

# The Chronicle

## Banking Insurance and Finance

ESTABLISHED 1881.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY.

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Proprietor.ARTHUR H. ROWLAND,  
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10 ST. JOHN STREET, MONTREAL.

Annual Subscription, \$3.00. Single Copy, 10 cents.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1915

**THE APRIL BANK STATEMENT.**

Notice deposits again form a feature in the bank statement. At the end of April, they reached the new high figure of \$686,075,124, an increase of \$9,199,334 for the month and of \$32,395,901 for the year. Demand deposits also moved up in April by \$7,500,000, but at \$347,325,937 are \$3,190,056 below the level recorded for April, 1915. The banks' foreign deposits also showed the substantial increase of \$6,472,622 in April to \$104,210,620, but are over \$9,000,000 below those of the corresponding date of last year.

Probably the April increase in foreign deposits is in part a result of the purchases of war equipment and supplies which are being made here. The increase in notice and demand deposits may still be accounted for in large part by the accumulation of idle commercial funds and the maintenance by many corporations of cash balances considerably in excess of those held in normal times, though the accumulation of savings and moneys which in more settled times would go straightway into permanent investments, but under present circumstances are withheld pending a clearing of the outlook, undoubtedly also plays a part in this increase of

deposits. In any case, it is obvious that a position is being gradually reached which argues most favorably for the future. Immediately it is seen that events in Europe are shaping themselves towards a favorable conclusion, it is to be expected that there will be a return of confidence on the part of many investors and a revival of commercial enterprise which should go far. The uncertainty still existing in regard to the financial effects of the war makes prophecy in this matter a hazardous business. But it is certainly an encouraging factor for the future that funds are being accumulated on so ample a scale, awaiting the return of confidence for their profitable employment in many directions.

**DECREASE IN COMMERCIAL LOANS.**

Meantime Canadian commercial loans continue to fall away. Their decrease in April was \$6,207,032, to \$762,931,851, a falling off of no less than \$72,773,213 in comparison with a year ago. The municipalities, however, continue to be active borrowers. Their loans increased \$1,803,911 during April and at \$43,031,360 they are \$12,862,548 higher than a year ago. Foreign call loans were again largely increased last month by nearly \$20,000,000 to \$121,522,971, but even at that figure are \$18,414,056 below the level of a year ago.

The banks' reserve position continues to be one of exceptional strength. Their holdings of specie in their own vaults and in the Central Gold Reserve, and Dominion notes plus net bank balances abroad and foreign call loans, were at the end of January in the proportion of 28.1 per cent. to their circulation and deposits, compared with 27.3 per cent. in March. It may be noted that the banks' holdings of specie and Dominion notes during the year ended April 30, were increased by practically the same amount as the net decrease during the same period of the commercial loans and loans to municipalities combined.

**ABSTRACT OF THE BANK STATEMENT FOR APRIL, 1915.**

(Compiled by The Chronicle).

	April 30, 1915.	March 31, 1914.	April 30, 1914.	Month's Change.	Year's Change.
<b>LIABILITIES.</b>					
Circulation	\$ 96,288,398	\$ 96,666,544	\$ 93,064,460	-\$ 378,146	+\$ 3,602,084
Demand deposits	347,325,937	339,814,286	350,515,993	+ 7,511,651	- 3,190,056
Notice deposits	686,075,124	676,875,790	653,679,223	+ 9,199,334	+ 32,395,901
Foreign deposits	104,210,620	97,737,998	113,403,889	+ 6,472,622	- 9,193,269
Total liabilities	1,321,638,542	1,300,863,637	1,311,668,638	+ 20,774,905	+ 9,969,904
<b>ASSETS.</b>					
Specie	\$ 64,136,717	\$ 65,671,275	\$ 46,402,984	-\$ 1,534,558	+\$ 17,733,733
Dominion Notes	136,717,633	137,413,021	95,666,945	- 695,388	+ 41,746,076
Deposits in Central Gold Reserve	5,800,000	5,550,000	3,250,000	+ 250,000	+ 2,550,000
Securities held	113,861,441	114,332,018	101,638,280	+ 470,577	+ 12,693,738
Canadian call loans	68,599,095	68,245,261	68,523,774	+ 353,834	+ 75,321
Foreign call loans	121,522,971	101,938,685	139,937,027	+ 19,584,286	- 18,414,056
Canadian current loans	762,931,851	769,138,883	835,705,064	- 6,207,032	- 72,773,213
Foreign current loans	37,705,039	41,745,737	54,362,513	- 4,040,698	- 16,657,474
Loans to municipalities, etc.	43,031,360	41,227,449	30,168,812	+ 1,803,911	+ 12,862,548
Total assets	1,564,103,718	1,545,723,564	1,557,828,425	+ 18,380,154	+ 6,275,293