

Q. He signs something?—A. He signs an application, yes, and sends in his pass-book to the head office for the withdrawal of over \$25. Under \$25, under an arrangement made last year, he can make a withdrawal at the local post office and have it checked up there. Above that amount, the pass-book has to be sent to Ottawa, where the account is verified, and the cheque is sent to the postmaster, who delivers it to the depositor.

Q. It takes how long to do that in Ontario?—A. If it is one day's mail, it would take one day to come up and one day to go back. It would be dealt with here immediately.

Q. It is a two days' proposition anyway?—A. Yes.

Q. And in British Columbia it would be a ten-day or twelve-day proposition?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Millar:

Q. Are these post office savings banks ever withdrawn because of competition with the chartered banks?—A. I know of no withdrawals of that kind. They might be withdrawn because the depositors may have taken out their money and put it in some other place.

By Mr. Garland:

Q. Is it regarded by the department as entering into competition with the chartered banks if you establish a post office savings bank in a small town?—A. No, it is not regarded as competition at all.

Q. That does not enter into the policy of the department?—A. No, no, they would not regard it as entering into competition to put in a savings bank where there was a chartered bank.

Q. What are the considerations that govern the establishment of post office savings branches?—A. Generally speaking, the need of the community for it shown in different ways. That is, it may be shown by the fact that it is asked for. It may be shown by the fact that the inspector of the Department sees that it is needed.

Q. In the event of a district deciding through, we will say, its municipal representatives or a town council or some other representative body of citizens that it should have a post office savings bank established in that district, would the post office authorities accede to that request?—A. They would most likely accede to it.

Q. If they did not, what consideration would they weigh? How does your Department decide whether to establish a post office savings branch or not?—A. Well, the first thing you would look at would be the size of the community asking for it. The second would be—and that would be wrapped up with the first proposition—the ability of the present postmaster to do banking business. He might not have been chosen because of his ability to do banking business. I think these would be about the only thing that the Department would have to decide, apart from the representations made by petitioners or by the inspector.

Q. Have any representations ever been made to your Department by the chartered banks or any protest against competition, or suggesting withdrawal?—A. No, I know of none. If they have been made, they have been made perhaps to the Minister who has not told the officials of the Department. I have known of none where the banks have suggested that we withdraw.

Q. Have you had any protests or suggestions?—A. No, I know of no protests.

Q. No protests at all?—A. I know of none.

[Mr. Austin Bill.]