

ones succumbing altogether. Sixteen years' experience, however, has, it may be believed, satisfied the Banking institutions that they have so far little to fear from the Post Office Savings Banks. To this result the limit fixed for one person's deposits in the latter, viz., \$1,000 (say £200 stg.), may have contributed. A really influential factor in swelling the deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks may be found in the general fall in the value of money since the year 1880, the Post Office Savings Bank rate of four per cent. remaining undisturbed. The subjoined figures (made up to June in each year), however, show that, while the deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks have very largely increased since the year named, the deposits in the chartered Banks themselves have never been so large as during the last five years, when low rates of interest have prevailed :—

Year.	P. O. Savings Banks.	Chartered Banks.	Average interest allowed by Savings Bank departments of chartered Banks.
1875	\$ 2,926,000	\$55,918,000	} 4 and 5 per cent.
1876	2,741,000	59,516,000	
1877	2,640,000	58,444,000	
1878	2,754,000	58,946,000	
1879	3,105,000	58,659,000	
1880	3,946,000	69,742,000	3 " "
1881	6,208,000	77,078,000	3 " "
1882	9,474,000	89,565,000	3 " "
1883	11,976,000	89,553,000	3 and 4 " "
1884	13,245,000	87,341,000	3 " "

The Canadian Post Office Act of 1867, in its savings bank clauses followed very closely the British Post Office Savings Bank Act. Later legislation, in 1875, abolished the requirement that the Post Office Savings Bank balance, as required by the Act of 1867, should be funded in Canadian government securities. The balance now forms part of the unfunded debt of the Dominion payable in Canada.