

The Chronicle

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WESTERN BANKING DEVELOPMENT

The special financial number issued by the Manitoba Free Press on the 16th May is brimful of useful information, a great deal of which would have remained inaccessible to the ordinary reader, but for the time and labor spent by the big Winnipeg newspaper in collecting and tabulating its facts. From the figures set out, it is possible to get a very comprehensive view, for one thing, of the branch bank extension movement in the western part of the Dominion, and a short study of the situation's development will be well worth while. The first table shows the growth of the connections in the West of all the banks now represented there. The figures are taken from two of the tables given by the Free Press.

	Total Branches.						
	Opened in Winnipeg.	In West, 1906.	In Man., & N. W. T., 1906.	In 3 Provin- ces, 1906.	In West, 1907.	In all Can- ada, 31st Dec., 1906. P. c. of Branches in West.	
Merchants.....	1873	9	21	35	40	117	34
Montreal.....	1876	10	11	15	15	129	12
Imperial.....	1881	10	11	17	27	61	41
Ottawa.....	1882	5	7	11	13	60	22
Union, Can.....	1882	26	54	86	86	130	66
British.....	1886	8	9	15	25	54	46
Molsons.....	1891	6	2	3	5	60	8
Hoehelaga.....	1892	1	1	4	4	23	17
Commerce.....	1893	7	21	65	84	168	50
Hamilton.....	1896	8	21	38	43	96	45
Dominion.....	1897	2	7	12	13	50	26
Nova Scotia.....	1899	1	6	4	5	64	8
Fast. Townships.....	1903	2	1	3	6	59	10
Toronto.....	1905	2	Nil	10	11	70	16
Traders.....	1905	..	..	6	8	73	11
Northern.....	1905	..	..	43	47	47	100
Royal.....	1906	..	..	10	23	80	29
Home.....	1906	..	..	..	2	12	16
		97	172	377	457	1,353	34

Six years ago perhaps, one-tenth of the banking offices in Canada were located in the West; to-day a little over one-third of the total number are placed out there. In percentage of branches in West to total the newly organized Northern Bank leads with 100; the Union Bank of Canada is second with 66. But of course, it does not necessarily follow when a bank shows 50 per cent. of its branches as

located in the West, that 50 per cent. of its business is transacted there. The business done in the Montreal and Toronto branches of the important banks would over-balance the combined total of a good many of their other offices.

In the next table are grouped some figures which should give some idea as to amount of business available for the increased number of bank branches.

Place.	Population.	No Banks	Inhabi- tants Per Bank.
Winnipeg.....	100,000	41	2,400
Edmonton.....	11,534	13	890
Calgary.....	15,000	12	1,250
Brandon.....	10,409	9	1,150
Moosejaw.....	6,250	6	1,040
Regina.....	6,217	8	770
St. Boniface.....	5,119	3	1,700
Portage-la-Prairie.....	5,106	6	850
Saskatoon.....	5,000	6	830
Neepawa.....	2,000	3	660
Port Arthur.....	10,206	4	2,550
Fort William.....	10,032	8	1,250
Dauphin.....	2,000	3	660
Prince Albert.....	4,000	4	1,000
Indian Head.....	1,877	3	620
Red Deer.....	1,527	4	380
Weyburn.....	1,350	3	450
Kenora.....	6,500	3	2,160
Carberry.....	1,400	3	460
Moosomin.....	1,400	3	460
North Battleford.....	1,000	3	330
McLeod.....	1,400	3	460
Wolseley.....	1,000	3	330
Shoal Lake.....	650	3	210
Oxbow.....	580	3	190
Carman.....	1,755	3	580
Lethbridge.....	3,300	3	1,100

These 27 towns account for practically one-third the banking offices in the West. Outside of them there are quite a number of places with two banking offices and a great many with a single office.

The statistics of manufactures issued last week by the government throws some light on the matter of the increased business available for the banks in the West. Taking all Canada the value of manufactured products increased from \$418,053,375 to \$712,604,835 in the five years 1901 to 1906. All the sections west of Lake Superior show a rate of increase superior to that shown by the whole Dominion.

VALUE OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS.

	1901.	1906.
British Columbia.....	\$19,447,778	\$38,013,515
Manitoba.....	12,924,439	27,609,268
The Territories.....	1,964,987	7,594,600

But, important as is the increase in manufactures, it does not come anywhere near being equal to the immigration factor as a provider of new business for the banks. The body of the business done by most of the banking offices comes directly and indirectly from the farmers; and out West they use the banks a great deal more than they do in the East.

Criticism of the rapid extension of branch banks in recent years has been levelled more at what has taken place in the East. It is generally conceded