

ing the business of the Department on a strictly daily basis. There is no link in the work of a weekly, monthly, or quarterly character requiring constant supervision lest it be neglected. There are neither arrears, nor the possibility of any. It is believed that the system of computing interest prospectively, now followed in the Savings Bank departments of the Canadian banks generally, was first introduced in Canada by the Post Office Savings Bank.

It is right to say that the officers of the Canadian Department, when making what seemed a bold departure from the conventional form of keeping and balancing deposit accounts, took no little courage from an examination of the evidence given before the Select Committee appointed by the British House of Commons in 1858 to enquire into the operations of savings banks; particularly that of Mr. Craig, agent in Cork of the Bank of Ireland, and Treasurer of the Cork Savings Bank, and of Mr. Maitland, Treasurer of the Edinburgh Savings Bank. Those who take an interest in such enquiries will be rewarded by a perusal of these gentlemen's testimony and views.

The staff of the central or head office of the Canadian Post Office Savings Bank numbers twenty-one. These are not all employed in the ordinary routine of treating deposits and withdrawals, there being a constantly growing class of work in connection with claims to the moneys of deceased depositors, and other matters arising out of the regular duties. Then there are the postmasters' daily returns to be checked, and acknowledgments of deposits to be written, and the cross transactions (already described as one in eleven) adjusted, so as to bring the ledgers into agreement with the postmasters' returns, an agreement which cross-entries disturb. To these must be added many other minor duties. The clerical force of the Canadian department is in the proportion of one to each 3,200 depositors' accounts, or one to each 7,900 transactions in the year. It is believed (although the figures given are subject to correction) that in the British Savings Bank Department the force is in the proportion