

entertainments in the hands of the head offices of the Convention city, it would have testified to the sincerity of its welcome in a more practical manner.

Yours respectfully,

A. M. CROMBIE, Chairman  
ARTHUR WEIR, Secretary

#### BANKERS' SECTION OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, TORONTO

The Bankers' Section of the Board of Trade, Toronto, beg to submit to the Canadian Bankers' Association the following report relating to the proceedings of the Section during the year :

As this is the first report which has been submitted to the Association, it may not be out of place to state that the Section was organized in March, 1886, and has since that time interested itself in all matters connected with the interests of the banks represented. Its membership is made up of all bank officers in the City of Toronto who are members of the Board of Trade, and every chartered bank doing business in the city is represented in its membership.

The Chairman for the past year was Mr. Angus Kirkland, of the Bank of Montreal, and Vice-Chairman, Mr. R. D. Gamble, of the Dominion Bank.

The most important matter dealt with by the Section was in connection with the legislation introduced by the Government of the Province of Ontario imposing taxation on banks doing business in that Province. As soon as information reached the Section that it was the intention of the Government to introduce such legislation, a Committee, consisting of Mr. Kirkland (chairman), and Messrs. Wilkie, Coulson and Walker, was appointed to meet with the Government and deal with the matter. This Committee at once waited upon the Government, but were unable at their first interview to gain any definite information as to the scope or details of the proposed tax.

When the Bill was introduced the Committee again waited upon the Government and had an interview with the Executive Council, at which they protested against the undue amount of taxes which the banks were being asked to contribute, and especially directed the attention of the members of the Government to the unfairness of the tax upon those banks that had their organization and head offices outside the Province. Upon this latter point they had a lengthened discussion with the members of the Government. The Government were not disposed at this time to make any changes in the Bill, but the Chairman of this Committee had subsequently another interview with the Provincial Treasurer specially relating to this question, and finally obtained the assurance that amendments to the Act would be made which would afford some relief, and especially to those outside banks that had few offices in the Province.

As a result of these conferences the Act was amended in some respects, although we cannot regard the legislation as being satisfactory either to the banks having their head offices in the Province, or to those whose head office organization is elsewhere.

Under an agreement, made some time prior to the year just closed, all the banks in Toronto and Toronto Junction were (and still are) paying three per cent. per annum as the maximum rate of interest on all deposits, and the system of paying interest on the minimum monthly balance in savings bank accounts was very generally in force. During the year it was thought well to make an effort to bring about an understanding on both these points which should be applicable at every bank office in Ontario. An agreement was drawn up which was signed by all the banks having head offices in