

875. According to Bradstreet, from data collected during three years, the causes of failures are as under :—

		Canada.	United States.
		p. c.	p. c.
Due to incompetence	3 years' average.	13·2	17·9
“ inexperience	“	2·7	5·2
“ lack of capital	“	62·5	36·5
“ unwise credits	“	1·9	4·3
“ speculation (outside)	“	1·6	3·4
“ neglect of business	“	2·1	3·2
“ extravagance	“	0·4	1·8
“ fraudulent disposition	“	3·7	7·1
“ disasters*	“	8·3	16·1
“ failures of others	“	2·1	2·2
“ undue competition	“	1·2	1·9

* Flood, fire, crop failure and commercial crisis.

876. Lack of capital is responsible for a greater proportion of failures in Canada than in the United States. In every other particular the failures in Canada bear a smaller proportion to the whole than in the United States.

877. The Post Office Act, which provides 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 Québec. 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 now distributed in the several provinces as follows :—Ontario, 420; Québec, 115; Nova Scotia, 44; New Brunswick, 30; Manitoba, 22; British Columbia, 15; Prince