ever returned for the Dominion. Bradstreet's say:—As a general rule, bank clearings in Canada always expand in November, and while the sum just given manifests a contrariwise tendency, the ratio of loss is certainly very light, especially when it is considered that trade has been held in check by the generally warm weather, and by the practice of conservatism bred of a disposition to enjoy a respite and to await better collections. However, the main point is that payments for November have been exceeded by those of but three prior months, viz., by October of this year and by October and November of last year. In weighing these data one must also realize that bank clearings in November, 1912, touched peak point, and yet the total for last month indicates a descent of only 3.4 per cent.

This table gives the Canadian figures month by month:—

(Three figures omitted.)

	1913.	1912.	1911.
January..	\$789,824	\$674,184	\$529,526
February..	662,766	606,371	468,084
March..	662,635	642,429	522,477
April..	742,985	706,894	546,623
May..	783,081	805,739	631,974
June..	729,533	756,781	594,200
July..	744,790	796,582	615,922
August..	678,249	737,872	583,248
September..	725,335	697,982	551,056
October..	863,664	866,191	669,822
November..	846,846	876,183	771,772
December..		836,237	698,655