CHAPTER XXV.—BANKING, OTHER COMMERCIAL FINANCE AND INSURANCE

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found on p. xvi of this volume.

PART I.—BANKING AND OTHER COMMERCIAL FINANCE

Section 1.—Banking

Subsection 1.- The Bank of Canada*

Canada's central bank, the Bank of Canada, began operations on Mar. 11, 1935, under the terms of the Bank of Canada Act of 1934 which charged it with the responsibility for regulating "credit and currency in the best interests of the economic life of the nation", and conferred on it specific powers for discharging this responsibility. Through the exercise of these powers, the Bank broadly determines the combined total of the most common forms of Canadian money held by the community, chartered bank deposits and currency. The 1967 revision of the Bank of Canada Act contained a number of technical amendments designed to assist the Bank in discharging its responsibilities and account is taken of these changes in the following description of the Bank's operations.

The provisions of the Bank of Canada Act enable the central bank to determine the total amount of cash reserves available to the chartered banks as a group and thus to control the rate of expansion of the total assets and deposit liabilities of the banking system as a whole. The Bank Act, which regulates the operation of the chartered banks, requires that each chartered bank maintain a stipulated minimum average amount of cash reserves,

[·] Revised by the Research Department of the Bank of Canada.