

Earnings of Canadian Banks.—The chartered banks of Canada are for the most part Dominion-wide institutions, doing business in all parts of the country. Their earnings, therefore, reflect with very considerable accuracy the fluctuations of general business.

19.—Net Profits of Canadian Banks and Rates of Dividend Paid, for Their Business Years Ended 1934-39.

NOTE.—These figures are not strictly comparable owing to variations from year to year in the practices of individual banks and between banks. With the exception of La Banque Provinciale du Canada, the profits for 1936, 1937, 1938, and 1939 are shown after deducting Dominion and Provincial Government taxes.

Bank.	1934.		1935.		1936.	
	Net Profits.	Dividend Rate.	Net Profits.	Dividend Rate.	Net Profits.	Dividend Rate.
	\$	p.c.	\$	p.c.	\$	p.c.
Bank of Montreal.....	4,105,024	8	3,005,212	8	3,181,501	8
Bank of Nova Scotia.....	1,850,330	12	1,834,174	12	1,926,686	12
Bank of Toronto.....	822,499	10	806,391	10	1,141,810	10
Banque Provinciale du Canada.....	417,366	6	400,843	6	402,678	6
Canadian Bank of Commerce	3,413,654	8	3,389,031	8	2,909,124	8
Royal Bank of Canada.....	4,398,217	8	4,340,522	8	3,504,241	8
Dominion Bank.....	1,151,561	10	901,556	10	951,277	10
Banque Canadienne Nationale.....	935,823	9 ¹	915,790	8	727,935	8
Imperial Bank of Canada.....	1,231,992	10	1,208,079	10	962,813	10
Barclays Bank (Canada)....	2	—	2	—	2	—
Totals, Net Profits.....	18,326,466		16,801,598		15,708,065	
	1937.		1938.		1939.	
	Net Profits.	Dividend Rate.	Net Profits.	Dividend Rate.	Net Profits.	Dividend Rate.
	\$	p.c.	\$	p.c.	\$	p.c.
Bank of Montreal.....	3,408,328	8	3,398,390	8	3,462,446	8
Bank of Nova Scotia.....	1,982,140	12	1,980,769	12	2,033,333	12
Bank of Toronto.....	1,156,372	10	1,163,716	10	1,324,229	10
Banque Provinciale du Canada.....	444,410	6	450,427	6	457,173	6
Canadian Bank of Commerce	2,934,117	8	2,648,975	8	2,938,105	8
Royal Bank of Canada.....	3,711,379	8	3,696,233	8	3,724,842	8
Dominion Bank.....	976,838	10	960,121	10	802,296 ²	10
Banque Canadienne Nationale.....	774,228	8	780,240	8	783,184	8
Imperial Bank of Canada.....	967,977	10	961,342	10	966,258	10
Barclays Bank (Canada)....	2	—	2	—	2	—
Totals, Net Profits.....	16,355,789		16,040,213		16,491,866	

¹ This bank paid at the rate of 10 p.c. per annum for the first half-year and 8 p.c. for the second.
² Not reported. ³ Ten months.

Branches of Chartered Banks.—During the period from 1881 to 1901, the number of chartered banks doing business in Canada under the Bank Act remained almost the same (36 in 1881 and 1891, and 34 in 1901), but during the present century there has been in banking, as in industry, an era of amalgamations, the number of banks having dropped to 25 in 1913 and to 10 in 1931. That this has been far from involving a curtailment of banking facilities is seen in Table 9, which shows the development of the banking business since 1867, and in Table 20, which compares the number of branch banks existing in Canada at different periods, and shows a growth from 123 at Confederation to 4,083, inclusive of sub-agencies, at Dec. 31, 1930. Since then, owing to the shrinkage in commercial activities as a result of the depression, some unprofitable branches have been closed and the total has declined to 3,319, exclusive of 140 branches and agencies in other countries, as at Dec. 31, 1939.