

THE SEPTEMBER BANK STATEMENT.

The bank statement for September has had features ever since these returns were compiled which were stamped upon it by the harvest. An increase in circulation of three to four millions may be looked for between midsummer and the fall, with an increase in discounts. This year the circulation at close of July stood at the low figure of \$29,575,380, the September amount was \$32,652,176, an increase of \$3,076,796. The amount of note issues and discount, in same period for past five years, were as follows compared with present year:

	July 31st.	Sept. 30th.	Increase or Decrease
Circulation 1896.	\$29,575,380	\$32,652,176	Inc. \$3,076,796
Discounts "	208,759,940	220,959,682	" 1,199,742
Circulation 1895.	29,738,115	32,774,442	" 3,036,327
Discounts "	20,949,210	197,526,285	Dec. 3,170,925
Circulation 1894.	29,901,772	33,355,156	Inc. 3,553,384
Discounts "	202,720,760	199,773,925	Dec. 2,946,835
Circulation 1893.	33,573,498	35,128,926	Inc. 1,555,428
Discounts "	206,937,558	104,654,480	Dec. 2,283,078
Circulation 1892.	32,488,718	34,927,615	Inc. 2,438,897
Discounts "	189,513,321	288,167,135	Dec. 1,346,186
Circulation 1891.	30,579,968	34,083,051	Inc. 3,503,083
Discounts "	184,500,971	185,902,494	" 1,335,523

It will be noticed that during the years from 1891 to 1896 the circulation expanded every year between July and September, the discounts in 1895, 1894, 1893 and 1892 declined in that period. The diverse movement of circulation and discounts at this period of those years shows how independent of the general conditions

of trade are the special conditions created by the harvest. Trade may be seriously depressed, as it was from 1893 to 1895, and as it still is to some extent, but the crops had to be gathered, handled and moved to market, work which required the assistance of the banks. But for this the decline in the amount of current loans in the years of depression would have been larger, though the farming community is now far less dependent upon banking aid in moving crops, than was the case some years ago, when the bank returns show a very close correspondence between the expansion of circulation between the last summer month and the fall months, and the expansion of discounts. If the agricultural community in the States and their representatives would devote themselves to an effort to establish such economic banking conditions as exist in Canada, they would be engaged in an agitation having promise of success and success would bring relief from most burdensome charges. It is not free silver the farmers need, but free credit. They are not the bond slaves of the East, or of England, as demagogues tell them, but they are in bondage to the local note shavers, who are also general store keepers. The Bank of England has again advanced its rate, the figure now being 4 per cent., which should be high enough to effect the desired check on specie withdrawals, and impose other desirable restraints. What free silver would bring was anticipated in New York, when on a mere rumor that Mr. Bryan was likely to win, money went up to 100 per cent. per annum!

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE CHARTERED BANKS OF CANADA.

The Items of Official Return, 30th Sept., 1896.

Assets.	30th Sept., 1896.	31st Aug., 1896.	30th Sept., 1895.	Increase and Decrease for month.	Increase and Decrease for year.
Specie and Dominion Notes.....	\$ 23,254,499	\$23,739,004	\$ 23,535,410	Dec. \$ 719,089	Dec. \$280,920
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks.....	6,073,648	7,280,493	7,818,912	Dec. 306,845	Dec. 844,364
Due from American Banks and Agencies.....	16,945,600	15,200,453	26,090,316	Inc. 736,147	Dec. 10,644,716
Due from British Banks and Branches.....	9,881,792	10,747,400	6,373,183	Dec. 865,608	Inc. 3,508,609
Canadian Municipal Securities and Brit., Prov. or Foreign or Colonial, other than Dominion.....	9,447,721	9,576,270	9,490,491	Dec. 138,549	Dec. 42,770
Railway Securities.....	11,716,748	11,638,832	10,009,591	Inc. 77,916	Inc. 1,707,157
Loans on Stocks and Bonds on Call.....	13,577,151	13,218,553	17,096,695	Inc. 358,598	Dec. 3,519,544
Current Loans to the Public.....	209,959,682	207,451,954	197,729,334	Inc. 2,548,728	Inc. 12,230,348
Overdue Debts.....	3,756,230	3,001,004	4,538,140	Inc. 95,172	Dec. 781,904
Total Assets.....	324,264,175	322,735,463	321,881,711	Inc. 1,528,712	Inc. 2,382,464
Liabilities.					
Bank Notes in Circulation.....	32,652,176	31,509,154	32,774,442	Inc. 1,143,022	Dec. 122,266
Due to Dominion Government.....	3,633,541	4,049,390	5,600,429	Dec. 415,855	Dec. 1,966,888
Due to Provincial Governments.....	3,870,419	4,417,332	3,911,353	Dec. 559,013	Dec. 36,934
Deposits payable on demand.....	65,827,150	65,264,335	67,774,818	Inc. 562,815	Dec. 1,947,668
Deposits payable after notice.....	123,436,266	123,151,850	116,634,486	Inc. 284,596	Inc. 6,801,730
Do made by Banks.....	2,858,277	3,234,144	2,818,077	Dec. 375,867	Inc. 40,200
Due to American Banks and Agencies.....	257,759	209,157	171,801	Inc. 57,602	Inc. 85,898
Due to British Banks and Branches.....	1,939,567	2,166,101	3,808,060	Dec. 226,504	Dec. 1,928,463
Total Liabilities.....	234,810,603	234,391,104	234,074,548	Inc. 418,459	Inc. 736,055
Capital.					
Capital Stock paid-up.....	61,725,299	62,220,759	61,780,328	Dec. 495,490	Dec. 55,059
Reserve Fund.....	26,373,799	20,548,799	27,158,799	Inc. 25,000	Dec. 785,000
Miscellaneous.					
Directors' Liabilities.....	7,210,154	7,100,713	7,041,317	Inc. 103,441	Dec. 731,163
Greatest amount of notes in circulation of any one bank during the month.....	33,278,021	31,000,414	33,155,175	Inc. 1,122,607	Inc. 114,846

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation, amount required being 5 per cent. on average maximum circulation for each ending 30th June, 1896, \$1,847,081. The disturbance in capital is owing to the reduction of the capital stock of the Ontario bank from \$1,000,000 to \$1,000,000.