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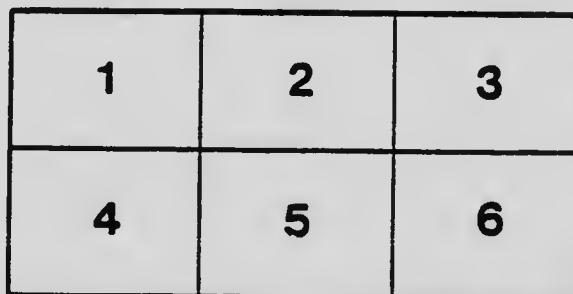
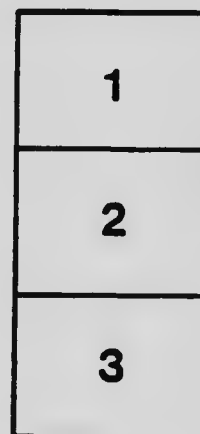
Archives of Ontario
Toronto

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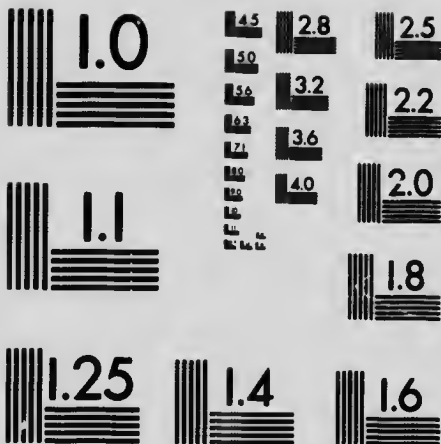
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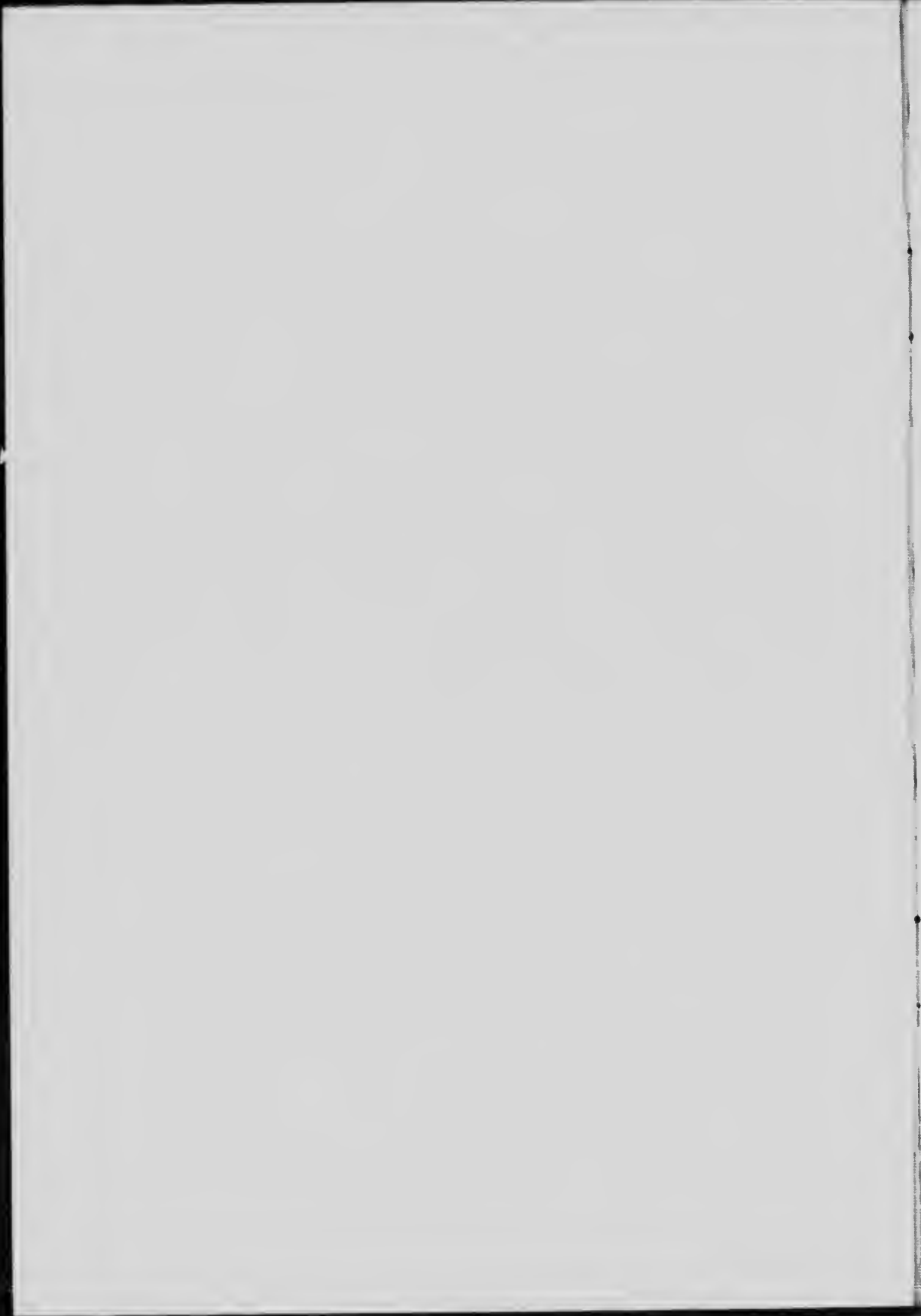
MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS
STANDARD REFERENCE MATERIAL 1010a
(ANSI and ISO TEST CHART No. 2)

1887

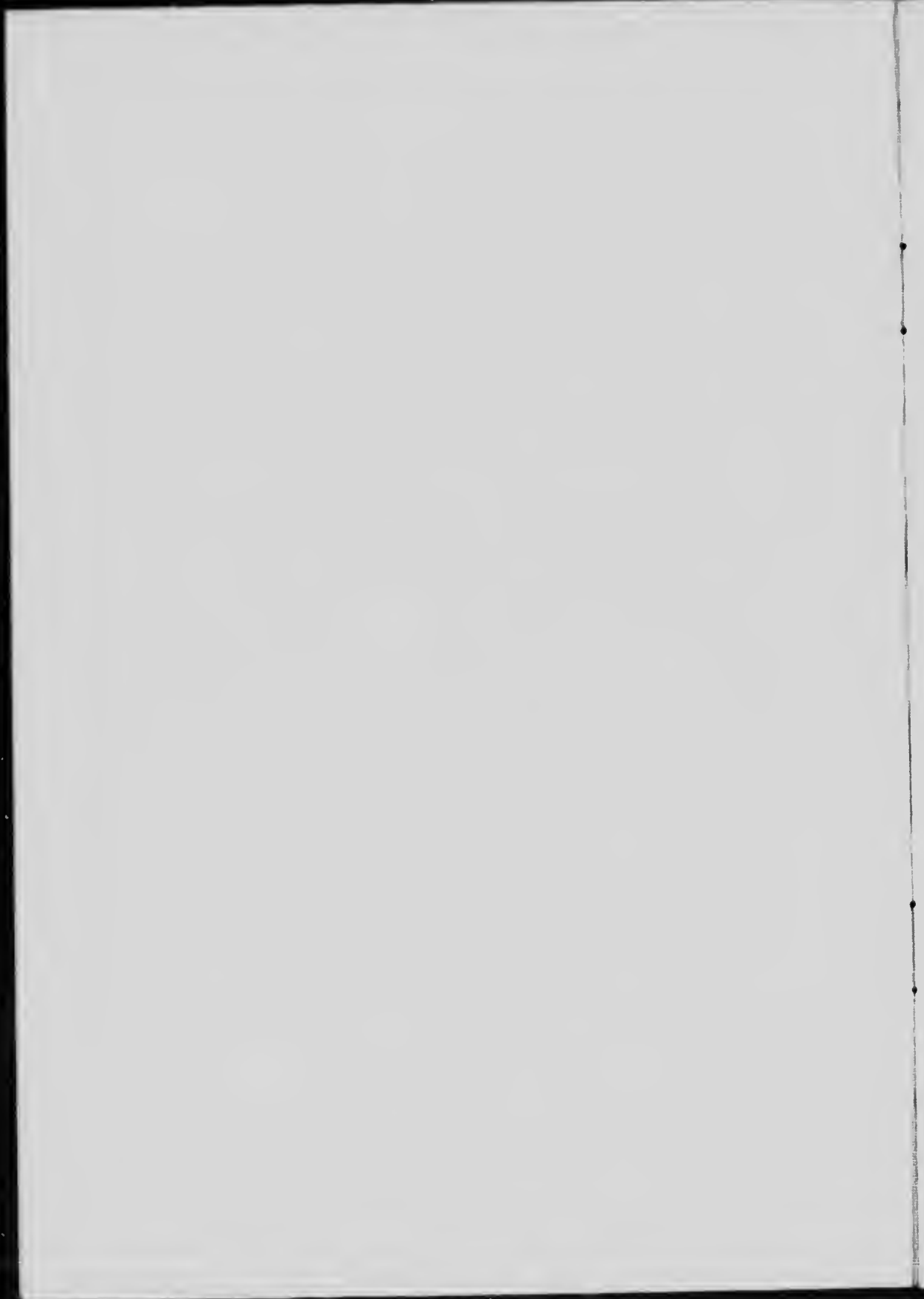




THE CANADIAN
:: BANK OF ::
COMMERCE







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JOHN R. RUSSELL & SONS,
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BANK.
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George N. Russell,
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HE accompanying
 reproduction from
 the *Nova Scotian*

of September the
 seventh, 1825. shows
 the original notice of
 establishment of the
 Bank in Halifax.
 This public notice is
 signed by the following

The Original Notice. partners: Henry H.

Cogswell, President; William Pryor, Vice-President;
 Enos Collins, James Tobin, Samuel Cunard, John
 Clarke, Joseph Allison and Martin Gay Black.
 This latter gentleman, it is interesting to note,
 was the grandfather of Mr. F. H. Mathewson, late
 Montreal Manager of The Canadian Bank of
 Commerce.

Under the direction of these partners the
 Halifax Banking Company, or Cogswell & Com-
 pany, as it was then frequently called, opened its
 doors for business on 3rd September, 1825.
 For nearly half a century the business was carried
 on in the form of a private partnership. It was
 then thought advisable to apply for incorporation
 as a chartered bank, and in 1872 a charter was

granted. The original charter members were William Pryor, P. C. Hill, afterwards Premier of Nova Scotia, and Brenton H. Collins, son of Enos Collins, one of the original founders of the Bank. The first Cashier was Samuel H. Black, who is still living near New Glasgow.

On 3rd March, 1903, an agreement was entered into for the purchase by The Canadian



View of Halifax, 1717

Bank of Commerce of the assets of the Halifax Banking Company, and the first of June of that year, when the agreement came into working effect, marked the entrance of The Canadian Bank of Commerce into Halifax.

From its modest beginning in 1825 to the date of its amalgamation with The Canadian Bank of

Commerce, the business of the Halifax Banking Company had shown steady growth. At the time of amalgamation its shareholders numbered 337, its branches 17, and its capital amounted to \$600,000.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce was established in 1867 with an authorized capital of \$1,000,000 of which \$916,359 was paid up at the end of the first year. Since that date the capital has been increased on several occasions until it now amounts to \$10,000,000, all paid up, with a Rest of \$5,000,000. The deposits of the Bank have grown from \$1,302,480 in 1868 to \$87,000,000 in 1907 and the total assets from \$2,997,081 to over \$100,000,000. The number of its branches is 178, covering every Province of Canada and including offices in London, Eng., New York and elsewhere in the United States.

The directors of the Halifax Banking Company at the time of amalgamation were Robie Uniacke, President; C. W. Anderson, John Macnab, W. N. Wickwire and W. J. G. Thomson, and H. N. Wallace was Cashier. The directors became the Advisory Board, with headquarters at Halifax, of The Canadian Bank of Commerce in the Maritime Provinces.



The Old Building

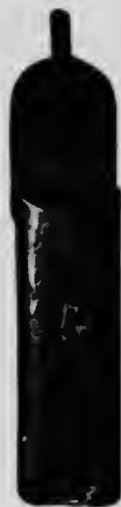
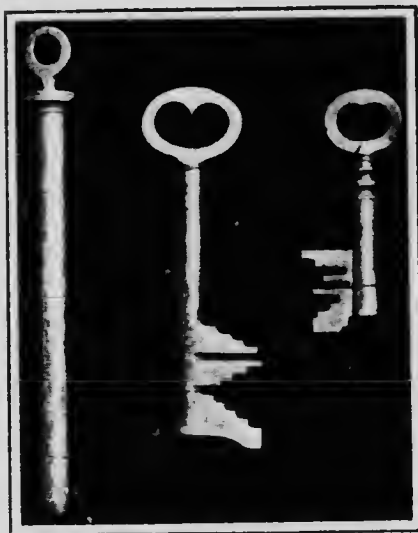
and Mr. Uniacke was elected Chairman of the Board, which position he held until his death in July, 1904. Mr. Wallace accepted the position of Manager of the Halifax branch of The Canadian Bank of Commerce. In September, 1905, on account of ill health, he decided to retire from active duties, and at the request of the Bank he accepted the Chairmanship of the Halifax Board. He was succeeded in the management of the Halifax branch by Mr. D. Macgillivray, who was transferred from Windsor, Ont.

The old stone building at 53 Upper Water Street, which had since 1825 been the home of the

Halifax Banking Company, continued to be used after the amalgamation by The Canadian Bank of Commerce. In 1906, however, the construction of a more modern building at the corner of George and Granville Streets was commenced. This was completed early in 1908 and the formal removal of the Bank took place on 2nd March.

The illustrations on this page show some of the old keys and bolts formerly in use in the old building, and the leather pouch in which the keys were kept. In the early days these formed the only protection which the bank had against burglary. The two keys are of English make

and are believed to have been in use from the founding of the bank in 1825 until about 1881 when more modern methods were adopted. The larger of the two was the key of the main door of the building, a large wooden door some six or eight



inches thick, heavily sheathed with iron, and the smaller was the key of the iron door of the vault. The vault was built of granite blocks and contained two compartments, one above the other, with separate doors; the top one was used for storing books and papers and the bottom for cash. After the vault had been locked and the building closed for the night the keys were placed in the leather pouch and left at the President's house by the messenger, whose duty it was to call for them at eight o'clock the next morning. The large iron pin shown in the illustration fitted into a hole in the floor of the book vault and engaged the door of the cash vault, preventing it from being opened. When the pin was inserted the head was a little below the level of the floor and a piece of plaster corresponding with the floor of the vault was placed on top of it. In this way it was hoped that it would escape detection if a burglar should succeed in forcing an entrance into the book vault, a feat which in those days was thought to be next to impossible. It is interesting to observe that on one occasion when a burglary was attempted this pin was the means of saving the cash. On a Saturday night access was gained from the next building and a hole cut in the floor of the directors' room which let the burglars into the manager's room,



The Women's Room

next to the vault. It took all day Sunday to cut out the lock on the cash vault. When this was done the bolts were thrown back, but the pin held and the door could not be opened. They then commenced cutting through the door of the book vault, but the time at their disposal was not sufficient, and they were forced to depart the way they came without having gained their object.

On a preceding page is a reproduction of an old engraving of Halifax as it appeared in 1717, and



Interior of New Office

the old frame building on the extreme right of the picture is situated on the site of the new building of The Canadian Bank of Commerce. For some time prior to 1790 the building on this corner was used as a cuticry shop by a merchant named Lawrence Hartshorne, who afterwards was associated with a Mr. Boggs, and the site was known for half a century or more as Hartshorne and Boggs' corner. Since about 1840 it has been known as Morton's corner, having been occupied by George E. Morton, a druggist. Mr. Morton, whose

tastes were of a literary character, relinquished the drug business many years ago for that of bookseller and news agent, and the building at the time of its removal was used as a book store. A handsome four storey granite building stood here until removed to be replaced by that of The Canadian Bank of Commerce.



THE new building is a modern adaptation of the Greek Ionic style executed in Terence Bay Granite, and presents an appearance of simplicity, dignity and durability appropriate to a building used for bank purposes. It is of fire-

proof construction throughout and has a frontage of forty feet six inches on George Street and a depth of eighty-one feet on Granville Street. The height from the sidewalk to the apex of the pediment is fifty-five feet.

The entrance to the Bank is from George Street and, with the exception of the space required for an entrance from Granville Street and for the stairs and elevator giving access to the upper floors, the entire ground floor is devoted to the banking room. This room has an area of thirty-two by fifty-two feet, unobstructed by columns, and a clear height of seventeen feet. The floor is



The Manager's Room

of marble mosaic and the trim, counters and wainscot are of mahogany. Above the wainscot the walls are panelled in plaster between pilasters, and the ceiling is beamed and panelled. To the right of the banking room is the Manager's room and to the left an alcove which has been fitted up as a women's room provided with every convenience for the use of the Bank's customers.

The vaults, safes and safety deposit boxes are of the most approved pattern.

The second and third floors of the building are fitted up as offices.

STATEMENT OF THE BANK'S AFFAIRS
AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS
ON 30th NOVEMBER, 1907

ASSETS

Specie, Bullion and Legal Tenders - -	\$11,053,419.73
Bank Balances and Notes and Cheques of other Banks - - - - -	3,739,841.94
Government, Municipal, Railway and other Bonds and Stocks - - - - -	4,874,681.86
Deposit with Government for Security of Circulation - - - - -	450,000.00
Due by Agencies in the United Kingdom	51,121.88
Due by Agencies in Foreign Countries -	2,878,820.77
Call and Short Loans - - - - -	12,695,557.30
	\$35,743,443.48
Loans and Discounts - - - - -	76,073,271.90
Overdue Debts (provided for) - - -	109,867.32
Mortgages and Real Estate - - -	98,331.16
Bank Premises - - - - -	1,412,935.26
Other Assets - - - - -	245,689.50
	\$113,683,538.62

LIABILITIES

Capital Paid Up - -	\$10,000,000.00
Rest - - - - -	5,000,000.00
Undivided Profits - -	675,912.10
	\$15,675,912.10
Deposits - - - - -	87,041,057.50
Notes in Circulation - - - - -	9,235,769.68
Due to other Banks - - - - -	155,499.78
Due to Agencies in Foreign Countries -	1,373,791.12
Unpaid Dividends - - - - -	201,508.44
	\$113,683,538.62



