

BRITISH AND CANADIAN BANKING PROFITS COMPARED.

A comparison of the profits of the Canadian banks with those made by banks in Great Britain and Ireland goes to show that the rate earned in the Dominion is only about equal to that which is earned on the other side. Last year the percentage of profits earned on their total resources by the Canadian banks was 1.21% compared with 1.26% in 1912. In the case of the English banks, their average percentage earnings on total resources in 1913 was 1.13%; the Scottish banks earned 1.18%, and the Irish banks 1.21%.

These figures are particularly interesting in view of the charges which are frequently made and particularly at the time of the revision of the Bank Act last year that the profits earned by the Canadian banks are excessive. In point of fact as the figures already given show, they are quite moderate in comparison with those of the British banks. In theory no doubt the banks in a country in an early stage of its development, should earn and should be allowed to earn, a larger return on their total resources than the banks in a wealthy and old settled country. But as a matter of fact, in the case of the Canadian banks, they do not, although probably capital employed in almost any other business earns a larger percentage of profit in Canada than it does in Great Britain.

ENGLISH BANK PROFITS MOVING UP.

It may be noted that during recent years the rate of profits of the English banks on their total resources has been distinctly on the up-grade. In 1911 their rate of profits was only 0.93%, increased by 1913 to 1.13%. While this increase may be in part accounted for by change of policy on the part of the banks in the manner of the declaration of their profits, it is clear from such a pronounced rise within a few years that they have been able to earn lately on a considerably increased ratio in comparison with former years. The Scottish banks' profits on the other hand show a tendency to relative reduction, the 1913 ratio of 1.18% comparing with a ratio of 1.24% in 1911. The Irish banks vary very little, the 1911 ratio being 1.18 against 1.21% in 1913.

It is a notable fact that within the last year or two the ratio of earnings in Canadian banks has decreased considerably. In 1911 it was 1.29 per cent. In part this may be due to the policy of expansion which has necessarily had to be undertaken during recent years, but which has resulted inevitably in the creation of a very large number of small offices where profits cannot be and are not expected to be on a very liberal scale. Moreover, the banks are being constantly called upon to render additional services to their customers, and while some of these services are small in themselves, in

the aggregate the expenditure upon them is apt to amount to considerable sums. It is obvious that when figures are compared, the Canadian banks are not obtaining a larger profit upon the whole of their resources than that to which they are legitimately entitled. Probably enough, the 1913 figures will show a considerable further reduction in the ratio of their earnings to their total resources.

CANADIAN FIRE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION; ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association was held at Hotel Champlain, Bluff Point, on the 24th and 25th instant, the President, Mr. Harold Hampson, in the chair. There was a very large attendance, most of the Companies being represented. Many important matters of interest to the Association came up for consideration, and after considerable discussion were disposed of before the meeting adjourned last evening.

The new officers elected for the ensuing year were Mr. J. Gardner Thompson, President; Mr. E. F. Garrow, Vice-President for Ontario, and Mr. J. G. Borthwick, Vice-President for Quebec.

Mr. L. Howgate, secretary of the Association, Montreal; Mr. J. A. Robertson, secretary at Toronto, and Mr. Alf. Hadrill, Chairman of the Executive Committee, were in attendance during the meeting.

The members of the Canadian Automobile Association who are also members of the C.F.U.A., took advantage of the occasion to hold a meeting while at Lake Champlain, to discuss rates generally, but no action was taken.

DEATH OF MR. C. J. ALLOWAY.

A well-known Montreal figure passed away yesterday, at his residence, 575 Lansdowne avenue, Westmount, in the person of Mr. Clement John Alloway. Mr. Alloway was born in Ireland sixty-six years ago and came to Canada at an early age. After graduating from McGill he went to the west and lived for thirty years in the western States and in Winnipeg, where he practised his profession of veterinary surgeon. Eighteen years ago he came east and since that time had been acting as an insurance broker, representing the Royal Insurance Company. Widely known and respected by all with whom he came in contact, Mr. Alloway will be much missed by the Montreal insurance fraternity.

The deceased gentleman was recognised as one of the greatest authorities on horses in Canada, and on six occasions rode the winner of the Montreal Hunt Club Cup, one of the historic events of the Canadian turf. He is survived by a widow and three sons, one of whom is in Winnipeg and the others in Montreal.

CAR AND GENERAL TO ENTER CANADA.

It is reported from Toronto that Mr. Frederick Thoresby, managing director of the Car & General Insurance Corporation, of London, England, was there last week completing arrangements to enter the Dominion for all lines of automobile insurance. The name of the manager will be announced shortly.