

outstanding is limited by restricting the increase per annum to 10% of the paid-up capital and rest fund and an upper limit of one half of the bank's paid-up capital and rest fund.

The amendments to the Bank Act in 1967 contained a number of revisions respecting the ownership of Canadian chartered banks. No individual or associated shareholders may vote more than 10% of a bank's total shares outstanding and, if more than 25% of a bank's shares are owned by non-residents, the total outstanding liabilities of the bank may not exceed 20 times its authorized capital stock.

The Bank Act also stipulates the minimum statutory cash reserve requirement that the chartered banks must observe. The minimum amount of Bank of Canada notes and deposits each bank must hold as cash reserves was changed in a series of monthly steps from 8% of all Canadian dollar deposits under the old Bank Act to 12% of demand deposits and 4% of other deposits as at February 1968. In addition, the Bank of Canada was given stand-by powers to require the banks to hold a "secondary reserve" which would consist of cash in excess of their statutory requirements, holdings of treasury bills and day-to-day loans to investment dealers. When initially introduced, this secondary reserve cannot exceed 6% of a bank's deposit liabilities. Thereafter it may be increased in monthly steps of 1% to a maximum of 12%. The Bank of Canada may reduce or remove such a secondary reserve at any time. Effective April 1968, the required level was 7%; effective June 1969, it was increased to 8% and, effective July 1970, to 9%; effective December 1971, it was reduced to 8.5% and to 8% effective January 1972.

Chartered bank financial statistics for recent years are given in Tables 19.8 - 19.12; month-end data are available in the *Bank of Canada Review*.

Branches of chartered banks. Although there are fewer chartered banks now than at the beginning of the century, there has been a great increase in the number of branch banking offices. As a result of amalgamations, the number of banks declined from 34 in 1901 to ten in 1931, and remained at that figure until the incorporation of a new bank - The Mercantile Bank of Canada - in 1953 brought the total to 11. Since then the amalgamation in 1955 of the Bank of Toronto and the Dominion Bank as the Toronto Dominion Bank, the amalgamation of Barclays Bank (Canada) with the Imperial Bank of Canada in 1956 and the amalgamation of the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Imperial Bank of Canada as the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce on June 1, 1961 reduced this number to eight. The Bank of British Columbia was granted a charter by Parliament in December 1966 and commenced operations in July 1968. The Unity Bank of Canada was granted a charter in November 1972 and will commence operations in 1973, increasing the number of banks to ten. The number of branches of chartered banks in each province periodically from 1920 to 1972 is given in Table 19.13.

Branches of individual Canadian chartered banks by province and outside Canada as at December 31, 1971-72 are given in Tables 19.14 and 19.15.

Cheque payments. Historical data on a monthly basis are available from 1924 on the amount of cheques charged to customer accounts in 35 major clearing centres. The value of payments rose steadily throughout the country from 1924 to 1929. From 1929 to 1932 the value declined sharply and thereafter fluctuated within rather narrow limits until the outbreak of World War II. Since 1939, the total value of cheques cashed in these centres has increased steadily (see Table 19.16). The value of cheques cashed in 50 clearing centres during 1971 reached a high of \$926,960.0 million, an increase of 13.3% above the value of \$817,910.5 million for 1970. All five geographic regions showed increases, with Ontario recording a gain of 15.3%, the Prairie Provinces 5.0%, the Atlantic Provinces 8.0%, Quebec 14.3% and British Columbia 13.2%. Payments in the two leading centres also reached all-time highs, Toronto advancing 15.0% and Montreal 14.0% over 1970.

19.1.5 Other banking institutions

In addition to the savings departments of the chartered banks and of trust and loan companies, there are provincial government savings banking institutions in Ontario and Alberta, and the Montreal City and District Savings Bank in Quebec, established under federal legislation and reporting monthly to the Department of Finance. Co-operative credit unions also encourage savings and extend small loans to their members.

Province of Ontario Savings Office. The establishment of the Province of Ontario Savings Office was authorized by the Ontario Legislature at the 1921 Session and the first branches were opened in March 1922. Interest at the rate of 5% per annum (as at June 1, 1972),