

duty. In some cases it is the postmaster, but we have discouraged latterly the appointment of postmasters, because we have not the same check on them as we have on other officers. I think there are but two cases where the parties are not officers, the one in New Westminster, B.C., if my memory serves me right, and there the agent receives \$450 or \$500; and the other one in Yarmouth, N.S., where the person appointed is not an officer; and as there is over \$500,000 deposited there, he gets \$500. All the other salaries range from \$200 to \$400, and they are paid on the same principle as when the hon. member was Finance Minister.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. At Yarmouth the sum assigned is only \$300.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. It has been increased since that return, the 1st July.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Then practically speaking, almost all these men are obliged to deposit in banks. Is that the general rule?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Yes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I do not at all desire to criticise the management of the savings banks; where they have increased as largely as they have generally, I am quite aware some little irregularities occur. We have seen statements that there have been some losses in connection with these, but I do not notice any sums put down on account of losses of savings banks. I would not at all desire to hold the hon. Minister responsible for any on so large a business as this for some few losses which may have occurred, but I would like to know if any have occurred—I do not mean losses indemnified by the securities.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. There has been two or three defaulters, I think, in Nova Scotia, and proceedings have been taken against them. I cannot say what the position is, but I will enquire and inform the House before Concurrency.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I should like to know the amounts and the probable losses.

Mr. DAVIES. Last year I called the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that while in Nova Scotia they have branches in the different counties, in Prince Edward Island the savings bank is confined to the capital. The object of these banks is, of course, to enable the small farmers and labourers and others who have money saved to deposit it in a place of safety. As the savings bank institution is carried on in Prince Edward Island, there is only one office, and that is in the capital. So far as the wants of capitalists who have money to invest that is all very well, but as regards the wants of small farmers and labourers, fishermen and others, living in remote parts of the Island, it is impossible for them to take any advantage of the savings banks at all. I would suggest to the hon. Minister the desirability of establishing in the other counties of the Island branch offices for the purpose of receiving these deposits. If he did, it would be a very great advantage to those who have money saved. One of the local banks attempted to meet this want, the Merchants' of Halifax, but while that is a good bank, and the people have confidence in it, they have not that confidence they would have in a Government savings bank. It would be a very great advantage to the people of the outlying counties if branch offices were established at Summerside or Souris, either in the post office or elsewhere, so that they would enjoy the same facilities which are enjoyed by the people of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It is evident that a man who has \$2 or \$5 to deposit will not travel 20 or 30 miles to deposit it.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. No doubt it would be desirable to have these savings banks in every county throughout the Dominion, but I may state for the information of

Sir LEONARD TILLEY.

the hon. gentleman, that perhaps not half the counties in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have them. They are established at points where there are considerable numbers of persons employed, but it would not be politic on the part of the Government to establish too many of these offices, for the lowest salary that can be paid is \$200, and if that had to be paid in places where there would be only \$2,000 or \$3,000 deposited, it would make a very high rate of interest. It was intended in the vote of last year to give another office to Prince Edward Island, and I was under the impression, and am so still, that an office has been established at Summerside, though I am not very positive that that has been done. Having been consulted with reference to this by, I think, the representative from that district, some time ago, I decided that it was a locality where we would be justified in having an office, and I am under the impression that an office has been established there; but, if it has not been done, I can only say I will enquire into it, because I was under the impression that it was done. The other county did not appear to have so large a number of that class of persons who would be taking advantage of the appropriation; but still applications come in from year to year, and, as the hon. member will see, we are asking for an additional sum in case it is made out to the satisfaction of the Department, and of the Government, that the locality for which application is made would give the advantage to a considerable number of persons, and that the amount deposited would be such as would warrant the Government in making such an arrangement. If in a locality, such as the hon. gentleman speaks of, first, there are parties whom it would be important and desirable to benefit by such facilities, and, in the next place, the amount deposited probably be enough to justify the Government in paying the \$200, then it will be applied there. The hon. gentleman will see that it might easily be a losing operation, and no doubt there would be any number of applications if it was supposed that it was only necessary to ask for the \$200 to have it appropriated. Summerside has been provided for, or was intended to be provided for, and this vote proposes to give a small sum for the purpose of opening some additional offices.

Mr. VAIL. The Finance Minister might extend this system a little further than he has, with great benefit to the people and without any loss to the revenue. There are some counties peculiarly situated, and I refer especially to the county I represent. It is divided by a bay 30 or 40 miles long, running through the centre of the county, and one portion of the people are cut off from the mainland, and they have no banking facilities at all. There are many thousand people in this section of the country, mostly fishermen, who are earning a certain amount weekly and receive their money every week, and it would be a great advantage to these people to have the opportunity of investing their money in that way. I hope he will take this matter into consideration, and, if he can see his way clear, give them the benefit of a savings bank at Westport.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. We have one in your county.

Mr. VAIL. Yes, two, one at Digby and one at Weymouth, but this neck of land extends over 40 miles, where the people are entirely cut off, and they are very much in want of something of this kind, as there is no banking agency at all amongst them.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Does the hon. gentleman lay down any limit? He said very truly that it would never pay to receive a few thousand dollars, and pay an official \$200 and the contingent expenses, which must be more or less, for the purpose of so small a deposit. Does he lay down any limit? In Nova Scotia, I observe there are no less than thirty of these savings banks, and, although