

tell them immediately if the customer has enough money in his account to cover the transaction. Access to the system is available to anyone with an account in the particular bank.

The customer inserts his card in the machine, which then provides directions on a digital display system. Money can be deposited, withdrawn or transferred to another account.

The Royal Bank of Canada, the Toronto-Dominion Bank, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the Bank of Nova Scotia are also establishing automated tellers. When in full operation they are expected to eliminate fifty per cent or more of the routine work of the typical bank branch and increase greatly the number of individual transactions handled by a single branch.

Points of Interest

Canadians with savings accounts receive high interest rates.

Interest is paid daily on chequable savings accounts. At mid-July of this year the rate was 14.3 per cent. Interest on daily interest non-chequing savings accounts at the same period ranged from 15.5 to 16 per cent, and on other saving accounts the rate was 16.25 per cent.

Since 1966 the United States has put ceilings on the interest rates banks may pay depositors. Canadian banks have no such limits.

A sizeable number of Americans living in border towns have started opening savings accounts in Canadian banks as a result. S.H. Skumreddy, manager of the Fort Erie, Ontario, branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia, told the Associated Press that the number of accounts opened by Americans there has increased from 200 to 800 in the last year.

Most are term deposits, which are made in American dollars and not affected by currency fluctuations. A deposit of \$10,000 to \$25,000 for six months will earn about 15.5 per cent annually. In the U.S. the rate could be about 13.6 per cent.

Savings

Canadians in recent years have done much more saving than Americans.

The change came dramatically in the inflation-ridden 1970s. In the 1960s Canadians were saving about five per cent of their personal disposable income while Americans were saving about six per cent of theirs.

In the 1970s the American percentage rose moderately, to about seven per cent, but then declined to 4.5 per cent.

The Canadian rate went to ten per cent, where it has stabilized.

Home Mortgages

There are no longer any long-term, fixed rate home mortgages in Canada.

Mortgage takers can choose to have the initial mortgage period run from one to five years. The

mortgage's interest rate is adjusted to the rate current at the end of the period. The rate in mid-July was between 18 and 18.75 per cent, and experts believe it will remain approximately in that range for the rest of the year.

Banks in Canada were excluded from mortgage lending until 1954 when they were allowed to make loans for new housing insured under the National Housing Act. The 1967 Bank Act revision gave banks the right to offer conventional mortgages as well. Today banks provide about one-third of all mortgage funds.

Energy and Banking

The chartered banks, both domestic and foreign, are involved in financing the extraordinary energy developments shaping up in the Canadian West.

The Royal Bank's Global Energy Group in Calgary has estimated that energy investments will total \$1.4 trillion over the next twenty years. Some \$650 billion will be generated by the energy industry itself, including electric utilities, transmission companies and those engaged in exploration and extraction. Royal believes Canada's own capital markets will account for some \$325 billion, with the remainder coming from non-Canadian sources.

Canada's biggest banks are already much involved, with the Royal the front-runner, followed by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Com-



Toronto-Dominion Square in Calgary's Home Oil Tower.