

frontiers, to whose insults may be attributed many Indian troubles in the past. Our treaties with them must be clearly understood, and faithfully kept. There is no need to force agriculture or other pursuits upon them now of tasteless. They can for a long time be profitably employed in their old pursuit of hunting. Though the example of the white man has made Christianity and civilization inseparable in their minds from everything evil, steady, good treatment and example must gradually make a change in these views. On the other hand, it must be remembered that they are a proud race of hunters and warriors,—jealous of their rights, and bold in asserting them,—acquainted with every inch of their country,—and accustomed to handle the tomahawk and scalping knife in their endless wars with their neighbours. At present they are kind and hospitable toward strangers, and generally display the good qualities which, history tells us, once everywhere distinguished their race. It is for us to choose whether they are to be useful and faithful friends, or bitter enemies,—delaying indefinitely the peaceful settlement of our newly acquired land.

## POST OFFICE.

Since the issue for 1870 the Postal revenue has been steadily increasing under the three cent rate for local letters, and six cents on those for the United States, but a further reduction of fifty per cent. has been made on mail matter with Great Britain. The advance of commercial relations with foreign countries has also had the effect of lessening rates of mail matter to them, and there has been a reduction of thirty-three per cent. to British possessions beyond sea. These reductions, following each other so closely, will keep down the revenue for some few years, but well-applied pruning always develops fresh growth of greater vigour.

The usual increase of letters passing by post, per annum, is a little upwards of one million, but the increase, for the first year after reduced rates on local and United States letters, was nearly *four millions*, and no doubt can be entertained that this increase will be more than sustained in future years.

It appears to be quite impossible to convince the public, who have not the manipulation of twenty-two millions of letters, of the great advantage that would accrue from compulsory pre-payment. The prevailing low rates should, and will, it is hoped, tend to that object, which, if once secured, would greatly facilitate the despatch of mails, reduce materially the expenses of the department for printing, &c., and suspend, for a time, the employment of additional clerks now required to keep pace with its present rapid growth. It is at present found quite impossible to have a system of free delivery whilst the habit of sending so much unpaid mail matter obtains. The postman could never make his rounds sufficiently quick to make it an object for business men to trust the delivery of their letters to him had he to stop at every few doors to make change.

By reading over the regulations which follow, it will be found that those who guide our Postal affairs are, and have been greatly circumscribing the various descriptions of mailable matter now forwarded unpaid. It will, perhaps, draw public attention to the question to be quoted the articles which must be prepaid:—

Letters to or from non-commissioned officers or privates, either regulars or volunteers, whilst on duty.

Letters to British Columbia, Vancouver's Island, and Manitoba.

Letters to all foreign countries and British possessions beyond sea.

All box or drop letters.

All registration fees on letters, and all other mail matter.

Transient newspapers, parcel, pattern and sample post; miscellaneous mail matter, whether for local or foreign circulation.

French, English, and Canadian book post; local, British and American letters are the only ones now forwarded unpaid, and these, when so forwarded, at a considerably advanced rate.

Although the rates on these letters upon which prepayment is compulsory is two and three times as great as those which may be forwarded unpaid, it does not appear that there has ever been a single complaint either to the Postmaster-General or in the public Press, that the rules laid down are either harsh or unjust; it is, nevertheless, an unfortunate fact that the few which do pass unpaid give the department more trouble, and put it to more expense than the whole bulk of the mails that are paid.

Whilst on this subject, we may notice that the pre-payment of newspapers from the publishers, by weight, at so much per pound, is suggested in the Postmaster-General's report for 1870. There is no doubt that editors now lose much by the non-payment of their subscribers, and it would seem, at first sight, rather hard that they should be compelled to pay postage of papers for which they may get no compensation, but this would soon rectify itself, either by an additional charge on papers issued, or a steady adherence to the rules now becoming general of receiving subscriptions in advance. It has always been found that the consumer, not the producer, pays the tax.

## 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.

*Within the Dominion.*

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