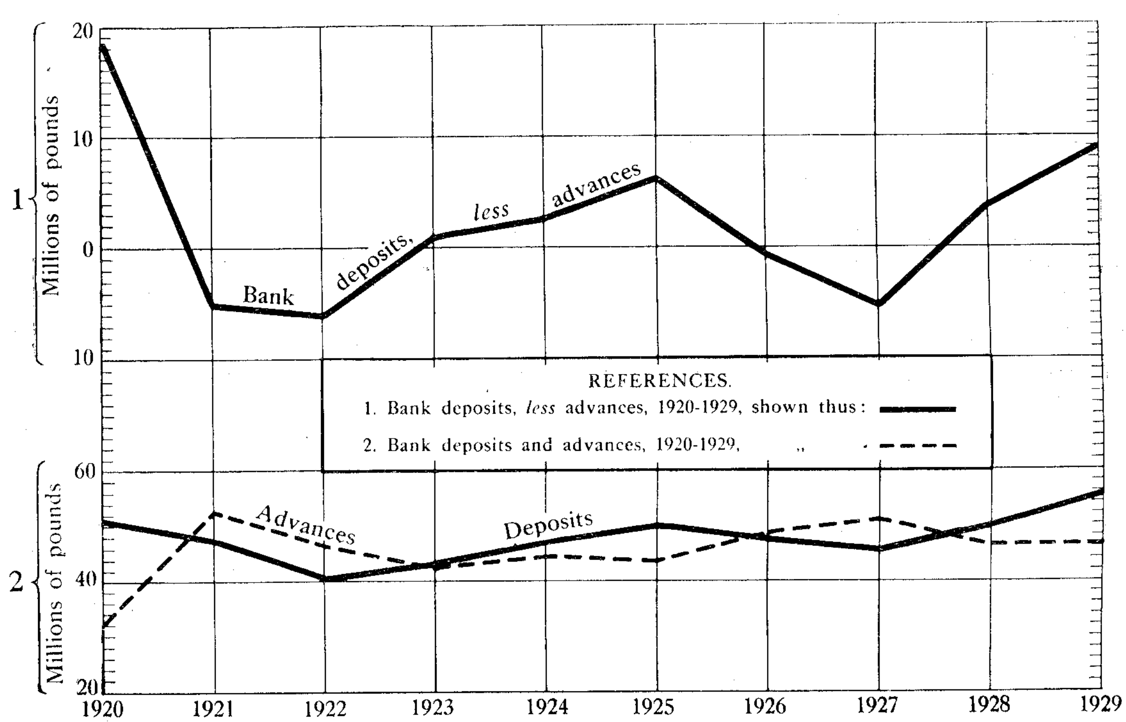
The following table shows for the past ten years the deposits and advances as at the 31st March in each year :—

As at 31st March,	Deposits.	Advances.	Excess of Advances.	Excess of Deposits.
	£	£	£	£
1920	50,665,091	32,042,043	..	18,623,048
1921	47,155,731	52,446,341	5,290,610	..
1922	40,360,390	46,491,316	6,130,926	..
1923	43,465,816	42,521,571	..	944,245
1924	47,033,292	44,403,524	..	2,629,768
1925	49,897,228	43,730,262	..	6,166,966
1926	47,302,480	48,285,140	982,660	..
1927	45,528,813	50,800,809	5,271,996	..
1928	49,958,295	46,070,370	..	3,887,925
1929	55,345,493	46,359,742	..	8,985,751

The graphs which follow illustrate these figures diagrammatically. In the first one bank deposits, less advances, are represented for the ten years 1920–29, excess of deposits being shown above the zero line and excess of advances in any particular year being shown below. In the second one the actual figures of deposits and advances are represented for the same ten years.



The bank returns, like the overseas-trade returns, reflect the greatly improved trade balance, for both the favourable balance and the funds available have reached exceptionally high levels. Other indicators of business conditions also show considerable improvement, and confirm the tendency towards the marked recovery of business activity shown by the above figures.

Post Office Savings-bank returns, which became rapidly less favourable during 1927, have now shown steady improvement for more than a year. For the year ended 31st March, 1929, deposits totalled £27,252,381 and withdrawals £28,111,940, being an excess of withdrawals over deposits of £859,559. For the previous year, ended 31st March, 1928, deposits amounted to £27,611,066 and withdrawals were £30,584,997, an excess of withdrawals over deposits of £2,973,931. These figures show a greatly improved position for the past year, and there are indications that the period of excess withdrawals has come to an end and that a period of excess deposits will be resumed, for the deposits for the quarter ended 31st March, 1929, were £6,908,589 as compared with withdrawals amounting to £6,517,949, an excess of deposits of £390,640.