

adaptation to the requirements of the grain and cattle trade of the West; and (4) the consolidation during later years of the features that tended towards its early success. The development of a stable system has been accompanied by failures, particularly marked about the middle of the 19th century, but progress has nevertheless been steady and based on sound principles.

The branch bank is perhaps the most distinctive feature of the Canadian system as it exists to-day, and for a country such as Canada, vast in area and with a small population, the plan has proved a good one. A result of the growth of branch banks was the development of a partly centralized system — centralized as to banks, of which there are now ten, rather than as to districts as in the partly centralized system of the United States. There were 28 chartered banks in existence at Confederation. The elimination of weaker banks or their amalgamation with more stable institutions has been a progressive move towards greater security and confidence. The banks at Confederation were as follows:—

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

Bank of Montreal.
Quebec Bank.
Commercial Bank of Canada.
City Bank.
Gore Bank.
Bank of British North America.
Banque du Peuple.
Niagara District Bank.
Molson's Bank.
Bank of Toronto.
Ontario Bank.
Eastern Townships Bank.
Banque Nationale.
Banque Jacques-Cartier.
Merchants' Bank of Canada.
Royal Canadian Bank.

Union Bank of Lower Canada.
Mechanics' Bank.
Canadian Bank of Commerce.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Bank of Yarmouth.
Merchants' Bank of Halifax.
People's Bank of Halifax.
Union Bank of Halifax.
Bank of Nova Scotia.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Bank of New Brunswick.
Commercial Bank of New Brunswick.
St. Stephen's Bank.
People's Bank of New Brunswick.

A table at pp. 894-895 of the 1937 Year Book shows the insolvencies since Confederation; there have been no further changes reported.

8.—Bank Absorptions in Canada since 1867.

NOTE.—The purchasing banks named in that part of the table at p. 898 are no longer in business.

Purchasing Bank.	Bank Absorbed.	Date. ¹
Bank of Montreal.....	Exchange Bank, Yarmouth, N.S.....	Aug. 13, 1903
	People's Bank of Halifax, N.S.....	June 27, 1905
	Ontario Bank.....	Oct. 13, 1906
	People's Bank of New Brunswick.....	Apr. 15, 1907
	Bank of British North America.....	Oct. 12, 1918
	Merchants' Bank of Canada.....	Mar. 20, 1922
	Molson's Bank.....	Jan. 20, 1925
Canadian Bank of Commerce.....	Gore Bank.....	May 19, 1870
	Bank of British Columbia.....	Dec. 31, 1900
	Halifax Banking Company.....	May 30, 1903
	Merchants' Bank of P.E.I.....	May 31, 1906
	Eastern Townships Bank.....	Feb. 29, 1912 ²
	Bank of Hamilton.....	Dec. 31, 1923
	Standard Bank of Canada.....	Nov. 3, 1928
Bank of Nova Scotia.....	Union Bank of P.E.I.....	Oct. 1, 1883
	Bank of New Brunswick.....	Feb. 15, 1913
	The Metropolitan Bank.....	Nov. 14, 1914
	The Bank of Ottawa.....	Apr. 30, 1919
Royal Bank of Canada.....	Union Bank of Halifax.....	Nov. 1, 1910
	Traders' Bank of Canada.....	Sept. 3, 1912
	Quebec Bank.....	Jan. 2, 1917
	Northern Crown Bank.....	July 2, 1918
	Union Bank of Canada.....	Aug. 31, 1925 ¹
Imperial Bank of Canada.....	Niagara District Bank.....	June 21, 1875
	The Weyburn Security Bank.....	May 1, 1931
Banque d'Hochelaga ²	Banque Nationale.....	Apr. 30, 1924

¹ Dates later than 1900 are those of the Orders in Council authorizing the absorptions. ² The Banque d'Hochelaga after absorbing the Banque Nationale adopted the name Banque Canadienne Nationale.