

Between 1893 and 1898 the increase of population is estimated to have been about 5 per cent. for the whole Dominion, but, as a gross increase of population does not necessarily imply the same increase in the number of those who send or receive letters, we do not regard such increase of population as accounting to the same extent for the increase in Post Office business. We find then that, between 1893 and 1898 the total number of letters, post-cards, newspapers, samples, miscellaneous papers and parcels which passed through the Post Office of Canada increased from 164,259,892 to 204,465,664, an increase of \$40,205,772, which is an enlargement of postal communications of 24.47 per cent. in five years. The largest proportionate increase was in goods open to examination, a classification which covers foreign articles imported into Canada through the Post Office, the increase of which has been enormous in the last few years, and which will continue to increase rapidly under a favourable tariff. The importation of dress goods, i. e., clothing, made up in England, through the Post Office, is assuming proportions which those engaged in such industries in Canada may well regard with anxiety. The increase in such articles as newspapers, samples, deeds, photos and others on which the postage is very low has already caused a change to be made for the purpose of increasing the revenue from this service. Between 1893 and 1898 the gross increase in such articles was from 26,019,000 to 29,967,000, or 15 per cent.

It is interesting to note that, in proportion to population, the people of Manitoba and the North West Territories receive and dispatch more letters than those in any other section of Canada. As compared with the old country, Canada stands high as regards the average of letters and post cards per head. It may, however, be taken as a postal law, that, as population becomes more and more congested in large cities, where a telephone service exists, the fewer will be the communications sent through the Post Office. Having shown how the strictly postal business of the country expanded from 1893 to 1898, owing to those improved mercantile conditions which invariably increase the correspondence of the community, we now turn to the Money Order department, which has become so intimately associated with our post offices, although there is no natural connection between handling the letters of the people and providing them with what are properly banking facilities on a small scale. The following figures tell their own story.

Year.	Total Orders issued.	Payable in Canada.	P'ble. outside Canada.	Foreign Orders p'ble. in Canada.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1893.....	12,902,975	10,404,857	2,498,118	2,269,635
1894.....	13,245,990	10,487,279	2,758,710	2,224,343
1895.....	13,187,321	10,736,647	2,450,674	2,055,984
1896.....	13,081,860	10,726,661	2,355,199	2,124,553
1897.....	12,987,230	10,680,835	2,306,395	2,245,467
1898.....	14,518,480	12,082,658	2,435,821	2,162,971
Increase 1898 over 1893..	1,615,505	1,677,801
Decrease 1898 below 1893.	62,297	106,664

It will be noted that during the years of depression the issuance of money orders varied slightly, but last year, when trade revived, there was an expanse of \$1,531,250 over preceding year, and of \$1,615,505 over 1893. This increase would have been much greater had not the Express companies in recent years made considerable inroads in the Post Office money order business. The increase is, however, so marked in 1898 as to show how much more active was the class of business which calls for these orders. It will be also noted that the increase was wholly in orders required for remittances within the Dominion. The following is an exhibit of the Money Order business by Provinces:—

Provinces.	Orders Issued		Orders Paid.	
	1893.	1898.	1893.	1898.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Ontario.....	6,360,396	6,897,243	6,542,773	7,653,417
Quebec.....	1,557,315	1,889,382	1,866,241	2,121,557
Nova Scotia.....	1,618,111	1,580,243	1,677,893	1,479,682
New Brunswick....	929,595	883,675	897,361	837,119
P.E. Island.....	144,979	130,911	157,616	152,057
Manitoba & N.W....	1,307,746	1,740,418	981,594	1,280,263
British Columbia...	984,831	1,396,608	462,802	705,468
Totals.....	\$12,902,975	\$14,518,480	\$12,586,280	\$14,229,563

Out of the total increase in orders issued over 50 per cent. is credited to Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia, which is a significant indication of their improved financial condition since 1893. The deposits in the Post Office Savings' Banks in 1893 were \$24,153,193, and in 1898, \$34,480,937, an increase of \$10,327,744.

We submit the above statistics of the Post Office business as demonstrative evidence of the business conditions of Canada in 1898, having been very much more favourable than in the previous five years.

THE INCREASE OF DEPOSITS.

On Monday last, at a banquet at New York, given by the directors of the Bank of the Manhattan Company, the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Gage, made a brief address in the course of which he expressed the opinion that the funds on hand in the United States Treasury were sufficient to meet any deficits for the next two years, without trespassing on the \$100,000,000 gold reserve. Mr. Gage added that financial interests need feel no anxiety, and that the condition of the Treasury was so satisfactory that even the payments to Spain would not render a further issue of bonds necessary.

Following close upon this announcement by the Secretary of the United States Treasury, that no bonds will be available for investors comes the news that their Legislature has to consider a bill to extend the list of securities in which the savings' banks of the country may invest the deposits of the people. It is contended that the banks must have a larger field in which to invest deposits, or they will be compelled to further reduce the rate of interest paid for same. In connection with the discussion of the very important bill referred to, the New York "Journal of Commerce" tenders some admirable advice for the