

CANADIAN BANKING PRACTICE.

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XXV.

A great many tellers use both methods, the one for the original count, the other for the check count. In counting receipts of all kinds it is very desirable to get a view of the whole of each bill taken. It aids in passing on genuineness, and prevents attempts to pass bills from which large portions have been torn.

Experienced tellers prefer to have the depositor handing in cash remain directly in front of the wicket, with eyes fixed closely on the deposit until the cash is checked and found correct. When this is done there can be no misunderstanding in the event of a shortage being found in the deposit. In every way such practice is superior to the loose methods followed by some depositors. They push in their deposits through the wicket while the teller is, perhaps, checking another deposit, and, without waiting even to see that the teller takes it and places it out of reach of parties from outside, they run off to the ledger-keeper's wicket or to some other. When the teller finds a \$5 or \$10 shortage in the cash specified on one of these deposits the situation is not very comfortable for him. Though the depositor cannot dispute the teller's count, he may think him capable of slipping the missing bill into his pocket or the till. It is a good plan for the teller to insist on depositors, private as well as bank, watching him while he counts the cash.

Teller Must be Careful.

When the cash has been checked and ticked off, each cheque or voucher listed on the deposit slip is taken up in turn. As he is to give credit in his books for each item, the teller has to be careful to see that all are in shape to be treated as cash or its equivalent. Is it an obligation of the bank? is the first question to be settled. Cheques drawn on the bank, bills and notes domiciled at the bank, when due and accepted by the ledger-keeper, have to be accorded consideration.

In the case of the cheques, the next thing is the scrutiny of the drawer's signature, and after that of the date and the amount, the attention being given, with reference to the last, to the written words in the body of the cheque rather than to the figures. Then, if a cheque be not accepted, has the customer so much at his credit? Some few will have to be referred to the ledger-keeper to settle this question. After that the endorsements are to be examined. The endorsement of the payee of "order" cheques must be on the back in the same form as written in the body or the face of the cheque. If the payee has endorsed it over to another party, the discharge from this endorsee must be in evidence. Lastly, the stamps of the bank depositing the item must be there for the purpose of tracing the payment and guaranteeing the prior endorsements.

As each document is passed it is ticked off on the slip. Any that are rejected—cheques for which there are not sufficient funds, items incomplete or informal—are laid aside, deducted from the total, and handed back to the depositor with the explanation why they are refused. The slip, with its amended total, is now initialled by the teller, entered among the general items on the credit side of his blotter, and handed out to the ledger-keeper for entering in the depositor's pass-book. This is the process followed with other bank deposits. It is much the same as that followed with individual depositors.

Customers' and Banks' Deposits.

The deposits of its individual customers, when they exceed the withdrawals by the same customers, quite often represent accessions of resources by the bank. The deposits of other banks do not represent gains in resources except when made by banks having drawing accounts with the bank. The bank deposits, received in

the daily clearings, consist of obligations of the bank's presented for redemption; the balances have to be settled in hard cash when they exceed the agreed-upon maximum.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA.

The National Bank farce proceeds. To-day will be held at the Manitoba Hall, Winnipeg, a general public meeting of shareholders. This should prove interesting. It is amusing to watch the chameleonic changes which occur in the "bank's" advertisements from time to time. The fact that the name of the National Bank is a plagiarism of a reputable chartered bank has at last been recognized, and an announcement now says that "the new Western Canadian Bank in course of organization is to be called the National, Colonial, Western, or another appropriate name."

The programme for the directors, who may be elected to-day, is of a most comprehensive and attractive nature. "The said elected directors shall have full power and authority to incorporate, register and organize this proposed bank or banks, trust company or companies, or other corporations as they may find necessary, advisable, or expedient and generally to carry out the intentions and objects of the shareholders as outlined in the prospectus, and to do such other acts, deeds and things as may be conducive to the fully carrying out of the above objects, or any of them." The directors will thus have carte blanche to do pretty nearly whatsoever financial "acrobatic performance" they will.

Our attention has been drawn to a long and obviously inspired article in the *Mercantile and Financial Times* of New York. It starts off very well with a story of Western Canada's progress, and concludes with a decided puff for the National Bank. Here is an extract: "After a careful study of its prospectus and other official documents and interviews with prominent business men, many of whom are subscribers of its stock, together with the fact that many prominent and influential names are found on its subscription books, your correspondent can confidently and conscientiously recommend the purchase of the bank's stock by our readers, as it constitutes an investment of the highest class, while the prospects of large dividends and increased value of the most encouraging character." The identity of "your correspondent" is easy to guess.

The copy of the *Mercantile and Financial Times* in which this particular article appears seems to be nothing but a conglomeration of fluffy advertising write-ups of Winnipeg financial and other institutions, some of them reputable, some not.

A letter addressed from Battleford, Sask., to the *Manitoba Free Press* contains an interesting contention.

"Whether the institution has been foisted upon the public by a fake promoter, or whether it is wisely and legitimately brought forward at an opportune time, the fact remains that it is now here and must be reckoned with as it now stands. Whatever the actual situation may be, and whatever the legal position may be, I contend that the gentlemen whose names appear on the list as original members of the syndicate must, one and all, be held morally responsible to the Western investors and the public generally, who have been influenced by the prospectus bearing their names in this responsible connection and relation. An enterprise backed by such names as I have mentioned above is entirely a different thing to me from an enterprise not so vouched for, but we are now left in doubt as to whether these gentlemen, and others of their associates, are really behind this project or not. Whatever the legal position may be I emphatically repeat that under all the circumstances no one of these public men can evade his moral responsibility in this matter, and that each must shoulder in a manly way his full share of the future success or failure of this institution, and of responsibility toward the investing public."

The *Monetary Times* has already commented upon the fact that the names of reputable Western citizens appear on the prospectus of the National Bank. Many of these are entirely unauthorized. The letter quoted above may have been an inspiration of the promoters of the "Bank." Possibly it is the beginning of a campaign to nail down the gentlemen, whose names appear on the prospectus, to their responsibility, which many appear to have thought imaginary, and which some of them may find, is unfortunately very real.

In the organization of the National Bank, and also in the dozen other concerns mooted by the same promoters financial statements are almost an unknown quantity. Who is paying for the advertising of the National Bank? We cannot believe that its promoters are philanthropists. How much money has been subscribed? What has become of it? What salaries are being drawn?

Fort William's population is 13,882, an increase for the year of 3,850.