called for on June 30, 1910. In this work the comptroller received very general co-operation from the superintendents of State banking departments, although in some States it was found necessary to secure reports direct from the banks.

In 1909 the reported capital of the 6,893 national banks and 15,598 State and private banks was $1,800,000,000; the individual deposits $14,035,500,000 and the aggregate assets $21,095,000,000. The June 30, 1910, returns from the 7,145 national banks and 15,948 State and private banks show capital of $1,879,900,000, an increase for the fourteen months of approximately $80,000,000; individual deposits of $15,283,400,000, an increase of $1,247,900,000; and aggregate assets of $22,450,000,000, or an increase of $1,355,000,000.

The loans and discounts of the reporting banks are shown at June 30 last, to be $12,365,000,000, an increase of $991,800,000 in fourteen months; the investments in United States and other bonds and securities $4,854,400,000, or more than in 1909 by $240,000,000. The banks appear to hold a less amount of currency than in 1909 by some $31,200,000, the holdings in 1909 being $1,452,000,000, and in 1910 $1,420,800,000.

The principal items of assets and liabilities of all reporting banks on April 28, 1909, and June 30, 1910, with the amount of changes between those dates, are shown in millions of dollars in the accompanying table:

	1909.	1910.	Increase.
No. of banks..	22,491	23,093	602
Loans and discounts..	$11,373.2	$12,365.0	$991.8
U. S. and other bonds, securities, etc..	4,614.4	4,854.4	240.0
Cash in bank..	1,452.0	1,420.8	*31.2
Capital stock..	1,800.0	1,879.9	79.9
Surplus and other profits.. ..	1,834.6	1,952.4	117.8
Individual deposits..	14,035.5	15,283.4	1,247.9
Total assets..	$21,095.0	$22,450.0	$1,355.0

* Decrease.

The following is a comparative statement, in millions of dollars, relating to the principal items of assets and liabilities of banks other than national for 1909 and 1910:

	1909.	1910.	Increase.
No. of banks..	15,598	15,948	350
Loans and discounts..	$6,385.5	$6,934.8	$549.3
Bonds..	3,009.4	3,242.4	232.9
Cash..	525.2	558.3	33.1
Capital stock..	866.0	890.3	24.3
Surplus and other profits.... ..	1,039.5	1,091.0	51.5
Individual deposits..	9,209.4	9,996.1	786.7
Total assets..	$11,726.1	$12,553.6	$727.5

These returns include those from savings banks. Separately considered, the savings' banks returns show that in 1909 reports were received from 1,703 savings institutions with aggregate deposits of $3,713,400,000, roundly stated, credited to 8,831,863 depositors, the average account being $420.45. For June 30, 1910, reports were received from 1,759 savings banks with deposits of $4,070,400,000, the depositors numbering 9,142,709, and the average account amounting to $445.22. The later returns show an increase of 56 in number of banks, $357,000,000 in deposits, 310,845 in number of depositors and $24.77 in the average savings account.

FIRE INSURANCE IN CANADA IN 1909.

The annual report of the Superintendent of Insurance makes its appearance several weeks later than last year, and it is to be wished that its publication could be expedited, although it will be recognized that with the growth of the business year by year, the task of preparing this annual return naturally becomes more formidable. We give below our customary summary and statistics, regarding the fire business in Canada during 1909. The figures need no explanation, but there are two points contained in them to which attention may be particularly directed, first, the favorable loss ratio in Canada last year and secondly, the fall in the rate of premiums. With regard to the ratio of losses, this at 50.72 p.c. compares extremely well with the 1908 ratio of 60.37 and is in point of fact the lowest ratio since 1906. All three classes of companies, Canadian, British and American, had a much more favorable experience in 1909 than in the previous year. It will be observed, however, that the ratio for the period of 41 years, over which the records of the Department of Insurance extend, is 64.21 p.c. With 30 p.c. added to this loss ratio for general expenses—which were slightly above 30 p.c. in 1909—and allowance made for unexpired risks, it does not appear, as we have maintained on former occasions, that the fire companies obtain from their Canadian policyholders an excessive profit.

Rates of premium were down in 1909 to practically 1.41 p.c., a decrease of 0.9 p.c. upon 1908 and of 0.19 p.c. upon 1905. This is evidence that underwriters are prepared to and have, in fact, reduced their rates, where the improvement in building construction and fire-fighting appliances have justified the taking of the step. It would seem to rest largely with public authorities, who have the supervision of building construction, as well as with the public generally to decide as to whether this downward tendency in the rate of premiums shall continue.

SUMMARY OF THE FIRE REPORT.

During the year 1909, the business of fire insurance in Canada was carried on by 55 companies; of these 23 were Canadian, 18 British and 14 American. Inland marine insurance was also transacted by 7 of them (1 Canadian, 2 British and 4 American), and ocean marine by one of them (Canadian). This list of companies differs from that of the previous year by the addition of two Canadian companies (the North Empire Fire and the Occidental Fire). Three British companies (the British and Foreign Marine, the Marine and the Ocean Marine), are licensed to carry on the business of inland marine insurance and the business of insuring registered mail matter in transit from place to place in Canada, and two of them (the British and Foreign Marine and the Marine) did inland marine business during 1909.