

**THE FEBRUARY BANK STATEMENT.**

February is usually a dull month for the development of banking figures. But in comparison with the corresponding month of former years, February of 1898 shows the amounts under the several headings of the table published herewith to be highly satisfactory and fairly indicative of activity in several branches of business.

In seeking for causes, we must naturally ascribe the continued high figures of the note circulation to improvement in trade, the fitting out of numerous expeditions to the new gold fields and in part perhaps to the reduction in railroad rates having added to the travel even at this uninviting season of the year. To whatever cause we may attribute the condition of affairs, the change is sufficiently remarkable to deserve attention, and for purposes of comparison we also submit the totals of other items in the Bank statements of the past three years. Since the 31st January the note circulation has increased \$812,201, and is actually nearly five and half millions in excess of the figures for the close of February, 1897.

1895 bank notes in circulation decreased month of February, \$101,842; 1896, an increase of \$390,471 took place in February over January. 1897, an increase of \$201,040 in February over January, and 1898, the increase is \$812,201. Deposits payable on demand and after notice decreased in February, 1895, \$1,231,868; in 1896, \$1,880,037; in 1897, \$1,418,708 and in 1898

the decrease is \$161,002. Not only is the decrease lessened, but the amount of deposits held by the banks under these two headings increased in volume during the time before mentioned from \$179,639,113 in 1895 to \$219,738,947 in 1898, an increase of \$40,099,834. This also forms the basis of the increase in total liabilities. Specie and Dominion Notes are this year much as they were in 1895, but were higher in 1897, not being to any great extent influenced by the trade of the country. A gradual decline in amounts due from American Banks and Agencies since 1895 is noticeable. February, 1895, to February, 1896, decrease \$4,845,966; amount due from British Banks and Branches increased that year \$1,604,042; February, 1896, to Feb., 1897, \$2,054,725. Amount from British Banks and Branches increased \$4,435,927. Again an increase is shown in these items, 1898 over 1897 increased \$4,185,413, and \$3,697,072 respectively. The banks continue to show an inclination, for want we dare say of more profitable occupation for their funds, to invest largely in permanent stocks, railway and other securities. Call loans also have increased. Under these headings, the increases have been large since 1895. Canadian, municipal and other securities in February, 1895, \$9,681,513 in 1898, \$15,396,399, an increase of \$5,714,886. Railway securities, 1895, \$8,795,965; 1898, \$17,423,300, increase \$8,627,335. Call Loans, 1895, \$18,054,628; 1898, \$21,497,983; increase \$3,443,355. Current Loans, 1895, \$195,622,126; 1898,

**STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE RETURNS OF THE CHARTERED BANKS OF CANADA.**

*Comparison of the Principal Items.*

<i>Assets.</i>	28th Feb., 1898.	31st Jan., 1898.	28th Feb., 1897.	Increase and Decrease for month.	Increase and Decrease for year.
Specie and Dominion Notes .....	\$23,492,422	\$24,920,510	\$24,014,877	Dec. \$1,428,088	Dec. \$522,455
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks .....	9,775,768	9,168,922	5,473,393	Inc. 606,846	Inc. 4,302,375
Due from American Banks and Agencies .....	20,793,570	23,015,439	16,668,157	Dec. 2,221,869	Inc. 4,185,413
Due from British Banks and Branches .....	12,843,921	15,101,061	9,146,849	Dec. 2,257,140	Inc. 3,697,072
Canadian Municipal Securities and Brit., Prov. or } Foreign or Colonial other than Dominion .....	15,396,399	14,217,477	11,016,349	Inc. 1,178,922	Inc. 4,380,050
Railway Securities .....	17,423,300	16,359,804	12,027,213	Inc. 1,063,496	Inc. 5,396,087
Loans on Stocks and Bonds on Call .....	21,497,983	20,001,729	13,764,862	Inc. 1,499,254	Inc. 7,733,121
Current Loans to the Public .....	211,659,749	207,532,321	208,732,374	Inc. 4,127,428	Inc. 7,927,375
Overdue Debts. ....	3,232,918	3,230,417	3,697,930	Inc. 2,501	Dec. 465,012
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>357,575,974</b>	<b>355,897,624</b>	<b>323,303,595</b>	Inc. 1,678,350	Inc. 34,272,379
<i>Liabilities.</i>					
Bank Notes in Circulation .....	35,823,923	35,011,722	30,409,197	Inc. 812,201	Inc. 5,414,726
Due to Dominion Government .....	3,976,950	4,281,676	2,873,197	Dec. 304,726	Inc. 1,103,753
Due to Provincial Governments .....	2,842,180	3,156,122	3,207,888	Dec. 313,942	Dec. 395,708
Deposits payable on demand .....	78,939,572	79,195,911	65,005,602	Dec. 256,339	Inc. 13,843,970
Deposits payable after notice .....	140,799,375	140,704,038	126,937,852	Inc. 95,337	Inc. 13,861,523
Do made by Banks .....	2,821,895	3,300,764	2,587,137	Dec. 478,869	Inc. 234,758
Due to American Banks and Agencies .....	509,585	376,143	355,138	Inc. 133,442	Inc. 154,447
Due to British Banks and Branches .....	2,067,557	1,958,837	2,489,107	Inc. 1,068,720	Dec. 421,550
<b>Total Liabilities .....</b>	<b>268,697,468</b>	<b>267,833,734</b>	<b>234,588,105</b>	Inc. 863,734	Inc. 34,109,363
<i>Capital.</i>					
Capital Stock paid-up .....	62,294,922	62,292,614	61,831,391	Inc. 2,308	Inc. 463,531
Reserve Fund .....	27,580,999	27,580,999	26,728,799	.....	Inc. 852,200
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>					
Directors' Liabilities .....	7,581,920	7,712,397	7,912,382	Dec. 130,477	Dec. 330,462
Greatest amount of notes in circulation at any time } during the month .....	36,099,032	37,575,524	30,974,636	Dec. 1,476,492	Inc. 5,124,396

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation, amount required being 5 per cent. on maximum circulation for year ending 30th June, 1897, \$1,883,067.