

Canadian Banks' Profits in 1908, as compared with 1907.

BANK	PROFITS FOR 1908.				PROFITS FOR 1907			
	Year's Profits	Per cent. on Average Capital	Per cent. on Capital and rest.	Per cent. on Average Total Resources.	Year's Profits	Percent. on Average Capital	Per cent. on Average Capital and rest	Per cent. on Average Total Resources.
Montreal.....	\$1,957,658	13.59	7.71	1.13	\$1,980,138	13.75	7.80	1.17
Commerce.....	1,627,332	16.27	10.85	1.45	1,752,350	17.52	11.68	1.51
Royal.....	746,776	19.15	9.01	1.56	742,034	19.03	8.95	1.61
Merchants.....	738,597	12.31	7.38	1.41	961,660	16.03	9.62	1.84
Imperial.....	721,175	14.81	7.40	1.63	719,029	16.28	8.14	1.66
Dominion.....	641,318	16.19	7.20	1.33	635,235	17.61	7.77	1.28
Molson (a).....	595,803	17.66	8.83	1.80	508,735	15.83	7.96	1.53
Toronto.....	582,156	14.55	6.85	1.54	586,635	14.71	6.92	1.55
British (b).....	572,821	11.77	8.02	1.30	596,740	12.26	8.41	1.24
Nova Scotia.....	559,577	18.65	6.66	1.34	681,710	22.72	8.26	1.76
Traders.....	500,217	11.49	7.87	1.49	622,822	12.02	8.37	1.54
Ottawa.....	429,879	14.33	7.16	1.35	443,288	14.77	7.39	1.36
Union (Canada).....	401,013	12.61	8.22	1.41	446,532	14.88	9.92	1.45
Hochelaga.....	381,387	15.25	8.47	2.06	419,794	18.95	11.32	2.33
Eastern Townships.....	367,111	12.24	7.34	1.77	372,670	12.62	7.74	1.83
Hamilton.....	360,309	14.58	7.29	1.14	384,708	15.57	7.79	1.19
Quebec.....	281,057	11.24	7.49	1.96	300,011	12.	8.22	2.08
Standard (c).....	186,097	17.94	8.66	1.39	251,618	17.82	8.61	1.31
Nationale (d).....	274,121	15.25	10.76	1.94	242,361	15.31	11.10	1.94
Union (Halifax).....	178,061	11.87	6.65	1.40	171,008	11.71	6.65	1.37
Northern Crown (e).....	34,998	1.59	1.56	.25	112,189			
Metropolitan.....	135,872	13.58	6.79	1.78	147,819	14.78	7.39	1.95
New Brunswick.....	134,444	18.72	6.86	1.78	133,291	18.80	6.99	1.87
Provinciale.....	127,268	12.73	10.06	2.06	119,466	11.92	10.38	1.87
Home.....	95,412	11.07	8.70	1.49	78,031	9.61	7.91	1.39
Western.....	88,784	15.99	10.38	1.48	83,941	15.20	9.85	1.47
Sterling.....	50,091	6.28	5.17	1.24	27,206	4.45	4.45	1.16
Farmers.....	21,025	4.34	4.34	1.20	14,350	3.67	3.67	1.65
United Empire (f).....	14,990	2.99	2.99	.80	9,423	2.02	2.02	.62
St Stephens (g).....	12,425	6.21	4.97	1.47	10,880	5.44	4.40	1.24
Sovereign.....					243,027	6.23	4.71	.91
St Jean.....					19,195	6.07	5.88	1.88
St Hyacinthe.....					11,157	3.39	2.76	.66
	\$12,817,774	13.95	7.89	1.41	\$13,759,033	14.49	8.37	1.47

(a) Molson's profits, less taxes, both 1907 and 1908.

(b) British profits 1908, for year ended 30th June, 1907, for year ended 31st December.

(c) Standard profits for 8 months.

(d) Nationale profits, less relate.

(e) Northern-Crown results are complicated because of the amalgamation. Profits for the year, including Crown Bank's profits and loss balance, were \$130,324. Crown Bank's profit and loss balance, as latest published, on 31st December 1907, was \$95,326. Assuming that it remained unchanged at the absorption, the profits of the combination would work out \$34,998.

(f) United Empire profits, less taxes.

(g) St. Stephens profits estimated.

second column—dealing with the rate on capital and rest combined—shows what the individual banks earned on their proprietors' funds. There is not such a wide disparity between the showings of the representative institutions under this head. Finally, the last column shows what has been claimed to be earned upon the whole bulk of resources—proprietors' funds, circulation, deposits, etc.

In as much as there has been considerable discussion as to the effect of the depression in reducing profits, the results will be studied with an especial interest. Comparing with 1907 it is seen that the total profits are less by nearly a million dollars—\$941,279. Some part of the decrease is accounted for by the disappearance this year of the Sovereign, the St. Jean, and the St. Hyacinthe. Also it is to be noted that the Standard profits, \$186,097, in 1908 covered only eight months.

Making no allowance for these, the 1908 profits

on the average capital figure out only .54, or about 1-2 per cent., less than in 1907. On the average capital and rest, the falling off is about the same, .48 per cent.; while on the total resources it is .06 per cent.

The banks have been ranked in order according to the amount of profits declared in 1908. It is well to repeat, what was said on the former occasions on which these profit statements were presented—that the profits declared do not in every case represent the true earning capacity.

With regard to the Bank of Montreal showing, it is, of course, well known in the financial district that its appropriations for premises, pensions, etc., are made before the declaration of profits. If the big institution followed the same course as most of the others, its profits and percentages in the statement here given would have shown up relatively better.