which would indicate activity in trade and commerce, is considerably increased over the figures of a year ago. The banks which have lately held their semi-annual meetings seem to have earned sufficient to pay the usual half-yearly dividends. The banks, especially the smaller ones, have issued their own notes close up to the margin permitted, but still have kept within the law. Current Loans to the public, another important heading, as marking the progress of trade is worthy of consideration. The increase over September is shown to be $2,566,892, and the amount in excess of the figures of a year ago is $16,442,775. It is interesting to study the figures under these headings:—

	Notes in Circulation.	Current Loans.	Per cent.
	$	$	
1891	37,182,768	188,660,305	20.
1892	38,688,429	194,123,36.	20.
1893	36,906,941	204,854,79'	18.
1894	34,516,651	198,888,480	17.
1895	34,671,028	201,753,2'6	17.
1896	35,955,150	214,159,871	16.80
1897	41,580,928	208,485,640	20.
1898	42,543,446	224,928,415	18.91

The increase of 1897 over 1896 of note circulation was $5,625,778, but a reduction was shown in current loans of $5,674,231.

The increase in deposits of the public is still remarkable. The deposits of 1898 increased over 1897, $23,990,911, an increase in two years of over 46 millions. The amount due from American banks and agencies is worthy of passing notice. In 1897 the increase over 1896 was $13,753,267, and the amount in October last year was $29,133,777. Seeking investment there at the end of same month, 1898, we find a reduction of $5,780,132, the figures standing $23,-353,645. The amounts due from Banks and branches in Great Britain is more steady, and stands nearly the same as a year ago. The investment in Canadian Municipal securities increased $3,725,828 over that of 1897. Bank holdings of railway securities, $2,068,-229, loans on stocks and bonds on call, $5,663,588,. Amount due to British banks and branches increased over last year $1,334,326. The increases October over September are not so large as was the monthly increase a year ago. Those which reached the million figure as seen in abstract are amount due from American banks, current loans, total assets, bank note circulation and total liabilities. Specie and Dominion notes show a reduction over the million figure, as does also amount due to Dominion Government. Another noticeable feature is the healthy addition being made to reserve funds. A foot note added to the statement draws attention to the fact that the branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, lately established in Dawson City, is credited with swelling amount under heading "Other assets not included under foregoing heads." That seemingly is the only one under which at present the bank's bullion transactions can be properly entered. If success continues in the future as up to the present, a special additional heading will be necessary to show separately this valuable accumulation.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT FOR OCTOBER OF THE RETURNS OF THE CHARTERED BANKS OF CANADA.

Comparison of the Principal Items.

Assets.	31st Oct., 1898.	30th Sept., 1898.	31st Oct., 1897.	Increase and Decrease for month.		Increase and Decrease for year.	
Specie and Dominion Notes	$ 25,878,607	$27,485,509	$ 26,038,523	Dec.	$1,606,902	Dec.	$159,916
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks	10,948,128	10,959,823	8,214,133	Dec.	11,695	Inc.	2,733,995
Due from American Banks and Agencies	23,353,645	22,169,025	29,133,777	Inc.	1,184,620	Dec.	5,780,132
Due from British Banks and Branches	13,085,537	12,272,730	11,038,952	Inc.	812,807	Inc.	46,585
Canadian Municipal Securities and Brit., Prov. or Foreign or Colonial other than Dominion	17,545,553	17,454,767	13,819,725	Inc.	90,'86	Inc.	3,725,828
Railway Securities	16,642,970	17,227,286	14,574,741	Dec.	584,316	Inc.	2,068,229
Loans on Stocks and Bonds on Call	23,972,295	23,745,140	18,308,707	Inc.	227,155	Inc.	5,663,588
Current Loans to the Public	224,928,415	222,361,523	208,485,640	Inc.	2,566,892	Inc.	16,442,775
Overdue Debts	2,525,641	3,406,913	3,615,117	Dec.	881,272	Dec.	1,189,476
Total Assets	384,019,461	382,001,817	356,539,468	Inc.	2,017,644	Inc.	27,479,993
Liabilities.							
Bank Notes in Circulation	42,543,446	40,071,143	41,580,928	Inc.	2,472,303	Inc.	962,518
Due to Dominion Government	2,532,287	3,606,106	3,370,011	Dec.	1,073,819	Dec.	837,724
Due to Provincial Governments	2,358,888	2,450,355	2,398,227	Dec.	91,467	Dec.	39,339
Deposits payable on demand	87,352,116	87,214,909	78,210,044	Inc.	137,207	Inc.	9,142,072
Deposits payable after notice	152,005,027	151,358,795	137,156,188	Inc.	646,232	Inc.	14,848,839
Do made by Banks	3,714,488	3,555,058	2,873,741	Inc.	159,430	Inc.	840,747
Due to American Banks and Agencies	350,357	509,277	280,350	Dec.	158,920	Inc.	70,107
Due to British Banks and Branches	2,224,422	2,346,813	890,096	Dec.	122,391	Inc.	1,334,326
Total Liabilities	293,661,023	291,875,803	267,192,690	Inc.	1,785,220	Inc.	26,468,333
Capital.							
Capital Stock paid-up	63,051,104	62,900,034	62,285,196	Inc.	151,070	Inc	765,908
Reserve Fund	27,619,464	27,555,666	27,223,999	Inc.	63,798	Inc.	395,465
Miscellaneous.							
Directors' Liabilities	7,573,333	7,372,172	7,079,839	Inc.	201,161	Inc.	493,494
Greatest amount of notes in circulation at any time during month	42,873,369	40,796,003	42,401,336	Inc.	2,077,366	Inc	472,033

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation, amount required being 5 per cent. on maximum circulation for year ending 31st October, 1898, $1,984,523.