

CHAPTER XXV.—CURRENCY AND BANKING; MISCELLANEOUS COMMERCIAL FINANCE

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

In this Chapter are assembled the statistics regarding financial institutions and transactions, other than those pertaining to insurance: the latter are dealt with separately in Chapter XXVI.

PART I.—CURRENCY AND BANKING

Section 1.—Historical Sketch

At pp. 900-905, inclusive, of the 1938 Year Book there appears a historical sketch of currency and banking in Canada, tracing certain features of the central banking system that finally led up to the establishment of the Bank of Canada. In chronological order these were:—

(1) *Central Note Issue*, permanently established with the issue of Dominion notes under legislation of 1868.

(2) *The Canadian Bankers' Association*, established in 1900 and designed to effect greater co-operation among the banks in the issue of notes, in credit control and in various aspects of bank activities.

(3) *The Central Gold Reserves*, established by the Bank Act of 1913.

(4) *Rediscount Facilities*, although originated as a war measure by the Finance Act of 1914, were made a permanent feature of the system by the Finance Act of 1923, which empowered the Minister of Finance to issue Dominion notes to the banks on the deposit by them of approved securities. This legislation provided the banks with a means of increasing their legal tender cash reserves at will.