

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.
March	\$586,643,000	\$535,249,000	\$497,750,000	\$440,496,000
February ...	577,836,000	519,287,000	486,232,000	438,035,000
Increase ...	\$8,807,000	\$15,962,000	\$11,518,000	\$2,461,000
Percentage of increase	1.3	3.	2.3	.56

Circulation this year shows a slight falling off as compared with February. This is a most unusual feature, but it may no doubt be accounted for partly by the early spring in Western Canada, which has checked the bringing of produce to market and enabled the farmers to get to work on the land earlier than usual, and partly by the stagnation in business in the Maritime Provinces, caused by the extremely severe winter which has been experienced there.

Public deposits in Canada show a substantial increase in March, but not quite so great as in 1904. In 1905 the increase is \$5,823,000, as against \$7,144,000 in 1904, \$5,374,000 in 1903, and a decrease in 1902 of \$1,951,000. From year to year the increase in deposits shows no sign of falling off. The total public deposits in Canada at the end of March of each of the last five years were:

1901	\$300,679,000
1902	331,910,000
1903	372,055,000
1904	404,398,000
1905	455,939,000

representing an increase in four years of 50 per cent.

Deposits outside Canada show an increase of about \$1,500,000 during the month, but are slightly less than on 31st March, 1904. During the year the Royal Bank of Canada has increased its deposits outside of Canada by about \$5,000,000, chiefly the result, no doubt, of the extension of its business in Cuba, but this has been offset by a reduction of about the same amount in the figures of the Bank of Montreal.

On the assets side the banks continue to show increased resources in balances due from agencies and other banks outside Canada. In February these balances amounted to \$29,252,000, while by March they had risen to \$31,845,000, nearly double the level at which they stood two years ago. Securities show little change, while call loans have increased by about \$1,000,000.

The figures which are perhaps of most interest to the Canadian business world are those which represent "Current Loans in Canada," and just at present they are worthy of some little study. During the last five years the figures for the end of March each year have been:—

		Increase.
1901	\$280,041,000
1902	300,066,000	\$20,025,000
1903	346,293,000	46,227,000
1904	403,566,000	57,273,000
1905	422,351,000	18,785,000

It will be observed that the increase during the twelve months ending 31st ult., was the smallest shown in the last four years, not only proportionately, but absolutely; that it was only one-third of the increase in the year ending 31st March, 1904, and considerably less than half that in the year ending 31st March, 1903.

Compare now the last two years, month by month:

	1903-04.	Increase or Decrease.
February	\$331,646,000
March	346,292,000	+ \$14,646,000
April	353,170,000	+ 6,878,000
May	358,063,000	+ 4,893,000
June	363,329,000	+ 5,266,000
July	363,586,000	+ 257,000
August	368,641,000	+ 5,055,000
September	373,633,000	+ 4,992,000
October	380,823,000	+ 7,190,000
November	380,688,000	— 135,000
December	384,419,000	+ 3,731,000
January	384,754,000	+ 335,000
February	389,627,000	+ 4,873,000
March	403,566,000	+ 13,939,000
	1904-05.	Increase or Decrease.
February	\$389,627,000
March	403,566,000	+ \$13,939,000
April	409,196,000	+ 5,630,000
May	409,210,000	+ 14,000
June	413,392,000	+ 4,182,000
July	414,096,000	+ 704,000
August	408,240,000	— 5,856,000
September	412,197,000	+ 3,957,000
October	416,344,000	+ 4,147,000
November	415,297,000	— 1,047,000
December	413,779,000	— 1,518,000
January	412,901,000	— 878,000
February	414,233,000	+ 1,332,000
March	422,351,000	+ 8,118,000

With the unimportant exception of July the increase each month in 1904-5 has been considerably smaller than in the corresponding month the preceding year, and in the only month in which a decrease is shown in both years that decrease is larger in 1904-5; whilst in the latter year a considerable decrease is shown in months which in the previous year exhibited a substantial increase. The falling off, or the slower increase, is fairly continuous throughout the year.

As we know, 1904 was in many respects a disappointment. It opened up with the most severe winter on record. Crops, generally speaking, were poor; the butter and cheese industries were less profitable than usual; the cattle trade, as a whole, was bad, and lumbering showed a somewhat lessened prosperity. Exports fell off to a very considerable extent. On the other hand, the higher price for wheat partially compensated the West for the smaller yield, immigration was large, and manufacturing was apparently prosperous, but on the whole, the advance made in 1904 was distinctly less than in 1903. Thanks to the West, "times were good," but not as good as they had been. In these facts may doubtless be found the cause of the smaller increase in the current loans of the chartered banks. So far as can be foreseen, the prospects for the current year are exceptionally good, and there is no reason why we may not expect to see in 1905 progress as great as that made in 1903.

The mania for obtaining charters for banks shows no signs of abating, although the experience of those who acquired charters in recent years is not very encouraging. In the sessions of 1902, 1903, and 1904 the following charters were granted, of which the Metropolitan Bank and the Crown Bank of Canada are the only ones which have gone into operation:

- Securities Bank of Canada, Toronto.
- Crown Bank of Canada, Toronto.
- Metropolitan Bank, Toronto.
- Alliance Bank of Canada, Halifax.