

## POST OFFICE.

The year 1867-68 has been an eventful one in the Postal history of Canada—three important changes having been accomplished since the last issue of the *Year Book*.

1. The Postal regulations and rates throughout the Dominion have been assimilated;
2. The rate of local postage has been reduced from *five* cents to *three*, and the Postmaster General has been able to effect an arrangement with the United States reducing the postage between that country and Canada from *ten* cents to *six*;
3. And Post Office Savings Banks have been authorized and established.

These measures were all foreshadowed in our last year's article on the Post Office; and there remain two others to which we then alluded which we expect hereafter to see adopted, viz. :—

1. The employment of the Telegraph by the Post Office department, either by purchasing the lines or by subsidizing the companies so as to obtain the privilege of sending messages for so many hours per day at a cheap and uniform rate; and

2. An arrangement for the interchange of Money Orders with Post Offices in the United States.

The proceedings in England which have led to the passage of a bill to enable the Post Office department to purchase the telegraph lines there must have great weight with the Administration of the Dominion. The principle was there acknowledged that the Government, which can be satisfied with a less rate of interest on its investments than private companies, should, by the purchase of the wires, enable itself to multiply stations in places where they might not be highly remunerative, and so accommodate the public. And if it was there seen that the longer this acquisition was delayed, the more numerous the companies and the more expensive the purchase of their property would become, how much more must this be noticed here, where their wires are lengthened 20 per cent. each year?

The interchange of Money Orders with the United States is of course rendered difficult by the fluctuations in the value of United States currency, but methods can no doubt be devised for overcoming this difficulty, and we hope they will be.

Another somewhat important Postal event has been the withdrawal of the Cunard boats from the route between Liverpool and Boston, and *vice versa*, via Halifax, by which the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were left unsupplied with direct Postal communication with Great Britain. This deficiency has, however, been obviated by the Canadian Government's entering into a contract with the Inman Steamship Company, who perform this service by calling fortnightly at Halifax for mails and passengers on their voyages to and from the United Kingdom. The contract commenced on the 1st July, 1865, and is to continue for three years. These steamers are of great power, and their passages will compare favorably with the other lines of ocean mail packets from New York.

## POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—DOMINION OF CANADA.

*General Post Office.*

Postmaster-General, Hon. Alex. Campbell; Deputy, W. H. Griffin; Accountant, H. A. Wicksteed; Secretary, W. White; Cashier, J. Ashworth; Superintendent Money Order Branch, P. Le Sueur; Superintendent Savings Bank Branch, J. C. Stewart.

*Letter Rates.*

Local letters, if pre-paid.....3 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. | Local letters, if unpaid.....5 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.

If a letter is posted partially unpaid, the charge on delivery will be the same as if wholly unpaid, deducting, however, any amount that may have been pre-paid upon it. Letters mailed for delivery at the office where posted, 1 cent each. Letters are re-directed from one place to another without any further charge. On letters re-mailed from the Dead Letter Office, 3 cents additional; 2 cents for letters delivered by letter carriers.

Letters to Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates, whether in Her Majesty's Service or Canadian Volunteers whilst on active service, pass, if pre-paid, for two cents each, when not over the  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.; if over  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., ordinary letter rates.

On letters for Prince Edward Island, the charge is 3 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., paid; unpaid, 5 cents; to Newfoundland, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents—pre-payment required.

Postage on letters to British Columbia and Vancouver's Island is 10 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.—must be pre-paid. An additional sea-rate from San Francisco is charged on delivery. The rate to Red River, *via* United States, is 6 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.—must be paid in advance.

Letters for the United States are 6 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., if pre-paid; if unpaid, or only partially paid, 10 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.

Letters sent by way of the United States, if addressed *via* New York, may be forwarded to the Brazils, Acapulco, Aspinwall, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua (Pacific side), Panama, St. Thomas, Sandwich Islands, Venezuela, and the British West Indies, for 10 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., which must be pre-paid by postage stamps.

To Bermuda, the British and Foreign West Indies, by British mail packet from Halifax, monthly, the charge is 12 cents, which must be pre-paid.

*Via New York* to Australia, and New Zealand *via* Panama, and to Guadaloupe, Hayti (St. Domingo), Martinique, Porto Rico, Santa Cruz, the postage is 22 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. By the same route to Bolivia, Ecuador, Valparaiso, Honduras, Mexico, *via* Havana, Nicaragua (Gulf of Mexico side) Callao, Lima, 34 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.