

## SAVINGS BANKS

The first savings banks in Iceland were founded in 1870. In 1910 they were 25, while in 1927 their number had increased to 50. — The number of savings banks, the total capital deposited in them, as well as their reserve funds may be seen from the following table:

	Number of savings banks	Total deposits 1000 krónur	Total reserves 1000 krónur
1911 . . . . .	34	1 363	112
1914 . . . . .	43	1 914	175
1920 . . . . .	49	7 915	558
1925 . . . . .	50	7 748	813
1927 . . . . .	50	7 515	986

Thus on December 31<sup>st</sup> 1927 the total capital deposited in savings banks amounted to 7.5 million krónur, the number of depositors (pass-books) being 21 600. On the same date deposits in other banks at savings banks interest totalled 38.9 million krónur, which shows that savings banks do not as yet play a very important part in the economic life of Iceland.

The funds of the savings banks were invested in the following manner:

	1911 1000 kr.	1914 1000 kr.	1920 1000 kr.	1925 1000 kr.	1927 1000 kr.
Mortgages on real property	587	935	3175	2915	3075
Advances on sureties . . . . .	771	841	2561	2480	2158
Advances to municipalities	22	41	259	352	338
Advances on pawns . . . . .	25	34	63	226	161
Bills . . . . .	131	199	1916	1648	1740
Bonds . . . . .	15	19	144	166	148
Deposits in banks . . . . .	19	64	337	658	824
Real property and other effects . . . . .	1	4	8	58	65
Sundry debtors . . . . .	6	9	8	44	96
Cash in hand . . . . .	42	63	193	274	212
Krónur	1619	2209	8664	8821	8817

Only such financial institutions as comply with the provisions of the act of November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1915 respecting savings banks, and have had their regulations ratified by the government, may call themselves savings banks, and they must not commence business until this ratification has been obtained. Though savings banks are now, since 1923, under