provision for dangerous contingencies seems to have some occult influence in preventing their arising.

The circulation in October rose from $63,741,270 to $70,480,611, an increase of $6,739,341, as compared with the increase in October, 1902, of $5,843,372. The increase in the legal extent of the bank circulation since October last year was, $6,919,680, but, probably, the lateness of the season this year delayed the period at which the note issues reached their maximum. We shall not know whether this was the case until the November statement appears a few days before Christmas.

As compared with previous years the enlargement of circulation this year is shown by the following figures that give the increase since May and in the month of the return:

Year.	Circulation 31st Oct.	Circulation 31st May.	Increase since May.	Increase in October.
	$	$	$	$
1903	70,480,611	56,949,119	13,531,492	6,739,341
1902	65,928,973	50,754,716	15,174,257	5,843,372
1901	57,954,779	46,148,234	11,806,545	1,927,372
1900	53,198,777	42,856,762	10,342,015	2,811,707
1899	49,588,236	37,012,914	12,575,322	2,906,208
1898	42,543,446	36,261,760	6,281,636	2,472,303
1897	41,580,928	31,820,445	9,760,483	2,964,717
1896	35,955,150	29,395,445	6,559,706	....
Increase since 1896	34,525,461	....	....	....

In the last seven years the circulation of the chartered banks of Canada has nearly doubled, the ratio of increase having been over 96 per cent., while the paid-up capital in the same period has only been enlarged to extent of 13 per cent. As a contributor to profits, therefore, the circulation has risen into greater importance in the past seven years.

During October the call and short loans in Canada were reduced to extent of $921,736, and those outside Canada by $5,952,514, making total decrease in these more temporary loans $6,874,250 during the month. The movement to reduce call loans has been very active in the past year, the Canadian ones having been cut down from $51,247,417 to $40,728,320, and outside ones from $47,510,829 to $30,585,526, the aggregate of the reductions being $27,444,400. Such a restriction, accompanied by high rates, has had no little influence in depressing prices and restricting business in the stock market. The judgment of the more experienced and conservative financiers is that the banks are keeping up their rates and restrictive policy past the time when such methods are required in their own, or the general interests of business. There might be a large, perfectly legitimate, and safe amount of business done, were the banks to recognize the conditions now prevailing which no longer demand the severe treatment adopted when dangers were threatening.

The increase in the current loans and discounts in Canada last month was unusually large. As compared with some preceding years October, 1903, stands as follows:

Year.	Current loans and discounts 31st Oct.	Current loans and discounts 30th Sept.	Increase or decrease in year.
	$	$	$
1903	380,823,162	373,633,072	Inc. 66,522,575
1902	314,300,587	303,518,223	Inc. 24,830,748
1901	289,469,839	286,195 554	Inc. 13,253,675
1900	276,216,164	277,020,391	Inc. 16,367,213
*1899	259,848,951	254,433,667	Inc. 34,020,536
*1898	224,928.415	222,361,523	Inc. 16 442,775
*1897	208,485,640	206,779,863	Dec. 5,674,231
*1896	214,159,871	209,959,682	Inc. 12,406,855
Increase in discounts since 1896	$166,663,291	$163,673,390	....

* In these years the loans outside Canada were not stated separately from those in Canada.

If, however, the current loans outside Canada are added to above figures, which were included in the returns of those in Canada a few years ago, we find that the increase in the current loans and discounts of the banks since 1896 has been $190,602,928; an enlargement of nearly 90 per cent. It will be gratifying to those who object to our banks having so large an amount of money loaned outside Canada to learn that since October, 1902, these "outside" funds have been reduced to extent of $28,342,370.

The deposits last month increased $2,227,172, and during the year $32,220,067. A few years ago these would have been remarkable figures, but in these days of expansion a few millions seem to be unworthy of particular notice. It is, however, a ready answer to pessimists to say, Canadians put 27½ millions of dollars on deposit last year, added 5 millions to their credit balances, and their business so enlarged as to utilize 66½ millions more in discounts than in previous year.

LIFE INSURANCE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION—MEETING AT TORONTO.

The annual meeting of above association was held at Toronto on 19th inst., in the rooms of the Insurance Institute. The membership comprises the representatives of life companies whose aggregate insurance in force amounts to over 300 millions. The members in attendance were:

David Dexter, president Federal Life; J. K. Macdonald, managing director Confederation Life; David Burke, general manager Royal-Victoria; F. Sanderson, actuary Canada Life; T. Bradshaw, actuary Imperial Life; B. Hal Brown, manager for Canada, Londo & Lancashire Life; J. F. Junkin, managing director Manufacturers' Life; D. McGoun, manager for Canada, Standard Life; George Wegenast, manager Mutual Life of Canada; T. H. Hilliard, managing director Dominion Life; F. H. Matson, managing director National Life; F. G. Cox, managing director Imperial Life; J. G. Richter, manager London Life; G. B. Wood, manager Continental Life; E. Marshall, secretary Excelsior Life; R. Junkin, ~~assistant manager Manufacturers' Life~~; J. Milne, managing director Northern Life.