

Amount of rest or reserve fund held by the banks according to monthly bank statements since 1885. The amendment to the Bank Act requiring them was passed in 1883 :—

MONTHS.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
January.....	18,259,129	17,795,766	17,895,141	17,798,814	19,080,565	20,436,332
February.....	18,264,129	17,820,141	18,047,296	17,951,215	19,154,898	20,559,333
March.....	18,323,100	17,830,141	18,070,296	17,966,215	19,211,999	20,565,333
April.....	18,373,100	17,870,141	18,120,296	18,041,215	19,211,999	20,570,333
May.....	17,374,433	18,125,141	18,610,296	18,686,215	19,866,999	21,034,034
June.....	17,512,433	17,690,141	17,600,296	18,736,215	19,966,999	21,094,034
July.....	17,509,433	17,690,141	17,600,296	18,741,215	19,991,999	21,134,034
August.....	17,709,433	17,690,141	17,653,814	18,765,565	20,016,332	21,499,034
September.....	17,784,433	17,690,141	17,728,814	18,790,565	20,091,332	21,524,034
October.....	17,784,433	17,815,141	17,678,814	18,890,565	20,091,332	21,573,534
November.....	17,858,766	17,865,141	17,683,814	18,940,565	20,141,332	21,603,654
December.....	17,803,766	17,930,141	17,793,814	19,050,565	20,371,332	21,940,369
Total.....	214,556,588	213,812,317	214,482,987	222,358,929	237,197,118	253,534,058
Average.....	17,879,716	17,817,693	17,873,582	18,529,911	19,766,426	21,127,838

MONTHS.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
January.....	22,005,904	23,728,254	25,131,057	26,580,282	27,545,341	27,715,799
February.....	22,036,322	23,947,508	25,263,960	26,655,054	27,545,341	26,458,799
March.....	22,193,026	23,964,849	25,274,165	26,655,036	27,350,674	26,458,799
April.....	22,137,459	24,025,291	25,359,982	26,712,002	27,328,174	26,463,799
May.....	22,853,789	24,599,046	25,981,362	27,127,008	27,043,799	26,318,799
June.....	23,007,678	24,662,336	26,007,668	27,157,706	27,083,799	26,348,799
July.....	23,068,184	24,756,731	26,031,245	27,160,750	27,083,799	26,348,799
August.....	23,155,988	24,772,564	26,062,576	27,166,850	27,083,799	26,348,799
September.....	23,182,546	24,826,594	26,131,999	27,260,835	27,158,799	26,373,799
October.....	23,194,784	24,832,474	26,135,348	27,261,749	27,158,799	26,373,799
November.....	23,355,509	24,938,252	26,213,861	27,287,526	27,665,799	26,438,799
December.....	23,666,827	25,086,615	26,459,815	27,470,026	27,233,799	26,670,799
Total.....	273,858,016	294,140,514	310,053,038	324,494,824	327,281,922	318,319,538
Average.....	22,821,501	24,511,709	25,837,753	27,041,235	27,273,500	26,526,632

These reserve funds, which may be considered so much additional capital to be employed by the banks, have increased greatly. Between 1886 and 1896 the fund increased by \$8,708,939, or nearly 49 per cent.

The following table gives the overdue notes and debts in chartered banks, the proportion being to total amount of call loans, current loans and loans to governments :—

October 31, 1873.....	\$2.07	per \$100	October 31, 1885.....	\$2.45	per \$100
“ 31, 1874.....	2.02	“ 100	“ 31, 1886.....	1.63	“ 100
“ 31, 1875.....	4.73	“ 100	“ 31, 1887.....	1.61	“ 100
“ 31, 1876.....	4.30	“ 100	“ 31, 1888.....	1.54	“ 100
“ 31, 1877.....	4.45	“ 100	“ 31, 1889.....	1.28	“ 100
“ 31, 1878.....	4.56	“ 100	“ 31, 1890.....	1.26	“ 100
“ 31, 1879.....	4.90	“ 100	“ 31, 1891.....	1.24	“ 100
“ 31, 1880.....	4.24	“ 100	“ 31, 1892.....	1.14	“ 100
“ 31, 1881.....	2.68	“ 100	“ 31, 1893.....	1.34	“ 100
“ 31, 1882.....	1.90	“ 100	“ 31, 1894.....	1.55	“ 100
“ 31, 1883.....	2.45	“ 100	“ 31, 1895.....	1.94	“ 100
“ 31, 1884.....	3.57	“ 100	“ 31, 1896.....	1.70	“ 100