

Financial Development

TWENTY years ago the amount of money in circulation in the daily business of Canada was an average of \$7.70 per head of population. It is now \$11.00. In 1856 the deposits in the banks of Canada were \$50,000,000, and are now \$470,000,000. A total money deposit of four hundred and seventy millions is not a bad showing, but unless that money is ultimately invested in the various industries of the country it does not argue progress. Money on deposit represents prosperity that has been, but future prosperity is to be had by using capital in industrial and commercial investments rather than by accumulating it in banks. The banks have done good service for the smaller depositors whose savings individually would not permit of profitable investment, yet collectively can be so disposed of to good advantage, and by acting as a medium in such cases the banks have materially assisted in developing the commerce of the country. Yet it would perhaps be a better evidence of native energy and individual enterprise if some of the wealth now on deposit were invested independently. A lack of confidence in local industries sometimes leads to a locking-up of capital and the consequent death of the industries, whereas a few thousands locally and privately invested would have yielded reasonably sure returns. The services of the banks are coming more and more to be used in financing the larger enterprises; there is still room for the local investor to lay the foundations of future prosperity on his own account.

In the progress that has been made, however, the banks have taken a most important part, and it is a matter of national pride that Canada has one of the best banking systems in the world. The best is admitted to be that of Scotland, and the Canadian system is closely modelled on the same lines. It is under Gov-

ernment control, and is safe and sound as well as up-to-date. An interesting testimony to this excellence of Canadian banks was given by a recent delegation of Japanese financiers, who visited Europe and America in order to study financial methods in vogue in the various countries. They expressed themselves as more favorably impressed with the general efficiency of Canadian methods than with those of any other banking system they had examined.

The New Movement in Population

THERE is room in the Canadian West for millions, but the thousands are already coming. The present year's immigration will reach 70,000, the great bulk of which is destined for the West. These people are coming from all corners of the earth. Of the present population of Canada, 690,000 are foreign born, and of these 500,000 came from Europe, and 128,000 from the United States.

This tide of immigration affords many interesting features. The great variety of races, with their various manners and customs, their ideas of civic, industrial, and social life, their attitude toward new conditions and their methods of home-making in a new country, are sure to awaken our interest. At the same time these several facts present a problem: How to make Canadian citizens of our new settlers, and how best and quickest to absorb them into our national life. It is less a difficulty with some than with others. The Germans, Scandinavians, and Austrians, have proved to be excellent citizens; but the settlements of Galicians and Doukhobors are as yet too experimental to warrant conclusions. They are, however, said to be prosperous, contented, and law-abiding. While there are difficulties to be encountered in nationalizing the foreign immigrants, there can scarcely be any real danger to our national life so long as the immigration continues to be, as at present, most largely from three sources—the United King-