

## CHAPTER V.

## POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

- Transfer of post office to Colonial Government. 319. By an Act of the Imperial Parliament, 12-13 Vic. (1851), chap. 66, the management of the postal systems in the colonies of British North America was transferred to the various provincial authorities, and up to the time of Confederation each province controlled its own system, under its own laws and regulations.
- Post Office Act, 1868. 320. After Confederation these various laws were allowed to remain in force until the 1st April, 1868, when the Post Office Act, 31 Vic. (1868), chap. 10, came into effect, establishing uniform rates and regulations for the Dominion.
- Postal agreement with United States. 321. In 1875 an agreement was made with the United States, by which a common rate of postage between the two countries was adopted, each country retaining all money collected, and no accounts being kept between the two post offices in regard to international correspondence.
- Formation of postal union. 322. The Universal Postal Union was formed at a meeting held at Berne in 1874, and the first treaty was signed on 9th October in that year; the countries represented being the several countries of Europe, the United States and Egypt. The object of the union was to form all the countries of the world into one single postal territory, and to establish, as far as possible, uniform reduced rates of postage, and also to further the interchange of correspondence, by arranging that every country should be bound to convey the mails of other countries by its land or sea services at the lowest possible rates. At a meeting held in Paris in May, 1878, the regulations were revised, and embodied in a convention which came into force on 1st April, 1879.
- Admission of Canada into postal union. 323. At this meeting Canada was admitted a member from the following 1st July, and letters, newspapers and other printed matter, samples and patterns, became subject to uniform postage rates and regulations for all places in Europe, and for all other countries that were members of the union. The existing postal arrangements with the United States were allowed to remain undisturbed, being of a more liberal and advantageous character than the ordinary regulations of the treaty.
- Third meeting of postal union. 324. The third congress was held at Lisbon, in February, 1885, and Canada was represented by the delegates of the British post office. No material change was made in the convention of 1879.