

THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK SYSTEM OF CANADA.

The enquirer into the origin and history of Post Office Savings Banks in a new country must not expect to meet with what may be termed the "prehistoric" element. As applied to the Post Office Savings Bank system in the United Kingdom, this term may not inappropriately be given to the condition of things existing in the three Kingdoms during the sixty years, or thereabouts, preceding the maturing and final development of that scheme in 1861, but which it is not the purpose of the present paper to discuss, further than to describe it as possible only in a country of dense population, where time and the operation of the laws of wealth had opened a gulf between the upper and lower strata of society, and where improvidence and squalor in the latter found among the former men of independent means with the leisure and philanthropic desire to take

The Postal Savings Banks have not as yet been extended to the Maritime Provinces, there being in these Provinces a system of savings banks differing in organization, under the direct management of the Finance Department; nor has the system been extended to Manitoba and the Northwest, the demands upon the Department in that direction in matters of ordinary postal and money order accommodation having, up to the present, compelled the deferring of the establishment of savings bank facilities.