

the agents, together with the officials of the company, to join them at luncheon at the King Edward Hotel. This was an exceedingly pleasant function, the president, vice-president and general manager taking the opportunity to express to the agents of the company their appreciation of the agents' valuable work. The president (Hon. George A. Cox), referred in optimistic terms to the company's future, remarking that under the able general management of Mr. W. B. Meikle, the company has made most substantial progress during the last few years, and he looked forward with the greatest confidence to the future.

Altogether, the gathering was a most cordial one, the agents being greatly encouraged by the words of the management and pleased at the same time, that their efforts on behalf of the company are appreciated by the Board of Directors.

#### THE BANKS AT THE CLOSE OF 1911.

One of the interesting things revealed by the newly-published bank return for December is its evidence regarding the continued pressure for currency. The circulation of the banks at the close of the year was \$102,037,305, an increase of just over \$94,000 over the end of November circulation. This is the first time, certainly since 1901, and possibly for a longer period, that the end of December has not shown a falling-off in comparison with November, this falling-off in a number of cases amounting to several millions. As a matter of fact, while the maximum circulation of the banks last month was \$1,700,000 below the high maximum of November, no fewer than eighteen of the banks found it necessary to use

excess circulation during December, and at the end of the month, eight of the banks still had excess circulation out. The list is as follows:—

	Paid Up Capital.	Circulation.	Excess.
Provinciale.. . . .	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,109,468	\$109,468
Commerce.. . . .	11,773,395	12,018,704	245,309
Royal.. . . .	6,251,080	6,338,076	86,996
Standard.. . . .	2,000,000	2,332,727	332,727
Ottawa.. . . .	3,500,000	3,854,445	354,445
Traders.. . . .	4,354,500	4,373,675	19,175
Home.. . . .	1,276,727	1,294,045	17,318
Sterling.. . . .	973,664	981,485	7,821

Last year five banks had excess currency outstanding at the end of December. In the case of more than one of the banks mentioned above, the absorption of the excess currency by the end of the current month, will be facilitated by the payments upon new capital issues, thereby expanding the limit of the ordinary circulation.

The movement of the other leading items in the banks' returns also indicates a continuance of business in satisfactory volume. Current loans in Canada continue their upward march, being at December 30, \$774,909,172, an advance of \$4,550,000 upon the total for November 30, and almost \$98,000,000 above the total of December 31, 1910. Only \$600,000 was added to the home call loans, but a \$4,600,000 addition to foreign call loans bringing these up to above \$92,000,000, makes the banks total call and short loans, \$104,747,221 or \$10,000,000 higher than a year ago. The aggregate of loans to the public is increased to \$977,627,000, over \$105,000,000 higher than a year ago. Home deposits are somewhat lower than in November, but a considerable increase in the banks' foreign deposits makes the deposit aggregate slightly higher than in the

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF RELATION OF BANKS' RESERVES TO IMMEDIATE LIABILITIES  
(Compiled by The Chronicle.)

	December, 1911	November, 1911	December, 1910	December, 1909
<b>LIABILITIES.</b>				
Dominion Government deposits.....	\$ 8,081,605	\$ 9,705,647	\$ 5,970,160	\$ 8,204,717
Provincial Government deposits.....	25,003,062	25,657,904	24,714,358	24,592,223
Deposits of the Public "demand".....	335,020,693	341,712,265	290,910,695	261,268,387
Deposits of the Public "notice".....	591,068,932	588,942,142	544,220,710	499,082,024
Deposits elsewhere than in Canada.....	80,606,935	73,264,439	70,574,871	75,088,499
<b>Total deposits.....</b>	<b>1,039,781,227</b>	<b>1,039,282,397</b>	<b>926,390,794</b>	<b>868,235,850</b>
Note Circulation.....	102,037,305	101,943,056	87,694,840	81,325,732
<b>*Less notes and cheques other Canadian banks held.....</b>	<b>1,141,818,532</b>	<b>1,141,225,453</b>	<b>1,014,085,634</b>	<b>949,561,582</b>
<b>Net Liability.....</b>	<b>1,079,753,171</b>	<b>1,083,313,334</b>	<b>966,040,610</b>	<b>903,769,799</b>
<b>AVAILABLE ASSETS.</b>				
Specie and legals.....	135,121,714	138,332,856	109,418,939	100,682,479
Net foreign bank balances.....	36,593,267	45,203,639	32,461,903	25,839,733
Foreign call loans.....	92,106,595	87,489,665	90,710,437	138,505,379
<b>Percentage of Liability.....</b>	<b>263,821,676</b>	<b>271,021,160</b>	<b>232,491,279</b>	<b>265,027,591</b>
	<b>24.43</b>	<b>25.02</b>	<b>24.07</b>	<b>29.32</b>

\*This item is deducted because it represents obligations of the banks held by themselves.