

## EXPORT OF SILVER ORE.

Mr. JONES moved for a return of the number of tons of silver ore exported from Ontario, during the past five financial years.

Motion agreed to.

## DEPOSITS IN GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANKS.

Mr. JONES moved for a return of the number of depositors in the Government Savings Bank of sums under \$10 during the last financial year. He said: My object in making this motion is to draw the attention of the Post Office Department and of the Government to a system which has been adopted in England with very great success. The deposits in the Government Saving Banks in Great Britain, as hon. gentlemen are doubtless aware, were limited to a minimum of one shilling sterling, but this amount was found to be too large for the poor classes whose pennies and halfpennies instead of being saved were too frequently spent in gin and whiskey. A scheme was inaugurated by which forms were provided having twelve divisions, into each of which a penny postage stamp could be placed, and when these forms were filled they were received as deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks. The plan was brought into operation on the 13th September, in ten counties situated in different parts of the United Kingdom, and during the seven weeks it has been in operation the success obtained has been so marked that it has now been decided to extend it to the entire country. This decision will take effect on Monday the 15th November. On and after that day, at every post office in the United Kingdom, forms for the making of small deposits in post office savings banks will be issued gratuitously. Each of these forms, which are about the size of an ordinary check, will have twelve divisions, in each of which a penny postage stamp can be placed. When a form has thus been filled with twelve stamps it will be received at any post office at which there is a savings bank as a deposit of a shilling. During the seven weeks that the experiment has been in operation more than 14,000 of these forms have been received, and more than 7,000 new accounts have been opened through their agency. As the selected counties contain less than one-tenth of the entire population of the country it may be fairly assumed that if the plan had been applied in the first instance to the whole country, it would, during the period referred to, have led to the opening of more than 70,000 new accounts. The forms after being received at the local post offices, are transmitted to the general post office; they have come to hand in remarkable good order, most of them presenting the appearance of perfect newness, and it has not been necessary in a single instance to return any of the forms on account of their being damaged or defaced. I am of opinion that a system based upon that which has been so successful in Great Britain would be a boon to the poorer classes in this country, though fortunately they are not so numerous as in the old country, a card might be used having say ten or twelve divisions into each of which a three cent stamp could be put and when the card is filled it might be taken as a deposit for the amount it represents. My attention was drawn to this subject by a gentleman in Toronto, who takes a great interest in all matters for the benefit of the poor, and I therefore thought it desirable to bring the matter before the Government and the House.

Mr. McCUAIG. I have received a communication from an Englishman, Mr. H. J. Love, on the subject of the sums charged for the transmission of money orders from this country to England. He complains that we discriminate against England in this matter, as while it only costs ten cents to transmit say \$10 to the United States, twenty cents is charged for the transmission of that sum to England.

Mr. JONES.

With regard to the motion before the House, I cannot agree with my hon. friend from Leeds (Mr. Jones), because our circumstances are quite different from those which prevail in England. Our population is not so dense, our laborers are as a class better paid, so that I think a minimum deposit of \$1 is none too high.

Mr. PLUMB. I think we are indebted to the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Jones) for bringing this matter before the House. This system of taking small deposits, I think, was due to Mr. Fawcett, the present Postmaster General. It is a thing we ought to take into consideration and which we might imitate. I do not quite agree with the hon. member from Prince Edward (Mr. McCuaig) that it would entail a large expense and give great trouble, and for that reason it ought not to be considered by the Government. I think anything that accommodates the people and encourages them to make deposits, no matter how small, should be sedulously encouraged by the Government. There is no question that the limit of the deposit may prevent the accumulation of sufficient money to make the deposit which is required, but this difficulty is obviated by the system of making small deposits by means of postage stamps upon cards, as in England. The sum accumulated might be or might not be less than \$1, but the system of cards for the sums deposited in that way is really a great improvement, and it is to this, I have no doubt, that my hon. friend desires to call the attention of the House. The deposit need not be paid until the card is filled by a certain number of stamps and those cards be transmitted, so that all who wish to make small savings may avail themselves of the Government plan without receiving checks. It makes no difference after all how small the sum is. The suggestion of my hon. friend struck me when I first saw it as being one of remarkable ingenuity and likely to prove most salutary in its operation. I think it should meet with the consideration of the Government. I do not suppose it would be of great benefit to the public finances, but it would be of great benefit to the classes that should be encouraged by every possible means to habits of thrift and economy.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I will only add to what has just been said by my hon. friend for Niagara (Mr. Plumb) that so far as the Government is concerned every means that will induce the people to economize even very small sums of money, will be encouraged by the Post Office Department, provided the cost to the country will not be such as to make the scheme too expensive. This new scheme may require a good many entries and a good deal of labor on the part of the officers of the Department, and therefore may prevent its being extended throughout the country. Nevertheless, the minimum amount now received in the post offices might be reduced; at all events it is a matter that has not escaped the attention of the officers of the department. I am glad my hon. friend from Leeds has called the attention of the Government to this matter, and I can assure him that it will not be lost sight of.

Motion agreed to.

## THE CASE OF J. B. EAGER.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Hamilton) moved for statement in detail of the amounts which have been paid to J. B. Eager, late Clerk in the Hamilton Post Office, since the date of his superannuation; copies of all correspondence, certificates, etc., with the Postmaster-General or the Post Office Department, in reference to the superannuation of the said J. B. Eager, and the cause of said superannuation. He said:— I make this motion because of the gentleman named in it, after being a clerk in Hamilton Post Office for some years, was superannuated by the late Government, and his superannuation amounts to within 44 cents of \$500 a year. His