

The rate of interest paid in both classes of savings banks was formerly 4 per cent, but on 1st October, 1889, it was reduced to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and on 1st July, 1897, it was reduced to 3 per cent.

The Post Office system went into operation on 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, 1898, there were 814 offices opened, 142,289 depositors, and the total amount on deposit was \$34,480,938.

In addition to the above there are special savings banks, chiefly the Caisse d'Economie of Quebec and Montreal City and District Savings Banks. The chartered banks also have savings branches, but the amount on deposit in these branches are not separated from the general business and other deposits in the returns to the Government.

The following table gives the deposits with the Government in the two branches under Government control and the deposits in the special savings banks, but does not include deposits in the chartered banks and in the loan companies and building societies:—

DEPOSITS WITH THE UNDERMENTIONED BANKS.

Year ended 30th June.	Post Office Savings Banks.	Other Government Savings Banks	Special Savings Banks	Total.	Amount per Head of Population.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ cts.
1868.....	204,589	1,483,219	3,369,799	5,057,607	1 50
1869.....	856,814	1,594,525	3,960,818	6,412,157	1 88
1870.....	1,588,849	1,822,570	5,369,103	8,780,522	2 54
1871.....	2,497,260	2,072,037	5,766,712	10,336,009	2 96
1872.....	3,096,500	2,154,233	5,557,126	10,807,859	2 99
1873.....	3,207,052	2,958,170	6,768,662	12,933,884	3 53
1874.....	3,204,965	4,005,296	6,811,009	14,021,270	3 67
1875.....	2,926,090	4,245,091	6,611,416	13,782,597	3 55
1876.....	2,749,952	4,303,166	6,519,229	13,563,347	3 43
1877.....	2,639,937	4,830,694	6,054,456	13,525,087	3 37
1878.....	2,754,484	5,742,529	5,631,172	14,128,185	3 46
1879.....	3,105,191	6,102,492	5,494,164	14,701,847	3 55
1880.....	3,945,669	7,107,287	6,681,025	17,733,981	4 21
1881.....	6,208,227	9,628,445	7,685,888	23,522,560	5 44
1882.....	9,473,661	12,295,001	8,658,435	30,427,096	6 94
1883.....	11,976,237	14,242,870	8,791,045	35,010,152	7 90
1884.....	13,245,553	15,971,983	8,851,142	38,068,679	8 49
1885.....	15,090,540	17,888,536	9,191,895	42,170,971	9 29
1886.....	17,159,372	20,014,442	9,177,132	46,350,946	10 10
1887.....	19,497,750	21,334,525	10,092,143	50,924,418	10 98
1888.....	20,689,033	20,682,025	10,475,292	51,846,350	11 06
1889.....	23,011,423	19,994,934	10,761,061	53,717,419	11 33
1890.....	21,990,653	19,021,812	10,908,987	51,921,452	10 83
1891.....	21,738,648	17,661,378	10,982,232	50,382,258	10 39
1892.....	22,298,402	17,231,146	12,236,100	51,765,648	10 57
1893.....	24,153,194	17,696,464	12,823,836	54,673,494	11 04
1894.....	25,257,868	17,778,144	12,919,578	55,955,599	11 17
1895.....	26,805,542	17,644,956	13,128,483	57,578,981	11 36
1896.....	28,932,930	17,866,389	14,459,833	61,259,152	11 95
1897.....	32,380,829	16,554,147	15,025,564	63,960,540	12 33
1898.....	34,480,938	15,630,181	15,482,100	65,593,219	12 50