

we find that on the 30th June, 1889, the amount on deposit in the Post office and Dominion Savings Banks aggregated \$42,943,169; a year later the figures stood \$40,999,216, a decrease of nearly \$2,000,000. In order to offset this loss, really a redemption of the public debt to that amount, a loan of £400,000, became necessary, negotiated at 4 per cent. The account therefore shows a balance in favor of the Government amounting to upwards of \$200,000, as follows:—Had 4 per cent. on \$42,943,169 been allowed, it would have amounted to \$1,717,726. The sum actually paid was 3½ on say \$41,000,000, or \$1,435,000, and 4 per cent. on temporary loan of \$2,000,000 or \$80,000, making a total of interest paid \$1,515,000,000, thus effecting a saving of upwards of \$200,000 in round figures. From the above approximate but fairly reasonable figures, the utter folly of bidding for deposits by offering an advanced rate of interest is at once apparent. The ultimate benefit accrues not to the bank so bidding, but to those depositors who avail themselves of this competition. We are glad to see that both the president of the Bank of Montreal and the general manager of the Quebec Bank decry this policy as detrimental to the interests of the banking associations of the Dominion. A more harmonious working together of the various financial institutions of the country would tend to alleviate this grievance, and the formation of a Bankers' Association, to join more closely the various interests, would hasten this end.

WILL RAILROADS COMBINE?—Syndicates and trusts of every possible description have sprung up of late with an alarming frequency, spreading terror and dismay among the minor interests involved. The tendency of times is toward combination, and many commercial interests have undoubtedly been advanced by the adoption of this course. The community alone suffers, in isolated cases, from the loss of those advantages which usually follow keen competition. Labor, especially, feels the growth of this nineteenth century idea, the result of combination being to curtail production, in the desire to keep supply more in sympathy with demand:—lessened production meaning a smaller call for labor. It must be admitted, however, that the formation of trusts may be made productive of more good than evil, and in all cases in which the benefit to be derived from such a course is not wholly confined to the capitalist, but is also shared in by the public at large, no reasonable being can affect to ignore its presence.