

Post office
savings
banks.

731. The Post Office Act, which provided for the establishment of Post Office Savings Banks in Canada, was passed on the 20th December, 1867, and was limited in operation, as regards the Savings Banks, to the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Under its provisions a deposit must not be less than \$1, and must not exceed \$300 in any one year; neither must the total amount on deposit exceed \$1,000. 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, 330; Quebec, 77; Nova Scotia, 27; New Brunswick, 18; Manitoba, 2; British Columbia, 6; and The Territories, 3.

Government sav-
ings banks.

732. Government Savings Banks, under the management of the Finance Department, have been established in the Maritime Provinces and in Manitoba and British Columbia, in which banks, deposits are allowed to the extent of \$1,000. The number of offices under this system is 44, viz., 26 in Nova Scotia, 11 in New Brunswick, 2 in Prince Edward Island, 1 in Ontario, 1 in Manitoba and 3 in British Columbia. Arrangements are made for the transfer of the Government Savings Banks in each Province to the Post Office Department as the position of Superintendent at each place becomes vacant.

Rate of in-
terest.

733. The rate of interest paid in both classes of savings banks is now $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the reduced rate having come into operation on 1st October, 1889.

Progress
of the post
office sav-
ings banks.

734. 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 were 2,102 depositors, 3,247 deposits had been made, and the amount on deposit was \$204,589. On the 30th June, 1889, there were 463 offices open, 113,123 depositors, 166,235 deposits had been made during the year, and the total amount on deposit was \$23,011,422.