

Farmers Financial Directory

FARMERS

Make Your Bank Manager
Your Financial Adviser

Let him help you to shape your affairs so that the Bank will be warranted in giving you all the floating credit you need to operate your farm efficiently

Then Pay Spot Cash for Your Goods and
Insist on the Right Cash Discount

If you want to buy Livestock of any description for Breeding or Feeding don't hesitate to put your proposition before your Banker. If you are the right kind of Farmer and you have the right kind of Banker you will get the right credit.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

SIR EDMUND WALKER,
C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L., President
H.V.F. JONES, Asst. Gen'l. Manager



SIR JOHN AIRD, General Manager
V.C. BROWN,
Sup't of Central Western Branches

CAPITAL PAID UP, \$15,000,000 RESERVE FUND, \$13,500,000

TOTAL ASSETS \$344,000,000

Teach the Children to Save

Habits are acquired early in life. Children, who are taught the value of money and the habit of saving, grow up into good business men and capable women.



The easiest way to teach children to save, is to start a Savings Account for each child (\$1.00 each is sufficient). After a child has saved another dollar to make an additional deposit, he or she will have a better appreciation of just what a dollar stands for, and how much work and self-denial it represents.

THE MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA

Head Office: Montreal. Established 1864.

with its 19 Branches in Manitoba, 21 Branches in Saskatchewan, 53 Branches in Alberta, 8 Branches in British Columbia, 182 Branches in Ontario and 32 Branches in Quebec serves Rural Canada most effectively.

WRITE OR CALL AT NEAREST BRANCH.

CROWN LIFE

The Extra Death Claims resulting from the war in 1917 were about equal to the number of Normal Death Claims resulting from all other causes, yet the Company's income from interest alone was more than sufficient to pay ALL Death Claims.

CROWN LIFE INSURANCE CO., TORONTO
308 Sterling Bank Bldg., Winnipeg, Man. 57

To My Ever-increasing Shippers

It affords me very much pleasure to advise you that my excellent outlets enable me to pay you for IMMEDIATE shipments of MUSKRATS the following exceptionally high prices:—

	Ex. Lrg.	Large	Med.	Sm.
No. 1, Springs	\$1.25	\$1.00	\$.75	\$.50
No. 2, Winters, part prime Springs or lightweights.	.80	.70	.50	.35
No. 3, Falls and Early Winters	.70	.60	.40	.30
Shot, Speared, and Damaged, .15 to .30	Kitts, .05 to .15			

COYOTES AND BRUSH WOLVES

	Ex. Lrg.	Large	Med.	Sm.
No. 1, Cased	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$7.50
No. 2 Cased	15.00	12.00	8.00	5.00
No. 3, \$2.00 to \$3.00	No. 4, .50 Open, One fourth less.			

RED and CROSS FOXES, WEASEL, MARTEN and LYNX are very high. I also pay all express charges or refund postage charges. NOTE: Postal regulations demand contents must be marked outside all mail packages of FURS, to avoid delays or confiscation. Forward everything promptly.

R. S. ROBINSON

157 RUPERT AVENUE and 150-152 PACIFIC AVENUE EAST, WINNIPEG, MAN.

Concentration of Banks

*Amalgamations Reduce Number of Chartered Banks from 41 to 19 in thirty years

The recent amalgamations between the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of British North America and between the Royal Bank of Canada and the Northern Crown Bank are of especial interest in the four western provinces. They have a two-fold interest. First, these two banking mergers affect local conditions in the West through the elimination of a certain amount of duplication in the matter of branch machinery, giving in one case at least added stability to the facilities for financial accommodation throughout the country. And secondly, it is apparent from the wider, national viewpoint, that the chartered banking business in Canada is gradually being centered in the hands of a few old and strongly entrenched institutions. This process of concentration is doubtless working at the present time as a sort of preliminary manoeuvring on the part of the big financial powers of the Dominion, preparatory to the certain economic strain which will come upon Canada and every other country at the close of the war.

A certain amount of criticism has been heard throughout Canada as the result of these two amalgamations. That of the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of British North America seemed to provoke the greater amount of adverse comment. But in both cases there are reasons to justify the action which made two banks stand where four stood before. Some of the reasons are patent to anyone who might scan the statements and records of the absorbed banks; and doubtless other reasons exist which are more obscure to the journalistic observer.

Futile Criticism

The critics of the banking merger hold that through the reduction of the number of chartered banks in Canada, the business of finance becomes a dangerous and formidable combine, calculated to militate against the best development of the nation's resources. Under the Canadian Bank Act, however, which makes the Canadian Bankers' Association an integral part of the government of Canada every ten years in matters pertaining to new banking legislation, such criticism is rather futile and lacking in point. So long as the chartered banks are properly regulated and supervised by the federal department of finance, it matters little whether there be twenty or forty central institutions handling the people's money. It is extremely important, however, that these big banks should be extended throughout Canada with a view to efficient service, and with an equitable regard for the various public interests that are to be served.

Strengthens the West

The taking over of the Northern Crown Bank by the Royal means a considerable strengthening of the financial equipment of the western provinces. Out of a total number of 113 branches in all Canada, the Northern Crown had 88 located in the four western provinces, distributed as follows: Manitoba, 22; Saskatchewan, 55; Alberta, 4; British Columbia, 7. The financial standing of the Northern Crown was not strong. Its authorized capital was \$6,000,000, of which \$1,428,797 was paid up. Its reserve amounted to \$715,000. For the six months ended May, 1915, its dividend was passed, and it was not resumed until July, 1917, when an amount equal to 5 per cent. for the six months immediately previous was declared. The original value of its shares was \$100 each; but the price of Northern Crown stock at the time of its absorption by the Royal Bank some three weeks ago, was only \$87 per share.

The Royal Bank, on the other hand, out of a total number of branches in Canada of 425 at the date of its taking over the Northern Crown, had only 107 in the four western provinces, distributed as follows: Manitoba, 4; Saskatchewan, 37; Alberta, 28; British Columbia, 38. The Royal Bank now has 195 branches in the West, including the 88 which it has just acquired from the Northern Crown. This means that a system having now 538 branches in the whole of Canada has 195 of them

West of the great lakes; a much better proportion probably than formerly prevailed when the two banks were separate institutions.

Furthermore the authorized capital of the Royal Bank was \$25,000,000, of which \$12,911,700 was paid-up; and its reserve amounted to \$13,417,000. The original value of its shares was \$100 each; and the price of its stock at the date of the amalgamation was \$208 per share. In 1914, this price was quoted at \$228, the decline of \$20 per share being due to the general war depression which has affected all bank stocks. The Royal Bank had 2,948 employees for its 425 branches, while the Northern Crown had in its 113 branches, some 477 employees all of whom now become members of the larger bank.

Managed From London

The Bank of British North America, while its statement reveals a very sound financial condition, was operated largely from London, Eng., where its head office has always been located. The continued effect and uncertainty of the war probably led to its absorption by the Bank of Montreal. The B.N.A. bank had 53 branches in the West out of a total in the Dominion of 91. In Manitoba, 9 branches were located; in Saskatchewan, 24; in Alberta, 4; and in British Columbia, 16. All the capital of the Bank of British North America, was paid up, amounting to £1,000,000, or about \$4,866,000. Its reserve amounted to £620,000, or about \$3,000,000; and it declared a dividend of 3½ per cent. half yearly. The price of its stock at the time of amalgamation was \$112 per share.

The Bank of Montreal through its enveloping the B.N.A. bank has increased its number of branches in Canada from 182 to 273. Of the original 182 branches in the Bank of Montreal's system, only 52 were located in Western Canada, 7 in Manitoba; 10 in Saskatchewan; 9 in Alberta; and 26 in British Columbia. The authorized capital of the Bank of Montreal like the Royal and the Commerce, is \$25,000,000, and \$16,000,000 is paid-up. Its reserve is also \$16,000,000; and has declared for many years regularly, a dividend of 2½ per cent. every 3 months. Its stock was as high as \$250 per share in 1914, but declined to a low point of 210 in 1917, later advancing to 234.

Three Leading Banks

The Bank of Montreal while having comparatively few branches—only half of the number operated by the Royal Bank—now leads the list in point of assets. It has total assets amounting to \$468,943,000 as compared with \$348,396,000 on the part of the Royal Bank, and \$333,531,000 for the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

Only three bank mergers have occurred in Canada since the war commenced. One was the absorption of the Quebec Bank by the Royal in 1916; and the other two were those which have just been described. A fourth might also have occurred between the Bank of Hamilton and the Royal, had the Department of Finance approved of the proposal. The number of chartered banks now doing business in Canada is 19. The marked tendency towards concentrated effort on the part of the Canadian banks in late years, may be seen in the following table which gives the position in previous years:—

Chartered Banks in Canada

1869	27
1879	40
1889	41
1899	38
1909	29
1912	26
1914	22
1916	21
1918	19

MARCH BANK CLEARINGS

In spite of the difficulties in transportation which have been continuous throughout Canada and the United States during the past winter months, our bank clearings still reflect a grati-