

THE APRIL BANK STATEMENT.

The forthcoming balance sheets and annual meetings of several of the largest of the banks is likely to divert attention from the Government statement of the condition of the chartered banks at the close of April. Yet said statement is well-worthy of study, and is in keeping with the decidedly favorable commercial outlook. There is some reduction in the circulation from the March total of same, but the amount is still 1 1-2 million in excess of the figures of last year. The increase in deposits is sufficiently remarkable to warrant the special table inserted in this issue, and it would seem that the savings of the people accounts in great measure for the ceaseless activity of the bankers in seeking fresh fields in search of profitable employment for the money entrusted to them.

Specie and Dominion notes show a decrease during April, but are above the figures of April, 1898. The amount due from the United States has increased since

March 31st, nearly 1 1-4 million, while the amount due from the United Kingdom decreased during the month \$2,200,000. However, the amount is still nearly two millions in excess of the figures of April, 1898. Railway securities held by the banks were reduced during the month under review by \$600,000, and are nearly 2 1-4 millions less than at the close of the corresponding month of last year. Loans on stocks and bonds on call continue very active, the total thereof being \$9,600,000 more than at the close of April, 1898. Current loans continue to expand with the growing trade of the country. The increase for the month amounted to nearly five millions, and for the year actually exceeds twenty-three and a half millions.

Overdue debts show a slight increase for the month, but are \$573,000 less than at the close of April, 1898. The total assets of the banks increased during April by 3 3-4 millions, and the total liabilities by \$2,867,000.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT FOR APRIL OF THE RETURNS OF THE CHARTERED BANKS OF CANADA.*Comparison of the Principal Items.*

<i>Assets.</i>	30th April, 1899.	31st March, 1899.	30th April, 1898.	Increase and Decrease for month.	Increase and Decrease for year.
Specie and Dominion Notes.....	\$ 25,174,362	\$25,229,774	\$24,175,815	Dec. \$ 55,412	Inc. \$ 998,547
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks.....	8,231,246	8,920,496	7,541,492	Dec. 689,250	Inc. 689,754
Due from American Banks and Agencies.....	22,560,792	21,383,335	19,527,216	Inc. 1,177,457	Inc. 3,033,576
Due from British Banks and Branches.....	9,398,598	11,607,741	7,437,767	Dec. 2,209,143	Inc. 1,960,831
Canadian Municipal Securities and Brit., Prov. or } Foreign or Colonial other than Dominion..... }	16,601,094	16,551,338	16,061,942	Inc. 49,756	Inc. 539,152
Railway Securities.....	14,880,656	15,480,790	17,081,000	Dec. 600,134	Dec. 2,200,384
Loans on Stocks and Bonds on Call.....	28,641,774	28,156,434	19,034,498	Inc. 485,340	Inc. 9,607,276
Current Loans to the Public.....	245,498,939	240,568,615	222,113,392	Inc. 4,930,324	Inc. 23,383,547
Overdue Debts.....	2,546,512	2,463,546	3,119,918	Inc. 82,966	Dec. 573,406
Total Assets.....	398,440,210	394,709,946	358,531,275	Inc. 3,730,264	Inc. 39,908,935
<i>Liabilities.</i>					
Bank Notes in Circulation.....	37,369,887	38,409,227	35,843,651	Dec. 1,039,340	Inc. 1,526,236
Due to Dominion Government.....	2,957,212	2,907,100	4,114,708	Inc. 50,112	Dec. 1,157,496
Due to Provincial Governments.....	2,209,685	2,565,343	2,175,684	Dec. 265,658	Inc. 124,001
Deposits payable on demand.....	88,537,362	86,915,386	78,196,100	Inc. 1,621,976	Inc. 10,341,262
Deposits payable after notice.....	163,093,210	161,382,629	139,097,150	Inc. 1,710,581	Inc. 23,096,660
Do made by Banks.....	3,004,729	3,354,354	2,485,234	Dec. 349,625	Inc. 519,495
Due to American Banks and Agencies.....	678,797	688,523	626,569	Dec. 9,726	Inc. 52,228
Due to British Banks and Branches.....	6,320,454	5,169,337	4,504,210	Inc. 1,151,117	Inc. 1,816,244
Total Liabilities.....	304,931,109	302,663,861	268,619,023	Inc. 2,867,248	Inc. 36,312,086
<i>Capital.</i>					
Capital Stock paid-up.....	63,426,015	63,352,312	62,209,130	Inc. 73,703	Inc. 1,126,885
Reserve Fund.....	28,249,103	28,051,254	27,685,666	Inc. 197,849	Inc. 563,437
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>					
Directors' Liabilities.....	7,111,644	7,190,627	8,060,214	Dec. 78,983	Dec. 948,570
Greatest amount of notes in circulation at any time } during the month.....	39,442,891	38,911,600	37,515,074	Inc. 531,291	Inc. 1,927,817

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation, amount required being 5 per cent. on maximum circulation for year ending 30th June, 1898, \$1,995,523

LOSSES BY FIRE IN THE UNITED STATES.

(For a Period of Twenty-Four Years.)

One of the most interesting books issued on the subject of fire insurance is that published by "The Chronicle" Company, of New York, under the title of "Chronicle Fire Tables." Its critical analysis of the whole field of fire insurance and losses cannot but be useful as a subject of study for underwriters.

We append the following extracts and tables from the abridged edition which we have before us: The figures for 1890 show marked increases in the property and insurance losses, in the number of fires, and the number of risks burned. Any attempt to reach the reason or reasons for the increase of over fourteen millions in property loss, and over seven millions in insurance loss, of over nineteen thousand in risks burned or of over fourteen thousand in number of