

How Western Progress has Affected the Banks.

The immigration movement has proceeded in heavy volume during the past five or six years ; and in the same period the movement to establish branch banks in Western Canada has been very active. At the end of 1904, there were but 1145 branches in all Canada ; of these only 240, or 20 per cent. of the whole, were located west of lake Superior. In the seven years, 1904-1911, the number of branches in Western Canada nearly quadrupled. The offices in Eastern Canada increased about 80 per cent. in the same period. The rapid filling up of the western plains, besides causing this great increase in Western branch banks has also played an important part in building up the industrial centres of Eastern Canada. The Eastern factories and plants have been expanding, and new industrial concerns have been locating at suitable points in Ontario and Quebec, largely because of the increased markets for their output provided by Western Canada. Thus it is seen that the development and growth of Western Canada played an important part in bringing about increase of banking offices in the East as well as in the West.