

THE JANUARY BANK STATEMENT.

The statement of chartered banks for January has some gratifying points in so far as showing the changes in the general aspect of business progress. We look for a decline in December from that of the former two months, and are not disappointed; it comes as do all other natural changes. Again, we expect an extensive drop in the January statement; in that also we are seldom disappointed, and this year is no exception. The month of January at best can only be considered as one of preparation to do business after the holiday trade, and a time for getting ready for the retail spring trade which opens later. With navigation closed, and travel generally at a stand still, owing to the severity of the weather, the whole business machinery is retarded if not dormant. Our abstract of the chief items becomes interesting at this juncture, in so far as it shows how nearly all the principal changes correspond with those of January, 1895 from those of December, 1894, with the difference that, what are unlike are favorable to the first month of 1896. The decrease in specie and Dominion notes in hand was \$2,375,967, last year it was \$817,580, comparing the year gives a reduction of \$2,219,049. Notes of and cheques on other banks naturally settle into quiet in such a season, as may be seen by a reduction of \$2,712,720. Amounts due from American banks and agencies increased over $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions. A year ago a reduction of over $1\frac{1}{4}$ millions was shown. A decrease of over $3\frac{3}{4}$ millions is notice-

able in amounts due from British banks and branches. A year ago it did not reach half those figures, but December showed that account unusually large. Loans on stocks and bonds on call shrunk \$1,180,009 in January, while last year an increase of over a quarter of a million was recorded. Current loans increased nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions, last year a shrinkage took place of nearly $2\frac{1}{4}$ millions. Overdue debts decreased \$127,762, a year ago the decrease was \$19,404. Bank notes in circulation were reduced in January \$3,136,114, while in January, 1895, the reduction was \$3,458,344. The greatest amount of bank notes in circulation at any time during January was \$32,307,557; and in January, 1895, \$32,146,473, leaving a margin in favor of 1896. Deposits by the public show a reduction of over $3\frac{1}{4}$ millions. The reduction in deposits payable on demand was \$4,958,669 which was offset to a certain extent by an increase in deposits payable after notice—permanent deposits—of \$1,585,202, which leaves room to infer that the demand deposits were placed to meet an emergency, and withdrawn when the time came; while, in the other case, the accumulation was steadily going on. As stated at the outset, the statements of January, 1896 and 1895, bear great resemblance as to their general features; but this year the changes that occurred in January are indicative of some revival in trade being in progress, which, though slow, have been now manifest in a succession of months, so that the prospect of the improvement developing is, we trust, not a temporary gleam but a brightening up that will be exceedingly welcome

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE CHARTERED BANKS IN CANADA.

Comparison of the Principal Items.

Assets.	31st Jan., 1896.	31st Dec. 1895.	31st Jan., 1895.	Increase and Decrease for month.	Increase and Decrease for year.
Specie and Dominion Notes.....	\$ 1,826,412	\$24,202,379	\$ 24,045,461	Dec. \$ 2,375,967	Dec. \$2,219,049
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks.....	6,402,345	9,115,065	6,935,631	Dec. 2,712,720	Dec. 533,286
Due from American Banks and Agencies.....	19,533,123	17,897,593	23,939,166	Inc. 1,635,530	Dec. 4,416,043
Due from British Banks and Branches.....	4,299,260	8,175,874	3,452,532	Dec. 3,876,614	Inc. 846,728
Canadian Municipal Securities and Brit., Prov. or Foreign or Colonial, other than Dominion.....	9,748,340	9,743,259	9,629,580	Inc. 5,081	Inc. 118,760
Railway Securities.....	11,072,559	10,893,702	8,608,427	Inc. 178,857	Inc. 2,464,132
Loans on Stocks and Bonds on Call.....	15,909,798	17,089,307	18,086,905	Dec. 1,180,009	Dec. 2,177,607
Current Loans to the Public.....	204,479,884	202,088,259	193,754,865	Inc. 2,391,625	Inc. 10,725,019
Overdue Debts.....	4,284,475	4,412,237	3,406,348	Dec. 127,762	Inc. 878,127
Total Assets.....	315,676,505	322,184,801	310,742,757	Dec. 6,508,496	Inc. 4,933,548
Liabilities.					
Bank Notes in Circulation.....	29,429,065	32,565,179	28,917,276	Dec. 3,136,114	Inc. 511,789
Due to Dominion Government.....	3,142,574	4,894,352	4,927,247	Dec. 1,751,778	Dec. 1,784,673
Due to Provincial Governments.....	3,605,176	2,299,932	3,575,681	Inc. 1,305,244	Inc. 29,495
Deposits on demand.....	62,493,728	67,452,397	66,601,119	Dec. 4,958,669	Dec. 4,107,591
Deposits payable after notice.....	121,252,378	119,667,176	114,269,862	Inc. 1,585,202	Inc. 6,982,516
Due payable on demand or after notice between Bks to American Banks and Agencies.....	2,732,915	2,959,409	3,384,740	Dec. 226,194	Dec. 651,825
Due to British Banks and Branches.....	171,654	219,541	153,708	Dec. 47,887	Inc. 17,946
Total Liabilities.....	4,645,748	4,326,912	3,627,031	Inc. 318,836	Inc. 1,018,717
Total Liabilities.....	228,314,138	235,238,020	225,945,606	Dec. 6,923,882	Inc. 2,368,532
Capital.					
Capital Stock paid-up.....	62,196,496	62,196,391	61,685,329	Inc. 105	Inc. 511,167
Reserve Fund.....	27,715,799	27,655,799	27,545,341	Inc. 30,000	Inc. 170,458
Miscellaneous.					
Directors' Liabilities.....	7,983,597	8,271,874	7,734,021	Dec. 291,277	Inc. 249,576
Greatest amount of notes in circulation at any time during the month.....	32,307,557	35,014,003	32,146,473	Dec. 2,706,446	Inc. 161,084

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note Circulation being 5 per cent. on average Maximum Circulation for year ending 30th June, 1895—\$1,814,624.