

Forgotten Money.

In matters of reform, asking for too much sometimes delays any progress whatever. Such would seem to be the case with the effort of Mr. Bottomley to have the British Parliament enact that all unclaimed bank balances should be taken over by the Public Trustee for national use. If he is reported correctly, Mr. Bottomley instanced Canada to the House as a country where such disposition is made of forgotten balances.

What is required in Canada is that each bank should annually report to the Government details of all dividends, drafts, bills of exchange and balances remaining unpaid and unclaimed for five years and upwards. That such publicity should be given seems reasonable and right—and Mr. Bottomley's crusade would be more likely to succeed were his war-cry a less savage one than "Confiscation."

British bankers say that the picture of vaults and strong rooms literally groaning with forgotten wealth is greatly over-coloured. Still, the aggregate amount can be no insignificant one, and the principle involved is the same whether the principal be great or small. Nor should any vagaries of Bottomley rhetoric be allowed to weigh against the contention for fair publicity. As Huxley used

to impress upon his disciples, "there is no greater mistake than the hasty conclusion that opinions are worthless because they are badly argued."

Jogging the Memory.

Hard times seemed to brush up some defective memories during 1908. At any rate, the accompanying exhibit shows that unclaimed deposit balances held by Canadian banks decreased \$30,000 last year instead of increasing as during preceding years. The seven hundred or more pages of the government blue book show that thousands of the balances are for sums ranging under \$5. One balance has appeared year after year amounting to one cent.—and still it has no taker. On the other hand, there are individual accounts that run up into thousands of dollars.

More surprising, perhaps, than the amount of unclaimed deposits, is the total of unpaid drafts and bills of exchange—the outstanding amount being well over \$30,000. While it is to be presumed the documents have been lost or burnt, it is strange that in so many cases matters should be neglected by those who purchased the unpaid drafts, and by the persons to whom they should have been paid.

Unclaimed Balances, Unpaid Dividends, Drafts and Bills of Exchange in Chartered Bank of Canada at close of 1907 and 1908.

Name of Bank.	1907				1908			
	Unpaid Dividends.	Unclaimed Balances.	Unpaid Drafts or Bills of Exchange.		Unpaid Dividends	Unclaimed Balances.	Unpaid Drafts or Bills of Exchange.	
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	£ s. d.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	£ s. d.
Bank of Montreal.....	1,124 07	121,688 94	3,988 63	.....	658 01	103,204 65	4,561 89	.....
" New Brunswick.....	13 60	11,445 18	148 53	.....	13 60	11,299 75	148 53	.....
Quebec Bank.....	.....	16,895 79	.....	249 7 2	.....	17,289 79	.....	.....
Bank of Nova Scotia.....	16 22	15,997 52	1,725 15	.....	16 22	18,047 75	1,820 87	.....
Saint Stephens Bank.....	.....	306 78	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bank of British North America	353 06	54,379 16	11,334 85	.....	353 06	37,413 39	11,538 78	.....
" Toronto.....	.....	5,103 51	62 60	18 5 11	.....	2,644 71	77 65	18 5 11
Molson's Bank.....	.....	11,583 84	1,069 04	.....	.....	10,158 52	969 29	267 4 5
Eastern Townships Bank.....	1,034 00	12,646 10	9 85	.....	1,080 75	9,067 20	9 85	.....
Union Bank of Halifax.....	.....	13,337 50	.....	.....	.....	3,685 08	.....	.....
Banque Nationale.....	295 23	10,874 00	141 53	Fr. 278	237 28	16,028 29	141 53	Fr. 278
Merchants Bank of Canada.....	.....	32,261 79	108 37	.....	.....	26,548 11	153 44	.....
Banque Provinciale du Canada	27 57	4,501 94	.....	.....	49 72	4,206 45	.....	.....
Union Bank of Canada.....	.....	11,363 24	829 12	190 10 2	.....	15,512 46	1,269 15	115 9 2
Canadian Bank of Commerce..	£ s. d. 46 4 0	.....	.....	.....	347 55	53,343 47	6,023 65	347 4 6
Royal Bank of Canada.....	\$ c. 122 71	52,266 20	5,566 68	299 18 8	.....	13,440 09	348 10	.....
Dominion Bank.....	.....	16,595 91	343 10	.....	.....	3,247 14	430 67	33 8 11
Bank of Hamilton.....	44 00	3,115 34	394 72	33 8 11	44 00	43,538 42	888 05	.....
Standard Bank of Canada.....	7 50	40,366 71	828 05	.....	7 50	3,916 98	.....	.....
Banque de Saint Jean.....	68 00	3,775 64	.....	.....	104 00	10 14	.....	.....
" d'Hochelega.....	150 00	8 29	.....	.....	210 00	5,494 67	221 82	.....
" de Saint Hyacinthe.....	.....	3,157 82	245 72	.....	.....	4,139 31	2 55	.....
Bank of Ottawa.....	.....	4,541 51	2 55	.....	.....	5,475 31	61 25	1 0 0
Imperial Bank of Canada.....	.....	6,035 11	51 25	1 0 0	.....	10,682 05	149 00	.....
Western Bank of Canada.....	.....	9,678 01	250 12	.....	.....	260 18	.....	.....
Traders Bank of Canada.....	53 16	234 42	.....	.....	17 16	4,991 86	.....	.....
Sovereign Bank of Canada.....	.....	3,135 86	.....	.....	.....	34 85	.....	.....
Metropolitan Bank.....	.....	91 79	.....	.....	.....	25 52	.....	.....
Montreal City and District Savings Bank.....	.....	103,175 47	430 85	.....	.....	111,676 52	739 85	.....
Cassie d'Economie de Notre Dame de Quebec.....	.....	17,582 98	37 31	.....	.....	20,914 30	39 31	.....
Totals.....	3,488 96	\$586,246 35	\$27,577 02	£792 10 10 Fr. 278	\$3,138 85	\$556,262 11	\$29,630 08	£782 12 11 Fr. 278