a forcible manner in support of the proposition that the banking system of the United States calls for re-organization. He favors the adoption of a system akin to that at present followed in Canada, the consolidation of the banking institutions of the larger cities, and the establishment of branches in various parts of the country; and he considers that fifty parent institutions would be sufficient for the needs of the entire United States. By consolidated management, guarantees would be given of honest methods, which cannot be obtained when thousands of banks are established and scattered over the country,—constant supervision and inspection by interested bank officials, tending to prevent defalcation much more than the erratic visits of Government inspectors. So far as the country districts are concerned, the branch of a main bank would afford vastly better business facilities than can now be obtained, for the reason that the branch would have the credit and strength of the parent institution. Beside this, in case of local financial troubles, leading to a tight money market, or a semi-panic in one section of the country, the unneeded or unused assets of other branches could be quickly brought and made available at the point where they were needed.

In the early years of the present century, the banking business of Great Britain was carried on in much the same manner that the banking business of the United States now is—that is, by means of a large number of separate banking institutions, each little locality having its own bank. But it was found when the experiment was attempted, that vastly better results could be secured by the establishment of a great banking institution, represented in scores and hundreds of places by branch managers. Not only were these latter associations able to drive local banks and loca bankers out of the field by the many advantages they offered, but if the experience of the larger of these great institutions is to be taken as a guide, they have been vastly more profitable than almost any strictly local bank could be. The London & Provincial Bank, for example, which has nearly 200 branch offices, has declared dividends which for some years past have averaged, we think, more than 20 per cent. per annum. A system which apparently combines greater convenience, greater safety and greater profit is one that deserves to be imitated. The adoption of this system by Canada has tended to give a strength and stability to the banking associations of this country, which may well be the envy of American financiers. In the Free Banking Act of 1850,