

THE MARCH BANK STATEMENT.

The March statements rendered to the Finance Department by the chartered banks indicate a buoyancy in business most unusual at this season of the year. The occasions have been rare indeed when two such important items of the statement as Bank Notes in Circulation and Current Loans to the Public show such an increase in the month of March. The former increased during the month \$2,115,687, and now amounts to \$43,814,918, being nearly 5 1-2 millions in excess of the total amount in circulation at the same date of last year. During the month under review, current loans were increased by \$7,164,463, being now \$279,000,000, as against \$240,000,000 in March, 1899.

Of course, under most of the headings, the usual decrease is observable, but the figures quoted above point to a remarkable increase in the volume of business, and fully maintain our contention of last week that the clearing house returns from the principal cities of the Dominion betokened great expansion in the trade of the Dominion.

During the month, the holdings of Specie and Dominion notes decreased by \$1,371,185; Notes and Cheques of other Banks by \$285,000; Amounts due

from American Banks and Agencies by \$1,575,000; and Amounts due from British Banks and Branches by \$2,056,000. A slight increase is observable in Canadian and Municipal Securities held, and also in Railway Securities. Overdue Debts were slightly increased during the month. Total Assets show an increase during March of \$1,311,400.

A reduction is shown in the deposits for the month of nearly 2 1-2 millions; but the increase for the year is nearly 16 1-2 millions. During March, additions to Capital and Reserve were made by the following banks:—

BANK.	Capital Authorized.	Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid up.	Reserve Fund.
Bank of Nova Scotia.....	.....	\$17,800	\$15,200	\$18,000
Merchants Bank of Halifax.....	\$1,000,000	.....	420	.....
Union Bank of Halifax.....	.....	150,400	99,100	49,350
Exchange B. of Yarmouth.....	.....	.....	217	.....
Halifax Banking Company.....	\$500,000	.....	.....	.....
Traders Bank of Canada.....	.....	78,600	79,580	.....
Bank of Hamilton.....	.....	4,900	100,060	66,039
Imperial Bank of Canada.....	.....	.....	16,000	10,394
Bank of Ottawa.....	.....	.....	28,200	21,150
Molson's Bank.....	.....	1,300	17,480	.....
Banque d'Hochelega.....	.....	.....	6,700	.....
Banque de St. Hyacinthe.....	.....	.....	6,460	.....
Total.....	\$1,500,000	\$253,000	\$369,417	\$164,933

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

	31st Mar. 1900.	28 Feb. 1900.	31st Mar. 1900.	Increase and Decrease for month.	Increase and Decrease for year.
Assets.					
Specie and Dominion Notes.....	\$26,095,532	\$27,466,717	\$25,229,774	Dec. \$ 1,371,185	Inc. \$ 865,758
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks.....	8,678,073	8,963,163	8,920,496	Dec. 285,090	Dec. 242,423
Due from American Banks and Agencies.....	16,540,872	18,116,868	21,383,335	Dec. 1,575,936	Dec. 4,842,463
Due from British Banks and Branches.....	7,436,772	9,495,472	11,607,741	Dec. 2,056,700	Dec. 4,168,969
Canadian Municipal Securities and Brit., Prov. or } Foreign or Colonial other than Dominion..... }	17,009,746	16,782,730	16,551,338	Inc. 227,016	Inc. 458,408
Railway Securities.....	14,507,428	14,747,544	15,450,799	Dec. 240,116	Dec. 973,362
Loans on Stocks and Bonds on Call.....	28,966,114	30,020,819	28,156,434	Dec. 1,054,705	Inc. 809,689
Current Loans to the Public.....	279,023,194	271,858,731	240,568,615	Inc. 7,164,463	Inc. 38,454,579
Overdue Debts.....	1,928,177	1,879,505	2,463,546	Inc. 48,67	Dec. 535,369
Total Assets.....	423,912,107	422,630,292	394,709,946	Inc. 1,311,815	Inc. 29,232,161
Liabilities.					
Bank Notes in Circulation.....	43,814,918	41,699,231	38,409,227	Inc. 2,115,687	Inc. 5,405,691
Due to Dominion Government.....	2,952,924	2,668,717	2,907,100	Inc. 374,207	Inc. 75,824
Due to Provincial Governments.....	3,151,046	3,436,111	2,565,343	Dec. 284, 65	Inc. 586,303
Deposits payable on demand.....	91,852,305	92,509,743	86,915,386	Dec. 657,438	Inc. 4,936,919
Deposits payable after notice.....	172,936,941	174,696,918	161,382,629	Dec. 1,759,977	Inc. 11,554,312
Do made by Banks.....	2,371,085	2,534,691	3,354,354	Dec. 163,606	Dec. 983,269
Due to American Banks and Agencies.....	1,248,503	1,051,258	688,523	Dec. 193, 45	Inc. 559,980
Due to British Banks and Branches.....	4,423,988	4,809,017	5,169,137	Dec. 385,029	Dec. 745,349
Total Liabilities.....	323,883,696	324,621,450	302,063,861	Dec. 737,754	Inc. 21,819,835
Capital.					
Capital Stock paid-up.....	64,245,727	63,876,310	63,352,312	Inc. 369,417	Inc. 893,415
Reserve Fund.....	30,416,762	30,261,307	28,051,254	Inc. 155,455	Inc. 2,365,508
Miscellaneous.					
Directors' Liabilities.....	9,777,107	7,989,443	7,190,627	Inc. 1,787,664	Inc. 2,586,480
Greatest amount of notes in circulation at any time } during the month..... }	44,280,053	42,395,187	38,911,600	Inc. 1,884,866	Inc. 5,368,453

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation, amount required being 5 per cent. of maximum circulation for year ending 30th June, 1899 \$2,056,308.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION FIRE WASTE.—The property loss by fire in the United States last year amounted to \$150,000,000. This is the largest year's total since the burning of Chicago.—Am. Ex.

FIRE OFFICES DIVIDENDS.—In round numbers,

\$10,000,000 in dividends was paid by fire insurance companies in the United States last year. This is an average of 9 per cent. on divisible surplus. The surplus, however, decreased \$7,100,000 during the year, leaving a net dividend of less than 3 per cent. on capital and surplus.—The Coast "Review."