

ceding table shows very plainly the very large expansion of business that has taken place in banking circles since Confederation, and indicates in a manner that cannot be gainsaid, the material progress made in the wealth of the country.

702. The following table shows the proportion of liabilities to assets in each year since 1868. It will be seen that from 1884 the proportion of liabilities has been steadily increasing, and that in 1891 it was higher than in any other year.

Proportion of liabilities to assets, 1868-1891.

PERCENTAGE OF LIABILITIES TO ASSETS, 1868-1891.

1868.	56·15	1880.	59·88
1869.	57·89	1881.	62·85
1870.	65·13	1882.	66·73
1871.	64·03	1883.	64·06
1872.	62·08	1884.	62·97
1873.	58·33	1885.	63·75
1874.	62·44	1886.	64·59
1875.	54·96	1887.	65·18
1876.	55·13	1888.	67·90
1877.	54·48	1889.	68·44
1878.	54·50	1890.	68·53
1879.	54·78	1891.	69·88

703. The proportion of Government deposits, both Dominion and Provincial, to the total deposits on 30th June, in the years 1889, 1890 and 1891, was 9·27 per cent, 5·54 per cent and 4·48 per cent, respectively. The larger proportion in 1889 was due to the fact that the Government happened to have a large portion of the loan of 1888 on deposit with the Bank of Montreal at that date.

Government deposits.

704. The proportion of specie and Dominion notes, on the same dates, to the assets, was, in 1889, 6·40 per cent, in 1890, 6·24 per cent, and in 1891, 6·46 per cent; and to the liabilities, 9·35 per cent, 9·11 per cent and 9·24 per cent respectively; while the proportion of the same to the notes in circulation was, in 1889, 52·42 per cent, in 1890, 49·37 per cent., and in 1891, 55·54 per cent.

Specie and Dominion notes.

705. The total amount of reserve held by the banks on the 30th June, 1891, was \$23,007,679. No returns of this fund were made previous to 1883, when an amendment to the Bank Act, requiring them, was passed.

Reserve.

706. The total amount of money on deposit in June, 1891, in the chartered banks, Post Office and Government savings banks, Montreal and Quebec savings banks, and in the hands of loan companies, was \$217,800,738, equal to the sum of \$45 per head of population.

Total amount on deposit.