

regarded as an encroachment upon the full measure of autonomous legislative and administrative power now enjoyed by all the self-governing colonies. The date of this Minute is November 13, 1905.

Canada represented at the Universal Postal Union.

The Universal Postal Union held its periodical Congress in 1906. Rome was the place of meeting and the sessions opened on April 7. The principal purpose of the Congress, in which with a few unimportant exceptions all the countries of the world took part, was to discuss and arrange a convention embodying the terms and regulations under which correspondence of all kinds is exchanged between the several countries of the Union. The first convention was adopted in 1874, and while the main features of that convention have been preserved in the subsequent ones there have been a series of modifications on lines indicated by experience, and all in the direction of augmenting the facilities for the exchange of correspondence and of lowering and re-adjusting the charges which every country is entitled to make for the conveyance across its territory of correspondence passing between two other countries.

New rate of postage between Postal Union countries.

At the Rome Congress, there were the representatives of 65 countries. The delegate from Canada was the Deputy Postmaster General, Dr. R. M. Coulter. The most important act of the Congress was the reduction in the rate of postage on letters passing between any two countries. Heretofore the Postal Union letter rate has been 5 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.

On October 1, 1907, when the new Convention comes into operation, the rate will be 5 cents for a letter weighing up to one ounce, and if it weigh more the additional weight will be chargeable at the rate of 3 cents per ounce. The extent of the reduction will be appreciated by an example. A letter from Canada to any Postal Union country, outside of the British Empire, weighing 2 ounces must, under the old scale, be prepaid 20 cents; after October 1, the charge will be only 8 cents. On the heavier letters the reduction is therefore very great.

Another measure, and one in which Canada had a particular interest, was the re-adjusting of the transit charges, that is, the amounts each country is entitled to charge for the conveyance across its territory of mails passing between two other countries. Canada does a very considerable amount of service to other