insulating material and spaced well apart from gas-pipes or lighting wires; each conductor must be separately protected by a fusible cut-out of entirely fireproof construction, outside the building, if possible; the telephone instruments should be metal-cased; outside lines attached to buildings should be strongly supported on insulators at least two feet clear of gutters or other metal work, and outside lines passing a building should be at least six feet clear of any part of the building. It is desirable to recognise that great danger of fire always arises where a line wire is not protected in the manner above mentioned. Every unprotected telephone or other electric instrument should be recognised as adding to the fire hazard where the burning up of the instrument might lead to a fire. Building owners should be advised to remove entirely from the building any disused or disowned overhead lines.

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

Comparison of the Principal Items.

Assets.	30th Nov. 1899.	31st Oct. 1899.	30th Nov. 1898.	Increase and Decrease for month.		Increase and Decrease for year.	
Specie and Dominion Notes	$27,747,168	$27,861,831	$26,413,085	Dec.	$ 114,663	Inc.	$ 1,334,083
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks	11,712,172	14,400,827	10,865,445	Dec.	688,655	Inc.	846,727
Due from American Banks and Agencies	27,118,605	28,067,780	23,929,718	Dec.	949,175	Inc.	3,188,887
Due from British Banks and Branches	13,533,511	13,521,740	14,287,430	Inc.	11,771	Dec.	753,919
Canadian Municipal Securities and Brit., Prov. or Foreign or Colonial other than Dominion	16,738,841	16,592,563	17,207,041	Inc.	146,278	Dec.	468,200
Railway Securities	14,718,292	15,039,299	17,175,160	Inc.	321,007	Dec.	2,456,868
Loans on Stocks and Bonds on Call	34,317,790	34,654,363	24,963,993	Dec.	336,573	Inc.	9,353,797
Current Loans to the Public	263,597,683	259,848,951	229,261,061	Inc.	3,748,732	Inc.	34,336,622
Overdue Debts	1,943,325	2,450,463	2,438,171	Dec.	507,138	Dec.	494,846
Total Assets	437,600,702	437,787,044	391,783,255	Dec.	180,342	Inc.	45,823,447
Liabilities.							
Bank Notes in Circulation	47,839,506	49,588,236	42,350,948	Dec.	1,748,730	Inc.	5,488,558
Due to Dominion Government	2,986,795	3,988,288	2,815,832	Dec.	1,001,493	Inc.	170,963
Due to Provincial Governments	2,238,471	2,289,183	2,151,862	Dec.	50,712	Inc	86,609
Deposits payable on demand	101,437,399	100,799,465	89,468,722	Inc.	637,934	Inc.	11,968,677
Deposits payable after notice	174,437,445	172,037,773	156,534,262	Inc.	2,399,672	Inc.	17,903,183
Do made by Banks	4,255,551	3,950,800	3,605,693	Inc.	304,751	Inc.	649,858
Due to American Banks and Agencies	1,126,823	1,390,716	1,450,174	Dec.	263,893	Dec.	323,351
Due to British Banks and Branches	4,749,895	5,927,798	2,248,728	Dec.	1,177,903	Inc.	2,501,167
Total Liabilities	340,841,820	341,286,017	301,709,806	Dec.	444,197	Inc.	39,132,014
Capital.							
Capital Stock paid-up	63,365,431	64,327,636	63,170,293	Dec.	962,205	Inc.	195,138
Reserve Fund	29,531,762	29,030,785	27,694,310	Dec.	99,023	Inc.	1,837,452
Miscellaneous.							
Directors' Liabilities	7,020,135	7,355,011	7,663,040	Dec.	334,876	Dec.	642,905
Greatest amount of notes in circulation at any time during the month	50,845,199	50,454,221	44,024,625	Inc.	390,978	Inc.	6,820,574

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation, amount required being 5 per cent. on average maximum circulation for year ending 30th June, 1899, $2,056,344.

NOVEMBER BANK STATEMENT.

There is nothing in the Government Statement of the condition of the chartered banks for November to indicate any material change in the business of the country. It may be accepted as a sign of continued activity in trade that the amount shown under the heading "Current Loans to the Public," has increased during the month $3,700,000, the total increase for the year being $34,000,000.

* * * *

The extraordinary growth in the deposits continues to be a prominent feature of the returns rendered to the Government. During the month under review the total of deposits drawing interest was increased by no less an amount than $2,500,000.

* * * *

Call Loans on stocks and bonds were reduced during the month of November by $336,000; but the increase in this item over the correponding month of 1898 amounts to $9,300,000. Although it is quite likely that a material change may be made in these figures before the close of the year, there is no reason to apprehend any such scarcity of money as to warrant long continuance of the figures at present being charged for same.

* * * *

It is quite evident that there is still much money available, even on call, for the use of those having good securities to offer. When the first rumours of reverses to the British forces in South Africa unduly excited London and New York, the Montreal market also became uneasy, and some disorder and depreciation of values ensued and still continues. One financial institution is reported to have advanced the call rate upon a quarter of a million of dollars to a figure which made the borrowers test the resources of other banks. The required amount was obtained promptly upon easier terms than the advanced rate, showing there was no great stringency in the money market at that time.

* * * *

The Statement shows a decrease since October 31st of nearly a million dollars in the amount due from American banks.