

(No. 83.)



1863.

[SECOND SESSION.]

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T A S M A N I A.

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POST OFFICE SAVINGS' BANKS.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

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Brought up by Mr. Horne, and ordered by the House to be printed,  
27 August, 1863.



*REPORT from the SELECT COMMITTEE to consider the desirability of conferring upon the Colony the advantage of POST OFFICE SAVINGS' BANKS.*

FRIDAY, 24 JULY, 1863.

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to consider the desirability of conferring upon the Colony the advantages of Post Office Savings' Banks, with power to send for persons and papers.

Then the following Members were nominated to be of the said Committee :—

MR. GRANT.  
MR. HAYES.  
MR. HORNE.  
MR. HAGGITT.

MR. LETTE.  
MR. ROSE.  
MR. MURRAY (*Mover.*)

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

- No. 1. 31 July, 1863. *Present*—Mr. Horne, Mr. Rose, Mr. Murray, Mr. Haggitt, Mr. Grant, Mr. Hayes, and Mr. Lette.  
 No. 2. 5 August, 1863. *Present*—Mr. Horne, Mr. Rose, Mr. Murray, Mr. Grant, Mr. Lette, and Mr. Haggitt.  
 No. 3. 6 August, 1863. *Present*—Mr. Horne, Mr. Rose, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Grant, Mr. Lette, and Mr. Murray.  
 No. 4. 12 August, 1863. *Present*—Mr. Horne, Mr. Lette, Mr. Haggitt, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Grant.  
 No. 5. 18 August, 1863. *Present*—Mr. Lette, Mr. Haggitt, Mr. Horne, and Mr. Murray.  
 No. 6. 27 August, 1863. *Present*—Mr. Rose, Mr. Horne, Mr. Murray, Mr. Haggitt, and Mr. Grant.

*WITNESSES examined.*

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Profession.</i>	<i>From whence summoned.</i>	<i>Number of Days absent from Home.</i>	<i>Expenses allowed.</i>
Reverend Dr. Browne .....	Chaplain Church of England	Launceston	4	£6 4s. 6d.
S. T. Hardinge, Esq. ....	Postmaster, Hobart Town	Hobart Town.	—	—
W. R. Allison, Esq., J.P. ....	Member of House of Assembly	ditto.	—	None charged.
W. V. Morris, Esq. ....	Manager of H. T. Savings' Banks	ditto.	—	ditto.

## R E P O R T.

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Your Committee have taken into earnest consideration the question remitted to them by your Honorable House; viz.,—the desirability of conferring upon the Colony the advantages of Post Office Savings' Banks. And in dealing with this question they have considered it under the following aspects or heads:—

- 1st. The practicability of such Establishments.
- 2nd. The advantages to be derived.
- 3rd. The period of establishing.
- 4th. The conduct of the Establishments.

### I. *The Practicability of such Establishments.*

It appears to your Committee, from the evidence of Mr. Hardinge, Secretary to the Post Office, that these Banks could be established now at—

Hobart Town,	Ross,	Evandale,
Launceston,	Sorell,	Mersey,
Campbell Town,	Westbury,	Circular Head,
Franklin,	Bothwell,	Torquay,
Hamilton,	Richmond,	Don,
Longford,	Swansea,	Leven,
New Norfolk,	Avoca,	Table Cape,
Oatlands,	Fingal,	Emu Bay ;
Port Arthur,	Green Ponds,	

and that, so far from increasing the difficulties of the Post Office at the established Post Offices, the system would not be more difficult than the present one of registering letters, and far more simple and attended with less expense than the Money Order system, which would require extra duty and allowances to Postmasters.

Your Committee, however, are bound to state that, in their opinion, there are other places at which these Offices might be safely established.

They are also of opinion that at the principal Office at Hobart Town it would be necessary to employ extra assistance for the due working of the system, and some extra expense would be incurred; but that, after a short experience, it would be found to work with as much ease as in England, where, in the second year of these institutions, the Banks increased from 300 to 1700, and are still increasing in a rapid ratio. Your Committee are also confirmed in their opinion by the evidence of Mr. Hardinge that the system would be practicable in this Colony, and involves no special difficulty.

### II. *The Advantages to be derived.*

Your Committee find that there are no branches of the existing Savings' Banks of Hobart Town and Launceston in other parts of the country; and that the extreme simplicity of the system of Post Office Savings' Banks in the various Districts of the country, and the security afforded to Depositors by the system (which is no other than Government security), would encourage habits of frugality amongst the poorer classes in the very remote parts of the Colony, where it is now impossible for those classes to enjoy the advantages of their savings, which are, therefore, spent in the public-house or in other ways dissipated, leaving them in case of sickness or want to the chance of relief from Benevolent Societies, or, if their earnings be saved up and hoarded, to the mercy of the plunderer or even murderer.

Your Committee have been furnished by the Reverend Dr. Browne with a Return made by Mr. Brickhill, who for some time managed a Branch Savings' Bank at Campbell Town, but which was relinquished about two years ago; and to this Return, and to the Memo. hereto attached, your Committee earnestly request the consideration of the House, as proving satisfactorily what might be done by the introduction of Post Office Savings' Banks in that locality and other places.

Your Committee refrain from enlarging upon this topic, and beg to refer your Honorable House to the Reports of Post Office Savings' Banks which were sent to Dr. Browne by the Secretary to the Postmaster-General of England; by a careful perusal of which all the details of the system are explained, and in which the Act of Parliament regulating these Banks is set forth, and the advantages, and adaptability of the system to this Colony, will be made apparent.

### III. *The Period of establishing.*

If the *materiel* under this head were now in the Colony, your Committee are of opinion that in three months these Banks might be established; but they are of opinion that the Deposit Books used in England should be used here, and that as they can be procured in England at a very trifling expense, it would be better to send there for them, as also for the Stamps; and also to procure a few copies of the Reports above alluded to, for which purpose they recommend the Government immediately to open correspondence upon the subject with the Secretary of the Postmaster-General of England. This done, your Committee are of opinion that these Banks may be opened, and the system in operation in twelve months at the most.

### IV. *Conduct of the Establishments.*

*Ceteris paribus*, or as near thereto as circumstances admit, your Committee recommend the establishment to be conducted here through the office of the Treasury with the Post Office in Hobart Town; and they are of opinion that this may be done at an expense by no means equal to the profit to be derived, which profit, your Committee are convinced, would year by year constantly increase; the only expense when the system is well known being two extra Clerks at the utmost, one at the Post Office and one at the Treasury.

Your Committee are convinced that by these means in a very short time very large sums of ready money would pass into the Treasury applicable to the service of the Government, and enabling the Government to secure to the Depositors an Interest of not less than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

Your Committee wish also to add that by the evidence of Mr. Morris, the Actuary of the Hobart Town Savings' Bank, the establishment of these Post Office Savings' Banks would not interfere with the Bank of which he is Actuary, in Hobart Town.

Your Committee find that these Post Office Savings' Banks are established in Victoria; and as they are of opinion that the sums received from Depositors might be made use of by the Government in such a manner as will cover any additional expenses incurred in carrying out the scheme, and even leave a profit to be credited to the General Revenue, they see no valid reason why they should not be established here, and advisedly recommend your Honourable House to cause a Bill to be introduced for that purpose.

As the Deposits are all paid in England to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, your Committee are of opinion that by a modification of that system similar results might be obtained in this Colony to those in England.

THOMAS HORNE, *Chairman.*

*Committee Room, 27th August, 1863.*

## EVIDENCE.

Return furnished by Mr. Brickhill, of Campbell Town, who conducted a Branch Savings' Bank there:—

	£	s.	d.
From February, 1858, to August, 1858, there was deposited .....	448	2	6
Ditto repaid .....	127	19	6
From August, 1858, to February, 1859, deposited .....	301	0	7
Ditto repaid .....	207	14	0
From February, 1859, to August, 1859, deposited .....	246	17	0
Ditto repaid .....	212	15	9
From August, 1859, to February, 1860, deposited .....	359	0	4
Ditto repaid .....	244	11	9
From February, 1860, to August, 1860, deposited .....	180	11	6
Ditto repaid .....	171	0	9
From August, 1860, to February, 1861, deposited .....	867	7	11
Ditto repaid .....	310	14	6
From February, 1861, to August, 1861, deposited .....	331	8	0
Ditto repaid .....	120	10	6
From August, 1861, to February, 1862, deposited .....	418	4	11
Ditto repaid .....	252	1	5

### MEMORANDUM.

In 1856-7, Captain Wilmot endeavoured to establish Savings' Banks at the Police Offices in connection with the Hobart Town Savings' Bank; and the result was highly satisfactory in several of the Police Districts, more especially Sorell, Hamilton, and Bothwell.

In Hamilton District there were 13 Depositors in the year, who paid in £390; and in Bothwell there were 11 Depositors, who paid in £370,—the whole population of the two Districts being about 1-40th of the population of the Colony.

On the abolition of the Police Magistracies of the above Districts, the Branch Banks ceased to exist within a very few months.

The Depositors were Shepherds, Farm Servants, and Policemen.

5 AUGUST, 1863.

*The Reverend DR. BROWNE was called in and examined.*

Dr. Browne laid on the Table,—

1. Reports explanatory of the system of Post Office Savings' Banks.
2. Reports upon the progress of Post Office Savings' Banks, October, 1862.
3. Appendix to Report of 1862.
4. Handy-book of Post Office Savings' Banks, prepared by the Secretary to the Post Office.
5. Scudamore's Plain Words on Savings' Banks.

In answer to Questions by Mr. Murray:—

I have since the summer of 1860-61 considered the subject of the establishment of Post Office Savings' Banks. I observed men earning large sums of money in harvest time and wasting it, whilst the families of some of them were being maintained by the Launceston Benevolent Society. These reasons influenced me in seeing if it were not practicable to establish Post Office Savings' Banks. I had heard and read of them in England, and I wrote home about them. I was advised to apply to the Postmaster-General in England, and I did so. I received a reply, sending me Book No. 1; and with a request that I would apply again if I continued to feel an interest in the matter.

I have been into the country districts and enquired into the character and conduct of the poorer classes; and I found that the present Institutions could not be applied to them at all. They would require a Committee of gentlemen, who could not give their time to it.

I made the acquaintance of some of the country Postmasters.

My system is to send the savings of the poor through the Post Office; for instance, suppose the Postmaster-General established a Savings' Bank in connection with the Post Office at Westbury, a man there receives his wages, and asks the Postmaster for a book; he receives a small pass-book; the Postmaster requires him to sign a Declaration as set out in the book, receives his money deposit, enters the amount with the signature of the Depositor, and then stamps the entry in the book on the line of entry with the Post Office Stamp of that day, the same as on the letters posted. The stamped entry is the Depositor's receipt until he gets a better, admitting it as evidence to the man, whether he can read or not, that it is a receipt for his money; or, if the Depositor has sent the amount by any one else, that the money has reached the Office. By the same day's post, the Postmaster is required to send the notice of the lodgment of the money in a printed form to the head Office, and by return of post he obtains a receipt for his money.

In the book which I have laid on the Table will be found all further forms.

If the receipt is not immediately forthcoming, the Depositor is instructed to write again to the Postmaster-General to say that it has not been received, and the Depositor need not post that letter in the former Post Office.

This receipt is not only an acknowledgment of the Postmaster-General having received the money, but a check on the Postmaster that the money has been properly received; and is also evidence to the Depositor as to his Book having been properly sent for the addition of Interest to the Deposits.

If the man wishes to go to another part of the Colony, and desires to transfer his Account,—say to Campbell Town,—he goes to the Postmaster and receives a transfer-paper; he proceeds to his destination, and finds his money there before him.

The same course is adopted in withdrawing money; the Depositor applies for a printed form.

As I said before, all the Instructions are to be found in the Book.

During the last year the Postmaster-General of England drew attention to the improvement in the notices by means of envelopes which are printed on a certain form. This is shown at page xxxii in the Appendix, and saves time and trouble, is less expensive, and saves separate envelopes.

*By Mr. Horne.*—The adaptation of this system is more applicable to this Colony than to England, for there is a greater difficulty in finding reliable persons to take the moneys.

It would be necessary to have a reliable person with means to secure the safe custody of the money. The working is easy and inexpensive, only the printing of the paper, which can be got at home very cheap.

The working expenses would be about 7*d.* on each transaction, and can be reduced to 6*d.* (*vide* page 83 of Report), *i.e.*, paying the Postmaster one penny or a halfpenny on each transaction and all other expenses.

The profit to the Government would arise from the difference which would accrue from a payment of 3½ per cent. for Interest instead of 6 per cent. (the common people could easily calculate 3½ per cent.) The Government would also get the difference between this and what the Government would otherwise have to pay on amounts for broken periods.

The Depositor pay nothing at home for entering his Deposit.

I think the Depositors here could better afford it, and in place of getting the first book for nothing they should be charged 3*d.*, of which one penny should go to the Postmaster.

In England the Depositors are only charged for books on renewal where lost, and then the charge is one shilling. In the Savings' Bank, Hobart Town, a shilling is charged for the book.

I would make a difference in one respect: while the individual should deposit his money without charge I would charge them for the printed application of transfer or withdrawal one penny, which would cover the expense of printing.

There would be no necessity for any increased pay to Postmasters.

If there is a great increase of business we would want a ledger-keeper in the Post Office, at a salary say of £300 a year, which would be an ample salary. The class of Depositors could well afford one penny for transfer or withdrawal, especially as it would act as a check upon withdrawal.

I know that on the northern side of the Island 30,000 inhabitants are located; we want the lower classes to use them. At present the Savings' Banks are used by people with money.

The amount deposited would depend on the country postmasters and clergy who might pay attention to the matter.

I should say as much would be deposited in the Country Districts as is now deposited in Launceston, because there are so many in the Country Districts who would be likely to become Depositors.

I think the Districts of Hamilton, Bothwell, Sorell, &c., would lay by as much as in the Towns.

The Money Order system would not be of any use,—not of the slightest assistance. The object of the Money Order system is to encourage people to pay money, but the other is to save.

The postage of Savings' Bank Books would work badly,—it deceives people.

It would be necessary to send the books to Town. Every time a man wanted to lodge 5s. he would part with his book; supposing no accident happened to the money sent down, the book would be out of possession of the man for three or four days; their whole security would be gone for the time, as no receipt is given for the book.

Another inconvenience is this, that if a receipt is given for the book, it is no receipt for the money sent with the book. The book packet is registered, but there is no responsibility. The registration of letters is no security, as the book would go through so many hands; registered say at Hamilton, it is sent by the Postmaster there to Hobart Town, sorted there by Clerks, sent out by Post Messengers to Bank, used by Bank Clerks, and then back again by the same process and similar number of hands, to the owner.

I think it wrong to pass an Act with such a name; it is calculated to deceive.

I know of a packet of Debentures of the value of £1500 being posted by the Colonial Secretary to myself, which were lost in the Post Office, and have never yet been traced. Duplicates were issued, but the loss involved much expense to the Road Trustees who had the Debentures issued, as they had to pay me interest on the lost Debentures.

I also know of an enclosure with £2000 Debentures reaching the Post Office, Launceston, open.

I argue from this, that if the poor man sent a rough envelope his money might be lost.

There would be no risk to Depositors under the new system, the checks are so strong. The individual is told that by return of Post he will get from the Postmaster-General a receipt for the money; no iron safes would be required by Postmasters.

The system would require twelve months to bring it into effective operation. We should have to send Home for forms. It would not cost anything like the same system in England. All we should require is the adoption of the envelopes before mentioned. The Depositors' books cost 25s. per 1000 in England.

In the Report for last year, the Postmaster-General says the expense will not be so great as the previous year.

*By Mr. Murray.*—I cannot say how much money the Government would receive by this system in a year, but I am sure it would be a large sum.

I have called thirteen public meetings, in Hobart Town, Launceston, and in the Country Districts. In Launceston the principle was affirmed by the Public; Resolutions were passed, Petitions were sent to the Governor and Council, which were laid before the Parliament, from Launceston, Evandale, Deloraine, Longford, Perth, Carrick, Campbell Town, Westbury, New Norfolk, Oatlands, and Ross; and from my own personal observation the people of the Colony wish for them. The movement is particularly popular in Launceston, but not so much in Hobart Town.

*By Mr. Lette.*—The Postmasters need not give security, the sums would be small. I believe in England, where the sums become considerable, it is done. It is not every Post Office which would be made a Savings' Bank. The Postmaster-General should have the power to appoint such Postmasters as he chose. Their selection would depend on the Postmaster-General, and on the respectability of the Postmaster.

I think Postmasters should have a small per-centage, as well as the penny or half-penny, on each transaction.

I have not given much attention to the Money Order system. It would be objectionable to charge postage to a Depositor for sending down his money to the Head Office. No postage is charged in England.

The general instructions to Postmasters are to be found at page 107.

It will be sufficient for the Postmaster to settle accounts with the Postmaster-General. If large sums are paid in they should be sent down at once to the Head Office. The whole arrangement for settling accounts between the Country Postmasters and the Postmaster-General should be settled by the latter.

I propose that the Postmaster-General should pay into the Treasury all moneys. I should propose such moneys being invested in Government securities, thus saving to the Colony the difference between 3½ per cent. and 6 per cent. In England the Savings' Banks moneys must be invested in Government securities, on account of the great losses there.

The Launceston Savings' Bank has established branches in the Campbell Town District, at Westbury, and at Longford. The loss at Campbell Town was great, and the Bank was discontinued there. The others were given up before I moved in this matter.

I know of no branches of the Hobart Town Savings' Bank.

In Campbell Town I find that from February, 1858, to February, 1862, a sum of £3152 was paid in, and £1647 was withdrawn, in the course of ordinary business.

The Rev. Dr. Browne withdrew.

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6 AUGUST, 1863.

W. R. ALLISON, *Esquire, M. H. A., called in and examined.*

I remember the Savings' Bank kept at Ross. My firm impression is that Vallentine had charge of a Branch Savings' Bank there. I always understood that Vallentine used some of the monies for his own use.

I cannot speak positively in regard to the Ross Savings' Bank. Vallentine's reported defalcations prevented a number of men depositing their savings in Savings' Banks. This I know of my own knowledge, some of my own men having told me so.

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12 AUGUST, 1863.

*Reverend Dr. BROWNE called in and examined.*

*By Chairman.*—In what manner would you suggest that the Government should employ Deposits? To reducing their own Debentures, as in England the sums are employed in paying off the National Debt. The Depositors' Accounts will have to be made up annually. Government would have at all times to guarantee the amounts.

What amount of interest would you allow to Depositors? I should propose  $3\frac{3}{4}$  per cent., which would not interfere with the monetary arrangements of the Colony. I am certain that the Depositors (I speak of Launceston) would rather have half interest with Government Security than 5 per cent with private security. 4 per cent is not easily calculated by an uneducated man.  $3\frac{3}{4}$  is three farthings a month on each pound, or 9d. in the pound per annum.

How would you propose that the interest should be raised? It was under the impression that the Government were always issuing Debentures to raise money. This scheme would require 12 months to establish it. The difficulty has not occurred to me. I should imagine by a National Bank or Exchequer Bills.

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18 AUGUST, 1863.

W. V. MORRIS, *Esq., Actuary of the Savings' Bank, Hobart Town.*

In reply to questions by the Chairman :—

There are no branches of the Hobart Town Savings' Bank in any part of the Colony, nor was there ever any.

To my knowledge there are no branches of the Launceston Savings' Bank now in existence. There were some branches at one time.

We frequently receive monies through the Post Office for deposit; it is not in Post Office Orders, but in Cheques, Notes, or Specie. These deposits are sent partly under the new system of postage passed last Session, and partly otherwise, where people do not seem to know the new system. This new system works well: there is an increased number of deposits, and an increased amount.

I have taken certain Memoranda, and up to the present time we get about £3000 a year from the country Districts. I cannot say from memory from what Districts the greater number of deposits come, but they come from 10 to 150 miles distant from Hobart Town. We have some from Port Sorell and Emu Bay; but possibly these persons had been at a former date connected with the Hobart Town Savings' Bank, and knew how its business was conducted, and have preferred sending their deposits to it.

We have only one Launceston depositor.

No Resolution has been passed by the Directory as to investing the funds of the Bank, but the feeling of the Managers is decidedly in favour of Government Debentures. There is an uncertainty of getting Government Debentures. I have been endeavouring to get some lately, without success.

They will be very saleable, especially if made payable in London.

I know something of the Post Office Savings' Banks as established in England. Their establishment here would not be injurious to the Savings' Bank here, and still less, I think, to that at Launceston. From what I understand of Post Office Savings' Banks the head office is in London: here, it would be in Hobart Town. All deposits would be made through the Postmaster-General in Hobart Town.

It is material to depositors that they should be able to withdraw their monies quickly, especially those going out of the Colony.

We have depositors living at Seymour and Swanport.

Women can deposit monies with us irrespective of their husbands, and we can make payments to them if deposited in their own names.

From my experience I should say that the husband should have some power over the wife's deposit. I only know of 4 or 5 cases of hardship in 18 years of husbands taking their wives' monies.

According to our rule notice must be given for withdrawing sums above £10; but this rule may be relaxed by the Actuary, or by a Member of the Executive Committee.

All our Depositors could not get their money at once—nor in a month, for we have £140,000 invested.

I cannot say that Post Office Savings' Banks would be beneficial to the poor Depositors. I think the amount deposited would not be large.

At present the Post Office Savings' Banks could not be made to amalgamate with ours; our mode of business is opposed to it. There would be a difficulty in working it. The Postmasters would, I suppose, be the Agents of the Savings' Bank under the control of the Government.

The interest which we allow to our Depositors is regulated by the profits of the Bank, calculated half-yearly on the monthly balance, every entire pound bearing interest. The interest varies according to the profits. At one time it was 3 per cent. and 3½. Now it is 4½ per cent. We are not bound to give any fixed rate of interest. It is fixed at the commencement of each half-year. We receive Deposits from many Districts beyond those proposed by the Secretary to the Post Office to be established as Money Order Offices.

I am not aware of any irregularity having occurred in the Post Office since the new system came into operation.

The Town Depositors are not greater in proportion to the population than the Country Depositors.

The money received from the Country Depositors is principally in cheques and bank notes. We never credit an amount paid in by Depositors on cheques until we ascertain that the cheque is correct.

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S. T. HARDINGE, *Esq.*, *Secretary to the Post Office.*

I have read the pamphlet on Post Office Savings' Banks.

I do not think the system could be extended very far in this Colony at present. The Postmasters are poorly paid, and are not able to give up much time to extra work.

In New South Wales, as the Post Offices were made Money Order Offices, salaries were given to Postmasters to keep the Post Office business only and no other.

The amount of commission on each deposit would not repay the Postmaster for his trouble. I mean the proposed commission of 1d. for every 10s. of transaction.

The Money Order system Post Offices would do for Savings' Banks also.

I have confined myself to the best Offices, extending them if we saw the system working well. I have advised Hobart Town, Launceston, Campbell Town, Franklin, Hamilton, Longford, New Norfolk, Oatlands, Port Arthur, Ross, Sorell, and Westbury. The Act passed last Session, but has not been brought into operation as yet. The Money Order system is limited to £10. I would not extend the system beyond the Districts I have named at first, but we could always extend month by month.

In Victoria, large as the country is, they began with 14 Offices at first.

I should have no objection to extend by degrees to Bothwell, Richmond, Sorell, Swansea, Avoca, Fingal, and Green Ponds. Deloraine I hardly think suitable at present, for certain reasons.

We avoid holding Post Offices at public-houses: there are some.

I would not object to Evandale, or the Mersey, or Circular Head, or Torquay, Don, Leven, Table Cape, or Emu Bay.

The work at Head-quarters of the Post Office Savings' Banks would be great, so would the responsibility; an increase of the Post Office or Treasury staff would be requisite.

It would not be more difficult than the present system of registering letters. I think the system much more simple, and would be attended with less expense than the Money Order system, which must be extended to other Colonies. The Money Order system would be extra duty to the Postmasters, and would require extra allowances.

The responsibility would depend on the amount of business transacted at the Post Office.

In case of an ordinary letter being abstracted, the abstraction would be difficult to trace; but, in the Post Office Savings' Bank system, the money is clearly entered by the Postmaster.

In payment of the Postmaster's salary, the money paid in could be made available. The present system is to send an Abstract to the Treasury, and I get a cheque for the whole amount. This is paid into what I call the Postmaster's Salary Account, and I send each man his cheque quarterly. Instead of sending the cheque, I sometimes when they require it send Postage Stamps, and pay the salary cheque into the Stamp Account.

Cash is paid for Stamps at the time of issue.

My accounts are closed monthly. The Money Order Postmasters should be required to give security.

I think the system would be practicable in so small a place as this. I see no special difficulty.

Registered letters have in some instances been lost, but the cases are rare.

I have only a question as to whether we could offer such an amount of remuneration to Postmasters as would pay them for their trouble.