

Mr. Anderson Remembered

Traditionally, Canada's bankers have been Scottish immigrants or the sons of Scots who began their careers as junior clerks while still in their teens.

There is still a wide Scottish strain in the banking business, but most juniors today arrive with college degrees in economics or business.

William Anderson came from Scotland in 1911 to take up a job with the Canadian Bank of Commerce. In 1967, for the Bank's Centennial Year celebration, he wrote out his memories of his arrival at a branch in Port Arthur, Ontario, (Commerce had merged with Imperial a few years earlier to form the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.) Below is an excerpt:

"I was told I would be under the guidance of one of the finest managers, Mr. A.W. Roberts.

That cheered me, but I had cause to wonder after a few days when Mr. Roberts called me into his office where he told me what my duties were to be and handed me a copy of Head Office Instructions to study—also a copy book with examples of handwriting that I was to complete and return to him. Then he concluded by saying, 'Mr. Anderson, I want you to get rid of that terrible Aberdeen accent.'

"I did what I was told while smarting at what I considered to be an insult. Shortly afterwards I had occasion to get my own back when an elderly countryman came into the office and endeavoured to make his wants known. No one could make head nor tail of what the old man was saying. When I greeted him in a familiar tongue he literally fell on my neck and burst out, 'Thank goodness there is one in the \$%?.*& country who can understand English.' He became a good customer."



The Bank of Nova Scotia was founded in Halifax in 1832.

Thrift

Albert Brown, a director of the Royal Bank of Canada between 1912 and 1938, was so thrifty that when courting his wife who lived in Quebec City, he wrote to her daily but saved the letters and mailed them as a bundle once a week to save stamps.



The Gowganda, Ontario, branch of the Royal Bank, 1909.