

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

Thirty-one new Savings Bank Offices were established during the year, making 494 as the total number in operation on the 30th June, 1890.

The number of deposits was 154,678, and the amount \$6,599,896; the number of withdrawals was 90,151, and the amount \$8,575,041.98. The number of new accounts opened was 32,127, and the number of accounts closed 33,499. The average amount of each deposit was \$42.67, and the average amount of each withdrawal \$95.12. The total number of accounts remaining open at the close of the fiscal year was 112,321, and the total amount due to depositors, \$21,990,653.49; the average balance at the credit of each account being \$195.78.

The accompanying tabular statement shows, in progressive form, the business of the bank since its commencement in 1868.

In accordance with an Order in Council, passed under authority of the Act 51 Victoria, chap. 8, the rate of interest on deposits was changed on the 1st October, 1889, from 4 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This change in the rate effected a saving of \$80,703.75 in the amount of interest credited to depositors during the nine months, from 1st October to 30th June.

The policy of transferring the Dominion Government Savings Banks to the control of the Post Office Savings Bank continues to be satisfactorily carried out. During the year two such banks—Baddeck, N.S., on the 1st November, 1889, and Richibucto, N. B., on the 1st December, 1889,—were assumed. The number of accounts then transferred was 570, and the amount \$167,501.53.

The second serious loss in the history of the bank occurred this year. It was caused by frauds committed at the Kingston Post Office. The guilty official was speedily brought to punishment, and the depositors' claims, so far as they could be ascertained and established, were promptly made good to them. These losses amounted to \$3,653.37. Additional precautions have been taken to safe-guard both depositors and the bank against such losses in the future.

The number of claims to deceased depositors' moneys which were examined and paid during the year was 927.