

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Scottish Union & National Insurance Company has recently taken over the Lancashire & Yorkshire Accident Insurance Company, of Manchester, Eng. The latter company has an authorized capital of \$1,000,000, subscribed \$600,000, and paid up \$180,000. It transacts Accident, Employers' Liability, Workmen's Compensation, Fidelity, Guarantee, etc.

CANADIAN BANK DEPOSITS.

The rapid increase in our bank deposits has been matter for very general self-gratulation throughout the whole Dominion. This increase, when combined with the other well-known evidences, affords the most satisfactory proof that Canada is fast accumulating wealth. It will be an interesting study to examine a little closely the particulars of the gains in deposits. Fortunately, the monthly statements submitted by the banks to government are in a form that permits of their classification. In this respect, as in several others, our bank statements are superior to the bank statements of every other country. This is so, for one reason, because the form of the statement has been from time to time adjusted or changed to meet changed conditions and circumstances. While on the subject it is as well to state that if the banks were to give the number of their branches, their statements would have an added value and interest. The branch bank movement has been quite important, and the public, as well as the government, would be in a better position for judging the condition of the various banks, if each one were to publish monthly the number of its branches.

To go back to the matter of the growth of deposits. Chartered bank deposits are subdivided under six heads, as follows: "Dominion Government," "Provincial Government," "Public Deposits payable on Demand," "Public Deposits payable after Notice," "Deposits Elsewhere than in Canada," and "Deposits of other Banks in Canada." With regard to the "Deposits of other Banks in Canada," they need not be considered here, since they consist merely of funds placed by certain of the banks with other banks; and they are, for all practical purposes, re-deposits of funds belonging to the public. Besides they have not increased to any great extent in the last four years. With regard to "Deposits Elsewhere than in Canada" the presumption is that they belong to foreigners, since the bulk is reported by banks which have a number of foreign agencies. Still, it is quite probable that Canadian companies and individuals own some of the deposits. They are, therefore, included in the table. Since the beginning of 1902, the growth of the different classes of deposits has been as follows:

	Dom. Gov't Deposits.	Prov. Gov't Deposits.	Pub. Deposts Demand.	Pub. Deposts Notice.	Deposits Elsewhere
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1902.					
Jan..	2,896,226	4,170,517	95,844,789	237,011,833	31,410,770
Apr..	3,444,524	3,415,309	99,210,543	239,875,361	32,067,736
July..	2,759,907	4,249,766	105,539,151	245,044,194	37,272,322
Oct..	2,823,253	3,373,546	113,176,932	248,612,677	35,389,263
1903.					
Jan..	2,238,059	3,981,103	107,767,043	259,017,187	36,129,904
Apr..	2,557,887	3,564,445	110,474,577	265,437,364	36,276,446
July..	2,921,821	3,872,721	110,542,900	271,597,201	36,349,191
Oct..	4,381,598	2,614,838	118,070,088	275,939,508	29,101,329
1904.					
Jan..	2,382,013	5,605,941	107,323,255	287,248,914	37,300,337
Apr..	2,971,661	5,565,280	104,112,729	301,044,721	34,663,821
July..	2,627,728	5,890,275	118,331,939	312,713,823	32,643,571
Oct..	2,539,222	5,742,494	130,9,564	315,323,431	33,200,104
1905.					
Jan..	2,773,478	8,264,605	128,962,627	322,270,620	39,470,656
Apr..	2,923,608	7,167,452	127,213,044	332,326,292	39,418,720
July..	1,740,787	7,872,368	137,597,485	336,505,877	48,477,265
Oct..	1,847,312	7,006,898	150,868,116	349,822,859	47,077,167
1906.					
Jan..	3,198,186	7,138,440	151,722,684	369,499,614	47,191,637
Apr..	3,055,374	6,576,420	157,147,012	373,376,049	43,355,332
July..	5,605,796	9,212,196	165,077,790	379,030,511	50,826,446

The Dominion and Provincial deposits have not changed greatly. The former fluctuates moderately; and possibly the payment of several millions recently by the Canadian Pacific Railway to the Province of Quebec had something to do with the increase in the Provincial deposits. Taking the demand deposits of the public, from first to last there is a gain of \$60,233,001; but, as these deposits fluctuate somewhat after the manner of the note circulation, the comparison should be made between January, 1902, and January, 1906. Then, there is shown a gain of \$55,877,805, or close on 60 p.c., which is good progress for four years. These, as pretty well every body knows, are supposed to be made up of the current accounts, or working balances of corporations, firms, and individuals. And they illustrate, therefore, the activity of trade as well as the growth of wealth. In the old days these balances or accounts were, as they should be, practically free of interest. But, under the stress of the present-day competition it is likely that quite a number now draw interest. This practice of paying interest on demand deposits is one of the evils which competition has introduced into banking at New York also. There, as here conservative and old-fashioned bankers deplore the innovation and declare that harm may result from it if it is pushed too far.

Thus it may be that part of the total shown under this heading of demand deposits should more properly be shown in the next column which contains the "notice deposits." The growth of these reflects, more nearly, the increase in the savings of the people. As the total does not fluctuate, but increases steadily every month, comparison may properly be made between January, 1902, and July, 1906. There is an increase of \$142,018,678, or almost exactly 60 p.c., in 4½ years. The average rate of increase for the whole term is not far from three millions per month. But, if it be taken by years, it is noticeable that the increase has been more rapid in the last year or two. In 1902 the increase was at the rate of barely 2 millions per month; in 1903, 2¼ millions per month; in 1904, about 3 millions per month; and in 1905, 4 millions per month. As the greater part of the increase each year takes place from August to the end of the year it would hardly be a fair comparison to quote the average monthly gain for the first six months of the current year.