there seems to be no good reason why he should not invest. It is true the stock market might collapse after he buys and he might miss the opportunity of getting a still larger return from the same securities. That chance has to be taken by the investor buying now or almost any time.

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On the other hand it is to be noted that many people at home and abroad have been waiting and watching for a Canadian panic. Some of these watchers have been on the look-out for over two years; but their panic has not materialised; and in the meantime their funds have not been drawing much revenue. They might continue to watch for two years more without having the chance to buy at panic prices. While no country can be sure of avoiding a panic it can be said that there is not on either side of the Atlantic or on either side of the Pacific a single country possessing stronger or better means than Canada has for warding off panics. This should be borne in mind by the legislators at Ottawa while engaged in discussing the renewal of the Bank Act.

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London continues to take a few selected Canadian offerings of new securities. Among this week's offerings is an issue of $2,500,000 Algoma Central Terminals first mortgage fives at 96. The February bank statement showed that the Bank of Montreal in London had apparently received some $8,000,000 proceeds of Canadian loans in that month. These items all help to mitigate the severity of the stringency.

THE FEBRUARY BANK STATEMENT.

In the newly-issued bank statement for February, the Bank of New Brunswick does not appear for the first time. The amalgamation arranged with the Bank of Nova Scotia having gone into force last month, the figures of the St. John institution now disappear in the enlarged figures of the Bank of Nova Scotia. The leading figures of the latter bank as the absorption made them on February 28 are appended:—

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Paid-up capital	$ 5,859,100
Rest	10,692,740
Circulation	5,087,913
Public Deposits	54,699,563
Specie and Dominion Notes	8,773,151
Securities held	5,128,085
Canadian call loans	5,386,029
Foreign call loans	3,905,094
Canadian current loans	42,910,728
Total Assets	77,804,357

The result of this latest amalgamation is thus to place the Bank of Nova Scotia in point of assets in about the sixth position among the Canadian banks.

With the disappearance of the Bank of New Brunswick, twenty-six banks are left to make returns to the Government. But these include the defunct Sovereign and the Internationale, shortly to be taken over by the Home Bank, leaving twenty-four as the number of the active banks in Canada. A reminder of the speed with which changes have lately taken place in the banking world is to be found in the fact that 28 active banks reported in the February return of a year ago.

At this time of year, the bank statement shows the effects of the demands made by the lumber industry upon the chartered institutions. The paying off of the camps commonly results in an increase in the circulation and an enlargement of the current loans. Both these are shown in the newly-published statement. Circulation at February 28 was up to $97,206,713, some $2,600,000 higher than at January 31. Current loans at February 28 were $882,112,720, an increase of nearly 7½ millions upon January 31, when they were $874,705,616.

Very clear evidence is contained in the statement of the continued pressure upon the banks for loans. Last month, the banks increased their total loans to the public by about 7¾ millions. The increase is practically all accounted for by the increase in Canadian commercial loans and discounts, the advance in the banks' foreign call loans being offset very largely by a reduction in their foreign current loans. This increase in commercial loans was made also in the face of another tumble in deposits. Demand deposits, which dropped some $25,000,000 in January, fell nearly another $5,000,000 last month, and there was also in February a substantial reduction in the notice deposits, amounting to 4½ millions. These reductions are, however, in part offset by larger balances of provincial governments and also a substantial increase, amounting to over 8½ millions, in the banks' foreign deposits. This latter advance is in the main accounted for by an increase in the Bank of Montreal's foreign deposits, which at February 28 were $35,317,824 against $28,230,349 on January 31, an advance af practically $7,100,000.

At the end of January for the first time in a prolonged period, their London balances were against the Canadian banks. In the course of last month, however, this unusual position was rectified, as a result it would seem, of the increase in the Bank of Montreal's foreign deposits referred to above, since the balances due from the United Kingdom in the case of this Bank were on February 28 $12,409,179 against $6,010,501 on January 31. While the banks' balances in London were not, according to recent standards, large they were sufficient with the increase in the foreign call loans to enable the banks to report an advance in the ratio of their immediate assets to their liabilities to the public. This ratio increased last month by about a third of one per cent. But the ratio is still low and it is evident that the bankers will use their utmost endeavours to strengthen their position further during the coming months. So that it would appear not to be the part of wisdom to build too much upon hopes of an early return of cheap money. A renewal of importations of new capital upon a large scale would, of course, ease things considerably.