

country. I do not agree with Mr. Stewart that such a treatment would not find favor here; I believe it would, and is well worthy the consideration of the Government. There is one more feature of contrast between the Canadian savings banks and the English, in which I do not know that we have made any improvement by varying from the English system. All methods that differ from English methods are not improvements; England is by no means always wrong; and upon a subject of this kind, to which she has given so much attention, we would be pretty safe in following rather closely in her footsteps. The deposits in the savings banks in England are not a floating liability of the Government, but are invested in the funds. This system existed in Canada up to a certain period, and why it was changed I do not know. In the Government savings banks of Canada, which are quite distinct from the post office savings banks, and which exist only in the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. At Toronto, Winnipeg and British Columbia, I find the following amounts on deposit on the 30th June, 1884. In Nova Scotia, where there are 29 offices, there were \$6,493,000 on deposit; in New Brunswick, with 14 offices, there were \$4,306,000; in Prince Edward Island, where there are two offices, the amount was \$1,412,000; in Toronto, one office, \$758,000; in Winnipeg, one office, \$653,000; in British Columbia, three offices, \$2,374,000, making a total of 50 offices having a total deposit of \$15,971,000. Of the total deposits in Nova Scotia, \$2,689,000, or 41 per cent. of the whole, was deposited in the city of Halifax; of the total in New Brunswick, \$2,325,000, or 54 per cent. of the whole, was deposited in the city of St. John. For a time deposits in the saving banks seem to have been unlimited; now they are limited to \$3,000. I am informed upon good authority that large sums find their way into the Government savings banks in the eastern Provinces. I have heard of sums of over \$3,000, of over \$5,000, of \$15,000 and \$20,000, being deposited in those banks; and under the present arrangements, the restrictions are frequently evaded by the deposits being frequently made in the names of different members of one family. If this be the case, these offices cease to be exclusively places or reservoirs for the receipt of the savings of the poor, but become places into which the accumulations of the rich find their way; and they cannot be defended in this regard, upon the old line. I may be asked if I propose to abolish them. By no means; I would propose that if they have sailed out of their course their reckoning be corrected and that they be placed upon their right course. I think it is quite likely, Mr. Speaker, that in your boyhood you may have, in the meadows of Frontenac, become acquainted with the habits of the little ground bird, the gray sparrow. If you have noticed particularly the habits of the bird and watched its nests, you may at times have found in the nest a much larger egg than usual. Had you continued to watch, you would find that it did not hatch out a ground bird but a bird of much larger size, the blackbird or cow-bunting. The blackbird, seeming to copy some features of modern society, wishing to be relieved of domestic duties, deposits her egg in the ground bird's nest, and allows the ground bird to raise her young. Having the largest body and the longest neck the blackbird gets the most of the worms brought by the mother bird for the supply of the nest to the ultimate injury, I think, of the legitimate inhabitants of the nest. I have no objection to the blackbird; he is a sleek, smooth fellow, nearly always dressed in black, and he is sociable and musical; but I do not want him in the ground bird's nest; he is not adapted to the nest nor is the nest adapted to him. I would propose taking him very quietly out of the nest and putting him into a proper one. The Finance Minister may ask, what nest? I would not debar any person from investing in Government securities if he preferred to do so on the same terms as other people.

Whatever expert financiers may think of the necessity of borrowing money in distant lands, if our own people are disposed to invest in our securities on the same terms as others, I have no objection to their doing so; but there is a very material difference between obtaining money on call, money as to which the depositor dictates the time when he shall take it out, and money as to which the borrower fixes the time when the lender shall be paid. This matter is very well provided for in the post office savings banks in England, where the depositor is limited to £200, but facilities are afforded for the making of investments in the English funds to the extent of £300 more. For a small consideration these stocks are bought for them, the account is kept in the savings banks, and the sales are made free. I cannot see any reason why, if people want to invest in Canadian securities, a facility of this kind may not be afforded them, but I think it is unwise that these deposits should be made on call in the savings bank. I intended to show by my few remarks that I was by no means hostile to the savings banks. If I have not made myself so understood, it is contrary to my intention, for I take a very deep interest in them. I believe you have improved a man, I believe you have improved a society immensely when you have caused it to save a portion of its earnings, and it is for the purpose of ascertaining to what extent the existing condition of these post office savings banks and Government savings banks are meeting this view that I ask for this return. Within their original bounds, in keeping with their foundation principles, in harmony with the thoughts that gave them birth, I would bid the post office savings banks God speed, and hope that they may be speedily established at all possible points from Cape Breton to Vancouver, teaching their lessons of industry, frugality and sobriety, lessening the sum of human misery and thus building one stone higher the walls that defend our freedom.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I must compliment the mover of this resolution on the very able address that he has made in moving it. It shows that he has considered the subject, and has made a careful study of it, and I am sure the House has been interested on both sides by the statements he has made. With many of the views he has expressed I entirely agree. From some of them, perhaps, I should dissent. As I stated on a former occasion, I have doubts as to the propriety of extending it to the penny deposits on the stamp principle which prevails in England. The information asked for in the latter part of the hon. gentleman's motion, as far as the Government savings bank is concerned, has been asked for already by the hon. member for South Huron (Sir Richard Cartwright), but his motion does not extend, I think, to the post office savings bank. There will be no practical difficulty in the matter, however, as the hon. member will of course accept that return as a return to his motion. I could not quite understand the analogy between the blackbirds and the other birds, the blackbird that had the longer neck and got the worm while the other birds with the shorter necks missed it. I did not see how it was applicable to the present system of deposits, because we do not shut out any of them, except, of course, the penny depositors, and if the hon. member referred to them, of course I can quite understand it, but any person can deposit in the post office savings bank to the extent of a dollar. If those who deposit from a dollar to one hundred dollars or three hundred dollars are the blackbirds, I can understand the analogy my hon. friend has made. Still, while he has endorsed so thoroughly and completely the savings bank principle, I do not understand how it is that he takes such strong exception to receiving the deposits on demand, because if every depositor placed his money there for a specific time or time which would render it inconvenient for him, it would