

destruction to a great extent the advantages he enjoys under the present arrangement. Therefore I cannot understand his views in that matter, but on the whole I go very largely with the hon. member who has moved this resolution in many of the statements he has made with reference to the advantages of savings banks.

Mr. CARLING. I am very glad indeed to know that the hon. member for East Lambton (Mr. Fairbank) approves generally of the management of the post office savings banks. I must say that, so far as I am concerned as the head of that Department, everything is being done that can be done to extend the system in all the different Provinces of this Dominion. Up to this time, it has only been in operation in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, but arrangements are now being made to have the post office savings banks established in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, also in the North-West and in British Columbia, and the number in Quebec and Ontario is being increased as rapidly as possible. I am sure that, so far as the Department is concerned, everything is being done that can be done to facilitate the movement and bring the post office savings banks within the reach of everyone in the Dominion. I think the resolution moved by Sir Richard Cartwright and carried by the House covers the whole or nearly the whole ground of the present motion, for I see that it refers to the post office savings bank as well as to the Government savings bank. Sir Richard Cartwright moved for a return showing the total number of depositors in the savings banks (post office or other) holding deposits of \$1,000 or upwards; also the total amount so held; the total number of depositors having deposits of less than \$1,000 and more than \$500 each; also the total amount so held, and the total number of said depositors holding less than \$500 each; also total amount so held. There can be no objection to bringing down this information, but it is hardly necessary to have two resolutions of a similar kind carried. I have made enquiry in the Department, and Mr. Stewart, the head of the Savings Bank Branch states that this information cannot be brought down in less than five or six months, as there are 67,000 depositors accounts which have to be critically examined and attested. The information will be brought down as rapidly as possible. Mr. Stewart, the head of that branch, assures me that it cannot be brought down in less than four or five months.

Mr. BLAKE. I am very glad to hear the hon. gentleman state that the post office savings banks are being extended throughout the country. There are many localities where there is no facility for depositing savings but that which is given by these banks; and I am sure the House and the country will receive with gratification the announcement that the Government propose to extend the operation of an institution that has been on the whole extremely beneficial.

Mr. VAIL. I would like to ask the Postmaster General if he proposes to allow interest on deposits from the date they are made, or to adopt the same rule as governs the savings banks in Nova Scotia, which allows interest to commence on the first of the month after the deposit is made. If so, depositors in the post office savings banks will have a great advantage over those depositors in the ordinary savings banks. It seems to me that on the smaller sums under \$300 or \$500, the poorer classes of people ought to be entitled to interest from the date of deposit, both in the ordinary savings banks and post office savings banks. I can easily understand that it would be very proper in the case of a larger depositor that interest should commence only from the first of the following month, or, if he drew out the money between the first and last of the month, he should only be allowed the interest to the end of the previous month.

Mr. CARLING. Interest is allowed on a deposit as soon as it is made. As soon as a dollar is deposited the depositor
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receives interest. That is much better than it is in England. \$300 is the highest for one year. In England they are not allowed interest until they have accumulated to 20 shillings. Although the depositor may deposit up to a shilling there is no deposit received less than a shilling and when it gets to 20 shillings the deposit commences to pay interest.

Mr. VAIL. I would call the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to this fact. Now that post office savings banks are being established in Nova Scotia the depositors in that branch will have an advantage over those who deposit in the old savings bank.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) I am sorry the Department has not sooner seen its way clear to extend the privileges of post office savings banks to Prince Edward Island, but from the announcement which has been made by the Postmaster General, I am pleased to learn that they propose doing so hereafter. I may say that we have a Dominion savings bank established in Charlottetown and Summerside, but our people have been looking for the establishment of post office savings banks in some of the outlying places where, I believe, they would tend to cultivate habits of saving among the people. If they had places of that kind in which they could deposit their little savings, it would cultivate among them economy and thrift. There are central places in my own county, like Souris, Murray Harbor, Georgetown, Montague and others, where there are numbers of prosperous and well-to-do fishermen and farmers, and they are all favorable, I believe, to the system being extended to those centres of population in the belief that they would afford great advantage to the people. I trust the Postmaster General will see his way clear to extend the system as much as possible.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Mr. McMULLEN. Before the House rose the hon. Postmaster General had stated that depositors were allowed interest on the sum that they deposited from the date of deposit until the time of withdrawal.

Mr. CARLING. If the hon. gentleman would allow me, I find, upon reflection, that I was in error, and that we do not pay interest on any part of the month.

Mr. McMULLEN. I was pleased to learn that the Government had altered their rules, allowing interest from the date of deposit, because I consider that parties depositing small sums ought to receive interest from the date of deposit to the date of withdrawal. We are all aware that mechanics and others who are engaged by the month do not, as a rule, get paid until the first or, in many cases, the fifteenth of the following month; they have to retain their money until the end of the month or deposit it at the time they receive it, without interest. It is desirable, in the interest of small depositors, that they should have all reasonable inducements offered them to make deposits, by allowing interest from the date of deposit to the date of withdrawal. On a previous occasion when the question of giving better facilities to farmers in the way of borrowing money, was before the House, I took occasion to remark that I was opposed to the continuation of a high rate of interest to depositors. My remarks on that occasion applied to large depositors, those who deposit sums of from \$1,000 to \$8,000. I think it is desirable that the poorer classes should be offered every inducement to made deposits, while parties who control large amounts should be asked to find some other investments for their money rather than that of the Government savings bank. I believe that such an arrangement would cause a larger amount of money to flow into the chartered banks. In that way the rate of