

POSTAL AFFAIRS.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Few changes of moment have occurred since our last issue. The Government do not appear to have seen the way clear either to the acquisition of the Telegraph wires, or to the exchange of Money Orders with the United States. It must not, however, be supposed that this branch of the public service is at a stand-still. New offices have been opened, and many miles of additional mail route have been established.

We gather from the Report on the Outside Service of the Post Office, made by the Civil Service Commissioners:—1st. That it is intended, so soon as the revenue shall have become settled after the late reduction of postage, to pay the Postmasters in Ontario and Quebec a salary, as has been the practice in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, instead of by a commission on the receipts of the office; that such salary be regulated from time to time by the revenue collected and the duties performed; that such salary shall range from \$1,200 per annum in country places to \$2,400 in cities; and,

2nd. That in return for compulsory pre-payment—found to work so well in the United States—a system of free delivery will be established; and,

3rd. A more complete and efficient system of visitation and inspection of post offices and mail routes, is to be established by the appointment of one head inspector and five sub-inspectors.

With regard to the clause relating to the pre-payment of postage, we estimate that should such a measure be conceded, the work of the Department and city post offices could be conducted by at least 36 less clerks than at present employed; and, averaging the salaries of these individuals at \$800 apiece per annum, it would give no less a saving than \$28,800. To this may be added about \$16,000 on pre-paid dead letters, and \$10,000, being the amount paid for printing blank forms no longer required. These three items make up a total of \$40,400, and would pay the salaries of 134 letter carriers at the rate proposed of \$300 per annum. It would be well for our legislators to consider these figures before opposing, as heretofore, the compulsory pre-payment movement. It does not necessarily follow that the officials referred to would not be required. The very rapid growth of the Post Office, which leads continually to the extension of the Inspection branch, the Money Order, the Savings Bank, the Railway and Foreign Mail Services, will require the aid of every available individual for many years to come. For these duties the old staff of thoroughly trained officers would always prove of the highest possible value, and obviate the necessity of new appointments.

The rapid growth of the Money Order system of the United States is a matter of much congratulation to our neighbors, and, as it will be of great commercial advantage to have the systems of Canada and the American Union brought into unison—a consummation which will, no doubt, be effected at no very distant date—we append a synopsis of transactions in that country, from the date of its commencement, the 1st November, 1864:—

Year.	No. of Orders Issued.	Amount of Orders Issued.	No. of Orders Paid.	Amount of Orders Paid.	Revenue accruing to P. O. D.	No. of Money Order Offices.
1865	\$1,360,122 52	\$1,313,577 08	419
1866	243,600	3,977,257 28	238,124	3,903,890 22	24,370 57	766
1867	474,466	9,229,327 72	461,876	9,071,240 73	51,054 54	1,224
1868	831,937	16,297,858 47	836,940	16,118,537 03	59,231 83	1,468

Postal Telegraph System of England.

The Postal Telegraph of Great Britain has not, at the date we write, (September, 1869,) been put into operation, but it is understood that arrangements have been completed for the purchase, by the Post Office, of the whole of the Telegraph lines of the United Kingdom, with the exception of some few that are only used for working railways; but a settlement with regard to these, also, is on the eve of completion. It is found that the telegraph lines, under the old arrangement, after paying all expenses, gave a dividend on the purchase money about to be paid for them of from five to six per cent., but, as the Government will be able to borrow the amount at from $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., it is thought it will net two per cent. by the transaction. The amount to be paid is twenty years' purchase of the net receipts of the Companies; this includes the plant, as well as the good-will of the business.

It is proposed to serve, by the Postal Telegraph, 3,375 offices, instead of 882 as heretofore, and to open 843 branch offices, instead of 247. It is estimated that there is at present one telegraph office to every 13,000 inhabitants; in future there will be one to every 6,000. Every letter-box and pillar-box will be the receptacle for telegraph messages, and the wires are to be brought into the Money Order offices, so that Money Orders may be telegraphed if necessary. It is expected that a gross revenue of \$3,500,000 will be derived, and that the expenditure will not be less than \$2,000,000, which will give a net profit of \$1,500,000, sufficient, after paying interest on the purchase money, to leave a balance of \$250,000 for revenue.

Proposed Government Telegraph Bill of the United States.

Neither has the Government Telegraph system been lost sight of in the United States. The Postmaster-General of the American Union has already submitted a scheme to Congress, which has been fully considered by the Senate Committee on Post Offices, and a bill has been reported "to establish a Postal Telegraph system." This bill will come up for action at the next meeting of Congress, and, as it is of interest to us, we give, in brief, a synopsis of its preamble and provisions:—