

world's financial markets is doubtful enough to make it advisable to move cautiously. The Canadian banks have a formidable task ahead of them in the necessity of financing the great industrial and agricultural development of the immediate future. While engaged in that work there will most likely occur from time to time periods in which the banking institutions are not able to handle all the demands made upon them for credits. When a situation of that kind presents itself it is usually the stock and commodity speculators who have to give up credits in order that the commercial and industrial interests may prosecute their businesses.

HOW THE POST OFFICE HAS GAINED.

One of the most remarkable illustrations of Canada's recent growth and development is found in the statistics of the post office. Although for a considerable period of years our population increased with painful slowness the volume of business transacted by the post office has increased most satisfactorily. The following table shows the growth of population and the expansion of the volume of business handled by the post office in the past nineteen years.

	Estimated Population.	Post Offices.	Value Money orders Issued.	Letters sent. (Thousands.)
1890	4,792,605	7,913	\$11,997,861	94,100
1891	4,844,366	8,061	12,478,178	97,975
1892	4,889,266	8,283	12,825,701	102,850
1893	4,935,748	8,477	12,902,976	106,290
1894	4,983,903	8,664	13,245,990	107,145
1895	5,033,839	8,832	13,187,322	107,565
1896	5,086,061	9,103	13,081,861	116,028
1897	5,141,508	9,191	12,987,231	123,830
1898	5,199,267	9,282	14,518,480	134,975
1899	5,259,491	9,420	14,467,997	150,375
1900	5,322,348	9,627	16,209,069	178,292
1901	5,413,670	9,834	17,956,258	191,650
1902	5,537,500	9,954	23,549,402	213,628
1903	5,711,342	10,150	26,868,202	245,791
1904	5,890,677	10,460	29,652,811	259,190
1905	6,086,530	10,879	32,349,476	285,541
1906	6,320,000	11,141	37,355,673	323,644
1907	6,655,904	11,377	*32,160,098	273,071
1908	6,940,509	11,823	49,974,007	396,011
1909	7,184,000	12,479	52,627,770	414,301

*Nine months.

Back in the "nineties" our population increased at the very slow rate of about 50,000 per year. Some years it did not increase that much. The year of smallest increase in the above table is 1892 when the gain was less than 45,000. So far as population was concerned we practically stood still. It was not until 1902 that a gain of so much as 100,000 occurred. It is expected that at the end of the present year our population will be 8,000,000. In other words, if the expectations are realized, we shall have gained in one year new population exceeding the gain of the whole decade 1890-1900.

Roughly, the gain in population in the nineteen years up to 1900, has been 50 per cent. The number of post offices has increased a little over 50 p.c. But the amount sent through the post office by means of money orders has grown to 4½ times the total for 1890. There is no doubt the figures for 1910 will show a heavy gain over 1900. Curiously enough the number of letters sent has increased in about the same ratio as shown by the remittances in money orders.

It is well known that the large number of foreigners who have become citizens of Canada in the past few years have made use freely of the post office facilities for remitting money to their relatives abroad. To Europe, and especially to Italy, a very large amount of money is sent in this way. Thus in 1900, out of a total of \$52,627,770, no less than \$16,000,000, or not far from one-third of the whole, were payable abroad. In 1890 out of a total of \$11,907,861 the amount payable abroad was \$2,640,000, or less than one-quarter. The increase in amount of money orders payable abroad during the nineteen years has been \$13,400,000; the increase in amount of orders payable in Canada, \$27,200,000.

This large amount payable abroad makes it necessary for the Government to buy a considerable amount of exchange to settle the post office international account. Of course, there are also a considerable number of money orders issued by outside countries paid in Canada every year. Great Britain and the United States issue many orders on Canada. And our Government commonly has a considerable total of paid orders to send to those countries by way of offset. But with the Southern European countries we have each year to remit a heavy amount of exchange to settle the account for money orders issued in this country. The United States Government is in the same position. It has a huge balance to send to Italy and other European countries each year. The Government purchases of bills for this purpose are a considerable factor in the foreign exchange markets.

The remittances represent a part of the earnings of foreign workmen here in America. After paying their board and other living expenses they remit sums home to parties dependent upon them or to banks or other depositories in the way of savings.

In the course of the nineteen years the revenue of the post office department has grown from \$3,221,615 to \$9,927,914. In 1890 there was a deficit of \$720,000—expenses exceeded revenue by that amount; but in 1900 the revenue exceeded the expenditure by \$810,000.

There is one department of the post office busi-