as compared with 28.09 p.c. on March 31st, 27.46 p.c. on February 28, 29.93 p.c. on January 31st. A year ago at the end of April the reserve was 30.43 p.c. of the net liability. All through 1909 it was very close to 30 p.c.—sometimes a little above it and sometimes a little below. In 1908 the proportion ran from 19.70 p.c. at the beginning of the year to as high as 30.92 p.c. at the end. It can, therefore, be assumed that the 30 p.c. level is unnaturally high, in other words that the banks, when carrying that much of immediately available assets, are stronger than they wish to be. On the other hand on the 31st March, 1907, a few months before the panic, the proportion of reserve to net liability was 16.88 p.c. which figure represents the low water mark for recent years. As 30 p.c. is too high for good results in earnings, so 16 p.c. is rather low for comfort and safety. Notwithstanding the rapid rate at which their resources have been going into employment the banks are still somewhat above the happy medium—between the two extremes referred to—and it is possible enough for them to continue their support to Canada's industrial development. Their task in doing so will be materially lightened if their deposits are continually replenished by the steady flow of outside capital to this country. In this connection it is necessary to bear in mind the fact that the three or four Canadian flotations last attempted in the London market have not been attended with much success. Even in the case of the Dominion Government loan it is said that the underwriters were obliged to take 75 p.c. of the issue. However, it has happened before that our government loans were not taken by the public at the time of flotation, but in all cases they were quickly absorbed after that time. With the rubber and oil speculation and the sudden shock of King Edward's death, the London market has not been in very favourable condition for receiving new security issues. It is to be hoped that the situation will improve in the next few weeks.

The following table shows what happened in April regarding the foreign or outside investments of the banks:

	April 30, 1910.	Mar. 31, 1910.	April 30, 1909.
Due by Banks in U.K. ...	$ 9,191.051	$ 11,291,887	$ 6,666,349
Due by banks in foreign countries.	26,700,029	24,487,969	31,703,189
Call loans elsewhere	122,359,531	130,194,540	114,493,570
Current loans elsewhere.	38,636,636	40,719,679	35,874,530
	$196,887,247	$206,694,075	$188,737,638
Due to banks in U.K. ...	$ 4,625,759	$ 3,398,212	$ 4,473,132
Due to banks in foreign countries	4,641,466	3,655,046	3,023,564
Deposits elsewhere	76,600,041	85 948,201	73,578,818
	$ 85,867,266	$93,001,459	$81,075,514
*Net investments abroad.	$111,019,981	$113 692,616	$107,662,124

*Apart from nvestments in foreign bonds, debentures, etc.

Although there was in April a heavy reduction in the call loans elsewhere than Canada, the net investment abroad only fell $2,600,000 during the month. It is now only $3,400,000 greater than a year ago. The probability is that it will undergo some reduction during the coming summer.

As has frequently happened heretofore, changes in the position of the Bank of Montreal account for several of the important changes shown by the banks as a whole. Thus the Bank of Montreal's deposits elsewhere fell $9,140,000, and the fall in that item for all the Canadian banks was $9,340,000. The Bank of Montreal's call loans elsewhere were reduced $5,400,000; and the fall in that item for all the banks was $7,800,000.

But in the current loans and discounts, as remarked above, the increases are general. Also the increases in deposits payable after notice are of a general character, the greater number of the banks regarding each a moderate increase. The usual presentation of the statement with companions follows.

THE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES AND THE DRINK QUESTION.

In the course of perusing the Daily Telegraph our attention was arrested by the following table; showing the ages attained by those who abstain completely from alcohol and by others who indulge in different degrees.

1. Total abstainers,	51	years.
2. Habitually temperate drinkers,	63	"
3. Careless drinkers,	59	"
4. Free drinkers,	57	"
5. Decidedly intemperate drinkers,	53	"

If these statistics are reliable, then what is to be done with existing notions upon the baneful effects of alcohol upon the human system? Are we to banish these cherished axioms which form part of the very creed of life insurance? What strange notion is this that the 'Decidedly Intemperate Drinker" will outlive the "Total Abstainer!" If the old order is to give place to this new one, a brighter day must be dawning for the "Licensed Victualler" and the glory of abstinence will vanish. Then will be heard throughout the land the cry "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake."

We are not familiar with the system by which the conclusions of the Daily Telegraph were derived, but as eternal vigilance is imperatively necessary before accepting statistical conclusions of any sort we are quite unconvinced of their accuracy. In the employment of statistics, three cardinal rules must be observed: firstly, that only reliable data are used, secondly that they are accurately grouped and thirdly that the correct conclusions have been drawn. Unless precision has been observed throughout, the conclusions are liable to be most untrustworthy and misleading.

In looking over the groups of the Daily Telegraph Table, one can hardly fail to wonder what means were found to distinguish "Careless Drinkers" from "Free Drinkers" and, knowing the proclivity of all who use alcohol to underestimate the amount consumed, it is difficult to realize any way by which individuals could be accurately placed in the particular classes to which they belong. Among the Abstainers may be many who are there by doctor's orders. There must be a passing of many from one class to another so that observations could not be extended over any reasonable period of time without having fluctuations and changes of all sorts in continual progress.

Perhaps the most reliable and accurate statistics upon the effect of alcohol on longevity are to be found in a paper by Mr. Moore, actuary of the United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution, delivered in 1903 before the