

great index of the activity with which the crop is moved, viz. bank circulation, had not begun to be much in evidence by the 31st August: but when the figures of the bank statement for September appear; and still more those for October, it is almost certain that they will mount up higher than they have ever done before. In fact deposits are doing this already; for although there was a very slight falling off during the month of August in bank deposits, the total for the whole country (of deposits of all kinds) has passed the immense figure of \$450,000,000 or more than £90,000,000 sterling. And it would not surprise us if this figure reached £100,000,000 before another year had passed. This is a surprising figure for a country like Canada, whose wealth has been so largely derived from the clearing of the forest, an operation which requires enormously more time than that by which the wealth of mines, fisheries, and manufactures is produced. For it has been estimated that it takes fully twenty years from the time that a settler enters upon a location in the woods, before he produces anything that can be called wealth, that is more than is required for his own support and that of his family. Through this long process the whole of our older provinces have passed to their present condition of farms, fields and farming villages. Of course when we look at the great prairies of the North West other conditions altogether prevail. But even there it takes much longer than is generally supposed for a settler to be in a condition in which he can lay money by, after having paid all his liabilities.

But though Canada could never have been a country of very rapid growth and development, there is this to be said, that when the stage of slow preparation has been passed, progress and development are steadily onward and upward. And this is the condition of the country now. But, as we all very well know, the North West is only in the infancy of its development. If we could anticipate the events of the next ten or twenty years, we should most likely open our eyes wide with astonishment; for the development of the North West will mean to the manufacturing and commercial regions of the East all that the development of the Western States has been to the Atlantic seaboard States to the Union. The banking and commerce of Ontario and Quebec will receive a prodigious impulse if the development of Manitoba and the regions beyond goes on without interruption. With the prosperity now prevailing there is no sign, so far, of anything like an unhealthy expansion or boom that is, speaking of the situation generally.

There has indeed been both a havoc and a collapse in one department of our industries, that is in gold mining. Yet even this was more an affair of stock exchanges than of industries; for when we bring the matter to the list of actual production there has been little more than a steady and gradual development with no perceptible reaction at all. All this only proves the truth of that pregnant saying we noticed once before viz., that speculation in mining stocks is not mining. This unhealthy development however covered a comparatively small area considering the vast field of our industries and commercial operations. And though individuals have suffered severely, even to the extent of absolute ruin, it cannot be said that the country as a whole will be much the worse for it. Yet although we say this it will be well for bankers and all who hold the purse strings to be on the look-out for the first signs of speculation expansion. It is they who being at the very centre of affairs ought to be able to perceive the beginnings of evil, and as they have the power to check it in its very

early developments it is to be hoped that they will do so. Such booms and expansions cannot proceed far if banks refuse to co-operate in them by lending money. It is always on borrowed money that the booms are developed, without this they would wither and die at the very outset; there are those whose business it is to lend money, and most particularly the banks, have the duty laid upon them to check unhealthy developments at the very outset and save the community from unpleasant consequences.

Our usual comparative statement is appended:—

ABSTRACT OF BANK RETURNS.

31st August, 1900.

[In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up	35,044	19,503	10,820	65,368
Circulation	22,844	16,722	7,855	47,421
Deposits	145,301	120,488	44,702	310,497
Loans, Discounts and Investments	157,910	128,365	51,583	337,960
Cash, Foreign Balances (Net), and Call Loans	61,906	36,376	17,477	116,800
Legals	7,830	6,639	3,774	18,243
Specie	5,148	3,429	2,503	11,080
Call Loans	32,017	19,977	5,806	57,799
Investments	15,435	23,630	7,112	46,279

31st August 1901.

[In thousands.]

Description.	Banks in Quebec.	Banks in Ontario.	Banks in other Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up	35,714	23,426	8,340	67,482
Circulation	23,853	20,118	7,378	51,352
Deposits	169,579	146,807	45,967	361,378
Loans, Discounts and Investments	166,605	152,870	50,790	370,091
Cash, Foreign Balances (Net), and Call Loans	81,476	48,685	16,881	147,089
Legals	8,460	8,415	3,140	20,016
Specie	5,036	4,348	2,120	11,537
Call Loans	46,862	24,940	7,538	79,342
Investments	19,777	27,917	9,653	57,347

Government Savings Banks\$ 56,197

Montreal City and District Savings

Bank 12,904

La Caisse d'Economie, Quebec 6,601

Loan Companies, 1900 20,000

Bank Deposits.....\$ 95,702

361,378

\$ 457,080

GOVERNMENT CIRCULATION.

Large\$ 18,037

Small 11,247

\$ 29,284

Gold held, \$16,190 or 50 per cent.

BERMUDA.

It is not often that Canadians have the pleasure of becoming acquainted—at this end at any rate—with residents of the Bermudas. It was, however, our good fortune this week to meet and to interview Mr. T. J. Pearman, a prominent Bermuda merchant, hailing from Hamilton and Shelly Bay, who is on a short visit to this country for purposes of business and recreation. We gather from this gentleman that life in those southern islands—though the Bermudas are by no means so far south as most people imagine, being only in the latitude of North Carolina—is going on in the even tenor of its way, as is the wont of things in semi-tropic islands in general; that business is fairly good; and, more important than all, from our point of view, that the people are anxious for closer trade relations with this country. At the present time, Bermuda's imports amount to