

SCOTCH AND CANADIAN BANKS COMPARED.

The Scotch banks only adopted the system of publishing annual reports with statements about the year 1865. The custom came into vogue after the failure of the Western Bank of Scotland, which so disturbed public confidence as to render it desirable to afford information regarding the position of all the banks. Concealment is the mother of suspicion, and publicity breeds confidence. The publication of its statement is a protection to the bank itself, as the prospect of having to reveal its condition is effectual in restraining such actions as would not bear criticism. Had the numerous private banks in England which failed in the last century been compelled to publish periodical statements over the signature of the proprietor and his chief officer, there would have been fewer failures. The first bank in Edinburgh to pub-

lish its statement was the British Linen Co., which it did to fall in with what had become the established custom of the Glasgow banks. The table we publish in this issue, which we have adopted from *Banking and Insurance*, published at Edinburgh, gives an exhibit of the condition of the Banks of Scotland in 1887, and 1897, that will be found highly interesting. We have supplemented the table by giving, as far as practicable, the same items of the Canadian banks for 1887 and 1897 by which the condition of the banks of the two countries may be compared. The most striking difference between the Scotch and Canadian banks is in the respective amount of their note issues. With a capital paid-up of \$46,510,000 the Scotch Banks have a circulation of \$37,760,000, or 81 per cent. of capital, whereas the Canadian Banks with a capital paid-up of \$63,046,000 have only

THE BANKS OF SCOTLAND AND BANKS OF CANADA.

TABLE GIVING PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF EACH OF THE BANKS IN SCOTLAND FOR 1887 AND 1897, AND THEIR AGGREGATES COMPARED WITH THE TOTALS OF THE BANKS OF CANADA FOR THE SAME YEARS.

Name of Banks	Capital paid up.	Reserve Fund.	Per ct. of Reserve Fund to Capital paid up.	Divid. for Year.	Circulation.	Per ct. of Circ'n. to Capital paid up.	Deposits and Cr. balances.	Cash in hand and Securities held.	Discounts and Loans.	Total Assets.
	\$	\$	Per ct.		\$		\$	\$	\$	\$
Bank of Scotland. 1887	6,250,000	3,875,000	62.3	13	3,860,000	62.0	65,077,000	31,270,000	46,745,000	85,236,000
" 1897	6,250,000	4,125,000	66.0	12	5,178,000	82.8	72,391,000	37,013,000	49,941,000	94,840,000
Royal Bank of Scotland. 1887	10,000,000	3,851,000	38.5	9	3,783,000	37.8	58,736,000	28,827,000	46,653,000	79,200,000
" 1897	10,000,000	3,889,000	38.9	8	4,876,000	48.7	66,050,000	36,513,000	48,424,000	88,710,000
British Linen Co. 1887	5,000,000	3,875,000	77.7	14	3,302,000	65.0	51,460,000	21,749,000	41,466,000	65,361,000
" 1897	6,250,000	7,500,000	120.0	16 & 2	4,369,000	70.0	61,692,000	29,838,000	50,003,000	84,210,000
Com'l Bank of Scotland. 1887	5,000,000	2,750,000	55.0	14	4,113,000	82.2	51,210,000	25,194,000	37,286,000	65,528,000
" 1897	5,000,000	4,300,000	86.0	16	5,337,000	106.7	67,406,000	38,186,000	43,575,000	85,054,000
Nat. Bank of Scotland. 1887	5,000,000	3,350,000	67.0	13 & 2	3,111,000	68.2	64,591,000	35,630,000	40,961,000	81,660,000
" 1897	5,000,000	4,440,000	88.8	13 & 3	4,571,000	91.4	73,885,000	43,193,000	43,924,000	93,200,000
Union Bank of Scotland. 1887	5,000,000	1,900,000	38.0	12	3,547,000	70.9	49,520,000	22,455,000	36,633,000	61,390,000
" 1897	5,000,000	2,700,000	54.0	11	4,826,000	96.5	56,400,000	33,334,000	35,106,000	70,585,000
Clydesdale Bank. 1887	5,000,000	2,140,000	42.8	10	2,823,000	56.4	38,410,000	17,299,000	30,431,000	53,525,000
" 1897	5,000,000	2,250,000	45.0	10	4,292,000	85.8	45,719,000	2,196,000	30,529,000	65,987,000
Town and County Bank. 1887	1,260,000	630,000	50.0	11 3/4	561,000	76.2	9,701,000	2,895,000	9,363,000	12,655,000
" 1897	1,260,000	690,000	54.7	12 1/2	1,323,000	105.0	12,653,000	3,567,000	12,077,000	16,038,000
N. of Scotland Bank. 1887	2,000,000	500,000	25.0	12 1/2	1,965,000	98.2	15,700,000	5,640,000	14,090,000	20,506,000
" 1897	2,000,000	500,000	25.0	7 1/2	2,221,000	111.5	16,496,000	8,950,000	12,312,000	22,074,000
Caledonian Bkg. Co. ... 1887	750,000	285,000	38.0	7 1/2	532,000	70.9	4,617,000	1,563,000	4,340,000	6,267,000
" 1897	750,000	350,000	46.6	8	753,000	100.4	5,133,000	2,806,000	4,403,000	7,083,000
Totals. 1887	45,260,000	23,160,000	51.1	12	28,298,000	62.4	409,034,000	192,525,000	307,967,000	531,339,000
" 1897	46,510,000	30,710,000	66.0	9	37,760,000	81.1	481,418,000	262,864,000	329,925,000	628,053,000
Canadian Banks. 1887	62,944,000	17,684,000	28.0	.....	35,163,000	56.0	105,518,000	28,811,000	168,274,000	232,636,000
" 1897	63,046,000	27,284,000	40.0	.....	40,143,800	63.6	219,931,000	59,536,000	269,643,000	361,133,000
Increase of Scotch Banks in last 10 years.	1,250,000	7,550,000	32.6	.....	9,162,000	18.7	72,384,000	70,338,000	21,058,000	96,714,000
Increase of Canadian Banks in last 10 years.	102,000	9,600,000	54.0	.....	4,980,000	14.1	114,413,000	30,825,000	101,369,000	128,497,000