

a half per cent. interest. For the past forty years no new Bank in England has been granted the right to issue currency.

The laws governing Bank taxation and refunds in nearly all the important countries in the world have been quoted, briefly, it is true, but sufficient to arrest the attention of Parliament to the justice of amendments to the Canadian Bank Act in the direction of limiting the powers of Banks and a refund of a share of the profits to the people from whom they are being taken; so, also, as a matter of protection to the entire community, a thorough and independent system of Bank inspection should be established and rigorously enforced. The Government of Canada should also have a director on every Bank Board, but paid by the Bank, but no owner of Bank shares should be qualified to hold such office.

### IS UNLAWFUL AND EXTORTIONATE INTEREST CHARGED?

The Canadian Bank Act limits the rate of discount and interest chargeable to seven per cent. per annum.

Is this law observed? If not, any excess charged is theft. If seven per cent. is not enough change the law.

Why not test the Banks by demanding an affidavit with every Bank return to the Finance Minister showing the *maximum* rate of interest charged in their entire branch system from month to month. So also there should be published a statement showing the amount, if any, received by Banks or Bank officials by way of commission or otherwise on insurance policies taken out to protect Banks and charged to Bank borrowers.

This commission graft on insurance policies is *rankly dishonest*, whether the profit goes into the coffers of the Bank or into the pockets of the Bank officer. Every Bank agent should send an affidavit on this feature of Canadian banking practice with every monthly report.

X The maximum rate of interest Canadian Banks were allowed to charge was formerly six per cent. A former