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December Bank Statement Reflects Strong Position

SAVINGS Deposits Make New High Record—Current Loans Expand Further—
Loans to Municipalities Sharply Curtailed—Record of Call Loans Abroad.

	December, 1915.	November, 1916.	December, 1916.	Year's inc. or dec.	Month's inc or dec.
Deposits on demand	\$423,690,384	\$459,277,454	\$458,208,417	+ 8.2	— 0.21
Deposits after notice	720,990,267	836,593,269	845,006,717	+17.3	+ 1.07
Current loans in Canada	775,517,947	813,791,947	820,378,557	+ 5.8	+ 0.86
Current loans elsewhere	58,479,739	76,087,370	76,396,720	+30.6	+ 0.39
Loans to municipalities	30,878,028	32,945,963	24,056,797	—22.07	—27.05
Call loans in Canada	84,228,155	89,395,370	82,569,983	— 2.01	— 7.7
Call loans elsewhere	137,157,869	183,250,389	173,878,134	+26.2	— 5.4
Circulation	122,199,582	148,197,971	148,785,287	+21.3	+ 0.39

THE above are the principal changes in the statement of the chartered banks for December. Compared with the figures a year ago, substantial increases are evident in practically all accounts excepting municipal loans and call loans in Canada. The former declined about \$7,000,000 or 22 per cent. during the year and \$9,000,000 or 27 per cent. during December last. These figures illustrate the sharp curtailment of expenditure by municipalities. The sales of municipal securities during the last three months of 1916 totalled \$7,845,000, thus relieving the bankers to some extent. Demand and notice deposits at the end of December amounted to \$1,300,000,000. Current loans increased approximately \$7,000,000 during the month and circulation at \$148,000,000 was 21 per cent. higher than a year ago.

The following table shows the trend of the Canadian loans account for the past thirteen months:—

Loans.	Current in Canada.	Call in Canada.
1915—December	\$775,517,947	\$84,228,155
1916—January	758,500,492	83,584,639
February	760,873,181	81,949,125
March	770,139,526	81,747,512
April	777,764,682	82,527,448
May	763,136,917	84,826,636
June	747,470,541	86,776,474
July	740,040,741	87,355,648
August	739,938,513	86,351,216
September	752,545,756	88,145,851
October	774,928,222	90,412,023
November	813,791,947	89,395,370
December	820,378,557	82,569,983

Despite the excellent financial position of the majority of our industrial corporations, enabling them to finance with comparatively little bank accommodation, current loans in Canada in December were nearly 6 per cent. higher than a year ago. Call loans in Canada, on the other hand, have declined sharply. In December, they were lower than at any time during the year with the exception of February, March and April.

The course of call loans abroad for the period beginning two months before the declaration of war, is of interest and is shown in the following table:—

	1914.	1915.	1916.
January		\$ 85,796,641	\$134,248,552
February		89,890,982	139,138,651
March		101,938,685	141,889,989
April		121,522,971	147,146,443
May		136,098,835	163,406,659
June	\$137,120,167	124,604,875	182,757,015
July	125,545,287	117,821,174	177,121,733
August	96,495,473	120,607,677	171,380,353
September	89,521,589	135,108,412	173,877,586
October	81,201,671	120,681,624	189,346,216
November	74,459,643	135,530,562	183,250,389
December	85,012,964	137,157,869	173,878,134

Current loans in Canada were larger in December than at any time since December, 1913, when they were about \$2,000,000 greater. The December high record was in 1912, when these loans aggregated \$881,000,000 as compared with \$820,000,000 in December, 1916. Current loans abroad are considerably higher than in previous years.

The following table shows the course of the loan accounts for the past five years:—

De-	Current loans cember. in Canada.	Current loans elsewhere.	Call loans in Canada.	Call loans elsewhere.
1912	\$881,331,981	\$40,990,126	\$70,655,661	\$105,952,101
1913	822,387,975	58,305,388	72,862,971	115,984,680
1914	786,034,378	43,413,760	68,511,653	85,012,964
1915	775,517,947	58,479,739	84,228,155	137,157,869
1916	820,378,557	76,396,720	82,569,983	173,878,134

Savings deposits again made a new high record, having increased \$8,500,000 in December, making the year's gain \$124,000,000 and a gain of \$182,000,000 in the two years 1915 and 1916. The average monthly increase in savings deposits in 1915 was approximately \$5,000,000. Last year, the average exceeded \$10,000,000. Demand deposits show a slight decrease and, compared with the