

Progress of Post Office savings banks.

725. 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, 1891, there were 634 offices open, 112,230 depositors, 147,672 deposits had been made during the year, and the total amount on deposit was \$21,738,648. Almost the whole of this increase has taken place during the last twelve years, the amount on deposit on 30th June, 1879, having been only \$3,105,190, the average annual increase since that date having been \$1,552,788. The average amount of each deposit received increased by \$1.35, having been \$44.02 in 1891, as compared with \$42.67 in 1890. The average amount to the credit of each account was \$195.44.

Deposits and depositors, by provinces.

726. 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, 1891. The particulars relate to Post Office savings banks only, and the money on deposit in the Government savings banks in the Maritime Provinces is not included.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS, 1891.

PROVINCES.	Number of Offices.	Number of Depositors	Amount on Deposit.	Average Amount to each Depositor.	Average Amount per Head of Population.
			\$	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Ontario .....	399	84,719	15,716,254	185 51	7 43
Quebec .....	111	16,316	3,632,349	222 62	2 43
Nova Scotia .....	43	4,847	1,159,316	239 18	2 57
New Brunswick .....	28	3,006	786,336	261 58	2 44
Manitoba .....	18	207	20,440	98 74	0 14
British Columbia.....	13	1,885	397,889	211 08	4 23
P. E. Island.....	7	17	1,461	86 00	0 01
The Territories.....	15	233	24,603	105 59	3 64
Total .....	634	111,230	21,738,648	194 44	4 53

Decrease in deposits and reasons for same.

727. For the second time since 1877 there was a decrease in the amount on deposit as compared with the preceding year, the decrease amounting to \$252,005. There was also a decrease of \$1,360,434 in the amount on deposit in the Government savings banks, making a total decrease in the amount on deposit in the two classes of banks of \$1,612,439. The decrease in Government savings banks was, however,