

NEW YORK POSITION.

Call loans at New York ranged from 2 to 2½ p.c. with most of the business at the lower level. Offerings in the time money market were not plentiful. For sixty day loans, 3 to 3½ p.c. is quoted; ninety days, 4 to 4½ p.c.; and six months, 6 per cent. The clearing house institutions at New York reported in their week-end statement a tremendous drop in surplus reserves. In case of all members, the cash holdings decreased \$17,630,000 while the loans remained practically stationary—the actual decrease being \$127,000. The surplus fell \$15,316,000 and stands at \$10,956,000. And in case of the banks alone the showing was nearly as bad. Loans increased \$9,800,000; cash decreased \$16,300,000; and surplus fell \$14,463,000. This showing of course reflects the financing of the dividend and interest payments due 1st July. The return flow of the funds into the metropolitan banks should affect the next statement favorably. While pessimism reigns in Wall Street and business interests are terrorized by Washington politicians, there is not much prospect of a great increase in the demand for funds for expansion purposes. But on the other hand the New York banks will be required to commence shipping currency to the interior in a month or so, and they will require to rebuild their surplus of reserves before then.

PITTSBURG BANK CLOSED.

On Monday the New York market received a severe shock with the announcement of the closing of one of the large Pittsburg banks—the First-Second National Bank, with total assets exceeding \$38,000,000. There are only two banks in Pittsburg larger than the suspended institution. The failed bank is a consolidated institution—the consolidation occurring only a few months ago. The Treasury officials say that the bank has been in bad condition for a considerable time and that much of the capital has been wiped out. In banking circles it has been known as a weak spot. The directors on the other hand, seem disposed to take the action of the Treasury Department in closing the bank as a result of the change of administration at Washington. But directors of failed banks are often disposed to blame other parties for their troubles.

We have come to the conclusion that a large portion of the securities which the underwriters have had to take up have now been distributed, and that most of the balance will probably be distributed in July, when the sums released by the payment of dividends will be large. In considering the present situation of the security market we have to take into account the fact that the rates of interest offered by borrowers are more attractive than they have been for a great many years, and that investors have every inducement to invest their money freely, especially as most of the new securities are of a safe character. —London *Statist*.

CHANGES IN THE BANK ACT.

Mr. D. R. Wilkie, president of the Canadian Bankers' Association, has addressed a circular letter to the general managers of the banks, setting forth the changes made by the new Bank Act which came into force on July 1. The following is a synopsis of the principal changes made in the Act, as enumerated by Mr. Wilkie:—

GENERAL.

Section 2 (2). Where public notice is required under the Act, unless otherwise provided, advertisement must be made in one or more newspapers published at the place where the chief office of the Bank is situated, and also in the *Canada Gazette*.

Notices of calls may be given to shareholders by mailing a registered notice to their last known address as disclosed by the Bank's books at least thirty days before the call is payable.

INTERNAL REGULATIONS.

Section 18 (2). A copy of all by-laws of the Bank made by the shareholders in force on 1st July, 1913, must be sent to each shareholder before 31st December, 1913, and within six months after the end of each fifth year thereafter, a copy of the then current by-laws must be similarly sent.

Section 20. The qualification shares of directors are limited to those of which they are absolute and sole owners in their individual right.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Section 21 (3). In addition to the public notice of the annual general meeting required to be given by advertisement for at least four weeks previously in a newspaper published where the chief office is situated, as heretofore prescribed, copy of the notice must be mailed to each shareholder at least twenty days before the meeting.

PROXIES.

Section 32 (8). Proxies to vote at shareholders' meetings will not be valid unless made or renewed in writing within one year preceding the meeting.

CAPITAL STOCK.

Section 34 (2). The time within which original unsubscribed or new stock allotted to shareholders is to be accepted may now be fixed by directors at any time not less than ninety days from date of allotment. Any number of calls may be made at one time, but payments may not be required in greater amounts or at shorter intervals than ten per cent. every thirty days.

Section 35 (a). Machinery is provided for re-division of the capital stock of any bank, divided into shares of fifty (\$50) dollars each into shares of one hundred (\$100) dollars each.

Sections 36 and 37. Where stock is offered to the public for subscription, the name, address and description of each subscriber, and the number of shares subscribed for, must appear in the stock books, and there must be printed in small pica type, or type of larger size, on each page of the stock book and on every document constituting or authorizing a subscription, a copy of section 125 of the Act, being the section providing for double liability of shareholders.

TRANSFER OF SHARES.

Section 43. Provisions are made entitling banks