

only need the right to receive deposits to put them in position to give effective service. These people are mainly of one race and one religion, and their habits of life and their business methods are such that the moral risk involved in co-operative banking is almost entirely removed. But it is doubtful if banks of this kind would succeed in a province like Alberta, where these bonds of unity and fellowship are lacking.

I have mentioned some of the benefits that small banks, of whatever kind, are to rural communities through the advisory and supervisory activities of local directors. Other benefits are that the profits made by these banks would be re-invested where they were made, instead of being taken out of the country, as is now done. The greatest benefit, however, that comes from the local bank, even greater than the giving of credit is that it furnishes a nucleus around which and through which community aspirations and interests are furthered and benefited. A local bank engages the attention and interest of every citizen in the community, and will create a bond of union and fellowship between the town and country that is sadly needed. It will make for better schools and better churches. It will place the small merchant in such position as regards credit that he can compete with mail order houses. This would keep business and the profits of business at home, which would soon be apparent by putting a coat of paint upon many hundreds of these dingy and dilapidated towns, that now look like sores on the face of the earth. This would benefit the farmers as well as the town, by attracting to it the better class of settlers coming into the country. It makes for business friendships that beget social relations, which in time bring about marital alliances. The amalgamation of the various races and nationalities in Canada is the greatest problem this country has to solve. We have not yet begun to have any national coalescence. Political domination is secured by creating as many racial and religious divisions as possible, so that it would seem that there is no assistance to be hoped for from that source, and we must seek other means to bring the various elements of our population into touch with each other, and I know of no other institution that will go so far in that