

of Parliament, a bill was passed enabling the Government to reduce this rate if it appeared that the condition of the country required it.

Progress
of the Post
Office
system.

654. The Post Office system went into operation on the 1st April, 1868, when 81 offices were opened; at the close of the three months ended 30th June, 1868, there was 2,192 depositors, 3,247 deposits had been made, and the amount on deposit was \$204,589. On the 30th June, 1867, there were 415 offices open, 90,159 depositors, 143,076 deposits had been made during the year, and the total amount on deposit was \$19,497,750. Almost the whole of this enormous increase has taken place during the last eight years, the amount on deposit on 30th June, 1879, having been only \$3,105,190, the average annual increase since that date having been \$2,049,070. The average amount of each deposit received has considerably decreased, having been \$57.81, or \$2.71 cents less than in 1886. The average amount to the credit of each account was \$216.26.

Distribu-
tion of
offices.

655. On the 1st September, 1885, the system was extended to the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the offices are distributed in the several provinces as follow: Ontario 306, Quebec 75, Nova Scotia 21, and New Brunswick 13

Depositors
and de-
posits by
Provinces.

656. The following table shows the number of depositors in each province, the amount on deposit, and the proportion of that amount per head of population, on 30th June, 1887:—

| PROVINCE. | Number of Depositors | Amount on Deposit. | Average Amount to each Depositor. | Average Amount per head of Population. |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | \$ | \$ cts. | \$ cts. |
| Ontario | 75,036 | 15,686,012 | 209 04 | 7 37 |
| Quebec | 13,489 | 3,532,468 | 261 88 | 2 41 |
| Nova Scotia | 882 | 125,823 | 142 65 | 0 26 |
| New Brunswick | 752 | 152,447 | 204 04 | 0 44 |
| Total | 90,159 | 19,497,750 | 218 18 | 4 41 |