

After slight decreases in the number of companies in operation shortly after the turn of the century, further increases were again recorded until in 1926 a total of 124 companies were in existence in Canada. Of this number, however, complete statistics for 1926 are available for only 28, the 14 companies incorporated by the Dominion Parliament under the Loan Companies Act, 1914, and the 14 companies incorporated under the Trust Companies Act of the same year. These companies alone are required to make returns to the Dominion Government, provincially incorporated companies having purely voluntary relations with Dominion Departments.

Trust companies, it may be added, act as executors, trustees and administrators under wills or by appointment, as trustees under marriage or other settlements, as agents or attorneys in the management of the estates of the living, as guardians of minor or incapable persons, as financial agents for municipalities and companies, and, where so appointed, as authorized trustees in bankruptcy. Some companies receive deposits, but the loaning of actual trust funds is restricted by law. The principal function of loan companies is the loaning of funds on first mortgage security, the money thus made available for development purposes being secured mainly by the sale of debentures to the investing public and by savings department deposits. Of the loan companies operating under provincial charters, the majority conduct loan, savings and mortgage businesses, generally in the more prosperous farming communities.

The Abstract of Statements of Loan and Trust Companies in Canada, published by the Department of Insurance for the year 1923, made possible for the first time in recent years a comparison of the statistics of the operations of provincially incorporated loan and trust companies and those of companies chartered by the Dominion Government. These figures are of particular interest in the case of trust companies, which, on account of the nature of their transactions, are peculiarly provincial institutions, since their chief duties are intimately connected with the matter of probate, which lies within the sole jurisdiction of the provinces.

As indicating the progress of the aggregate of loan company business in Canada, it may be stated that the book value of the assets of all loan companies rose from \$188,637,298 in 1922 to \$204,723,928 in 1926. The total assets in the hands of the trust companies increased from \$805,689,070 in 1922 to \$989,595,445 in 1926. The latter figure included \$872,926,779 of "estates, trusts and agency funds" (Table 30).

### 30.—Summary Statistics of the Operations of Dominion and Provincial Loan and Trust Companies in Canada, 1926.

#### LOAN COMPANIES.

Items.	Provincial Companies.	Dominion Companies.	Total.
	\$	\$	\$
Book value of Assets.....	84,402,833	120,321,095	204,723,928
Liabilities to the public.....	49,116,806	80,447,380	129,564,186
Capital Stock—			
Authorized.....	51,105,484	83,874,210	134,979,694
Subscribed.....	21,802,495	38,766,369	55,568,864
Paid up.....	20,423,966	23,498,336	43,922,302
Reserve and Contingency Funds.....	14,370,627	14,861,280	29,231,907
Other liabilities to shareholders.....	2,387,116	618,321	2,905,437
Total liabilities to shareholders.....	37,081,709	38,977,937	76,059,646
Net profit realized during year.....	1,976,668	2,633,419	4,610,087