

THE AUGUST BANK STATEMENT.

The student of figures, and all those who take an interest in the monthly returns rendered by the chartered banks to the Department of Finance, will find ample evidence in the August statement issued from Ottawa, that the interpretation placed by some of the banks upon the wishes of the Government differ from those of others. Our usual comparative statements can, therefore, hardly be relied upon as an indication of what they have hitherto conveyed. However, the seeming uncertainty manifested by some of the banks as to what certain headings may properly be said to cover will doubtless soon disappear. Those items of the monthly statement, to which many people look for signs of the condition of business throughout the country, are distinctly encouraging. Bank notes in circulation at the end of August show an increase over the figures of the pre-

ceding month amounting to \$1,400,000, while for the year the increase borders upon \$6,000,000. Deposits continue to accumulate, the totals representing same being about \$3,000,000 in excess of those of the previous month, and nearly \$20,000,000 ahead of the figures of August, 1899.

The other notable changes made visible by comparison of the July and August statements are evidently due to causes previously referred to. It is, perhaps, comforting, even if surprising, to observe no marked increase in "Overdue Debts," despite the serious disturbance in local trading circles during the past few months, by which several of the banks were thought to have been reduced to the necessity of waiting for the liquidation of some of their customers' obligations. In fact, the item in question shows a decrease for the year amounting to \$325,000.

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

Comparison of the Principal Items.

<i>Assets.</i>	31st August, 1900.	31st July, 1900.	31st August, 1899.	Increase and Decrease for month.	Increase and Decrease for year.
Specie and Dominion Notes.....	\$29,324,308	\$29,311,347	\$27,928,560	Inc. \$ 12,961	Inc. \$ 1,395,748
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks.....	9,947,178	10,860,501	9,953,665	Dec. 913,323	Dec. 6,487
Loans to other Banks in Canada secured, including Bills rediscounted.....	1,295,152	1,323,698		Dec. 28,546	
Deposits made with and Balances due from other Banks in Canada.....	4,253,174	4,752,561		Dec. 499,387	
Due from Banks and Agencies in United Kingdom... Due from Banks and Agencies elsewhere than Canada and United Kingdom.....	6,014,776 12,374,707	6,368,373 14,821,154	11,968,240 28,315,269	Dec. 353,597 Dec. 2,446,147	Dec. 5,953,464 Dec. 15,940,562
Canadian Municipal Securities and British Foreign or Colonial other than Canada.....	10,887,664	10,798,587	15,695,163	Inc. 89,077	Dec. 4,807,699
Railway and others Bonds, Debentures and Stocks... Call and Short Loans on Stocks and Bonds in Canada... Call and Short Loans elsewhere than in Canada.....	24,210,972 30,028,215 27,771,191	22,416,019 29,528,128 25,303,138	14,549,182 31,692,777 25,303,138	Inc. 1,794,953 Inc. 500,087 Inc. 2,467,953	Inc. 9,661,790 Dec. 1,664,562
Current Loans in Canada..... do elsewhere than in Canada.....	272,012,320 14,885,183	272,849,602 13,896,237	247,669,051	Dec. 837,282 Inc. 988,946	Inc. 24,343,269
Overdue Debts.....	1,985,004	1,944,095	2,313,145	Inc. 43,909	Dec. 325,141
Total Assets.....	476,127,784	478,714,935	417,803,934	Dec. 2,587,151	Inc. 58,323,850
<i>Liabilities.</i>					
Notes in Circulation.....	47,421,277	46,007,906	41,446,399	Inc. 1,413,371	Inc. 5,974,878
Due to Dominion Government.....	2,752,546	3,304,763	3,660,531	Dec. 552,217	Dec. 907,985
Due to Provincial Governments.....	2,850,816	3,249,745	2,545,200	Dec. 398,929	Inc. 305,616
Deposits in Canada payable on demand.....	100,738,575	99,743,697	95,264,689	Inc. 994,578	Inc. 5,473,886
Deposits in Canada payable after notice.....	183,007,679	181,045,944	168,627,016	Inc. 1,961,735	Inc. 14,380,663
Deposits elsewhere than in Canada.....	10,429,516	16,451,536		Dec. 22,020	
Loans from other Banks in Canada secured, in- cluding Bills rediscounted.....	1,337,916	1,372,000		Dec. 34,104	
Deposits made by and Balances due to other Banks in Canada.....	3,384,578	3,589,977	5,004,981	Dec. 205,399	Dec. 1,620,403
Due to Banks and Agencies in United Kingdom.... Due to Banks and Agencies elsewhere than in Can- ada and United Kingdom.....	5,713,767 569,873	15,516,541 1,164,434	4,437,249 616,882	Dec. 9,802,774 Dec. 704,561	Inc. 1,276,518 Dec. 47,009
Total Liabilities.....	371,171,916	379,142,971	322,704,010	Dec. 7,971,955	Inc. 48,407,900
<i>Capital.</i>					
Capital paid-up.....	65,368,255	65,039,550	63,826,343	Inc. 328,705	Inc. 1,541,912
Reserve Fund.....	33,245,018	33,093,412	29,341,697	Inc. 151,606	Inc. 3,903,321
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>					
Directors' Liabilities.....	11,744,413	13,058,337	7,300,781	Dec. 1,313,924	Inc. 4,443,632
Greatest amount of notes in circulation at any time during the month.....	48,242,681	47,673,633	42,447,841	Inc. 569,048	Inc. 5,794,840

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation, 5 per cent. of maximum circulation being the amount required for year ending 30th June, 1900, \$2,372,973.