

in October were less than last year by 12.9 per cent. in this city, and 8.7 per cent. in the whole country, the clearings for November were 15.2 per cent. greater than last year in this city and 10.7 per cent. greater in the whole country, and in the first week of December the clearings for the country were 19.7 per cent. greater than last year. The movement of currency from this city to the West and South by the Treasury has amounted to \$20,000,000, or about twice what it was last year, and the country banks are drawing heavily on their balances in this city, and the rate on call loans has already reached very unusual figures. The Act of March 14 has spent its force; further increase under it is not occurring; the addition to the circulation made under its provisions has, however, relieved the pressure very much, there is a little more conservatism abroad than there was last year, and with the promised assistance of the Treasury, and the certainty that gold could be brought from Europe before the situation here became threatening, the country will get through the season of crop-moving without actual suffering. But the conditions that produce this stringency are perfectly familiar, and as regular as the seasons, and the currency system ought to be adapted to them.

As compared with last year there has been a large increase of the currency, but that had absolutely nothing to do with the recurrence of the autumn, and it has nothing to do with the banking law as it was or as it is, but to the change. The addition to the circulation occurred in the spring and summer, when an increase of currency was not needed; very little has occurred during the fall, when there is an annual demand for currency. In ten weeks preceding December 1 the circulation of New York banks increased just over a million dollars, a little over 3 per cent. The aggregate volume of currency increased \$7,389,323, or but little over 2 per cent. The law of March 14 increased the volume of the currency, but imparted no elasticity to it; it makes only the very slightest response to the autumnal demand for more money, and the currency issued under the new law will remain out during the winter after the special need has subsided.

The bank currency of Canada was 24.6 per cent. greater on October 31 than the average for the first four months of the year. In the last four months of 1899 the increase over the first four months of the year was 26.5 per cent. Between these increases there are decreases when the demand for money is least. In the winter of 1898 the withdrawal of circulation amounted to 10 per cent. of the circulation of the previous autumn. In the winter of 1899 the contraction was 9 per cent., and in the winter of 1900 it was 10.2 per cent. It will be observed that the expansion in the fall is much greater than the

contraction in the winter; in other words, the volume of the currency is expanding with the growth of the Dominion. With us the increase is small and irregular, apart from changes of legislation, and for many years there was a decrease, and in the last few years the increase has frequently occurred at the wrong season.

In a growing country the bank currency should grow under stationary legislation. In a country largely agricultural the circulation should be largest in the fall and smallest in the winter. In a prosperous country the bank circulation should be a substantial percentage of the bank capital. Even with the law of last March the bank currency, other than that in process of retirement, is less than 50 per cent. of the bank capital. In Canada the bank circulation was 70 per cent. of the paid-up capital on July 31 and 80 per cent. of it on October 31.

#### MEMORIAL TO THE COLONISTS.

The journal of the Royal Canadian Institute for December says of the suggestions to the Council that, when the war in South Africa is ended, the Institute should raise a fund by public subscription for the purpose of erecting, in a prominent position in London, a suitable memorial to commemorate the loyal services of those officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of all ranks in the Colonial Forces who have fallen in the present war serving their Queen in defence of the Empire:

The suggestion (which is supported by the offer of a handsome contribution from one correspondent) has the sympathy of the Council, who think when the proper time comes, the Royal Colonial Institute might appropriately take an active part in promoting such a movement. Meantime, the Fellows individually are invited to express their views on the proposal which shall receive the careful consideration of the Council.

Amongst the suggestions already received, the following may be mentioned:

1. That a permanent memorial should be erected in London, with typical groups of statuary, and the names of those who have fallen inscribed on the base. As regards locality, the neighbourhood of the Albert Memorial, the Thames Embankment, or Westminster Abbey is advocated; while one correspondent recommends that four bronze groups should be placed on the unoccupied granite pedestals of either end of London Bridge; and another is of opinion that at least £25,000 should be acquired before anything is decided on.

2. That a statue of H.M. the Queen with groups of statuary at each corner, should be placed in the capital of each colony, the names of those who have fallen being inscribed on the base.

3. That instead of spending money on masonry or statuary, it would be preferable to supplement any State pension or other pension for wounded officers or men, or to assist the nearest of kin to those who have fallen and may be in need of such assistance.