

BANK GEOGRAPHY

LESSON 1

Branch Distribution.

Geographical Position of the Individual Banks.

IN order to get a general idea of the geographical position of the various banks operating in Canada, it is advisable to study each institution separately. In the series that follows, the banks are taken in order according to the amount of their total assets as at the end of 1911. It will be understood that changes occur from time to time in the order or classification of the banks as thus determined; and it should be remembered also that superiority in regard to total assets does not in every case indicate greater usefulness, greater power or strength, and heavier volume of business.

Before proceeding to study the position of the individual banks, it will be well to remark that the banking field in Canada is entirely in the possession of corporations chartered by the Dominion Government. Section 156 of the Bank Act says: "Every person assuming or using the title of 'bank', 'banking company,' 'banking house,' 'banking association,' or 'banking institution,' without being authorized to do so by this Act, or by some other Act in force in that behalf, is guilty of an offence against this Act."

And the next section prescribes the penalties to apply to such an offence: "Every person committing an offence, declared to be an offence against this Act, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or to both, in the discretion of the court before which the conviction is had."