

POST OFFICE INQUIRY.

THE HAMILTON POST OFFICE.

A commission of inquiry to investigate and report on the business arrangements of the principal Post Offices of Canada was appointed in 1862. The report has just been issued. We have sincere pleasure in reprinting as much of that which relates to Hamilton as informs the public of the personality of the office. The courtesy and efficiency of the several persons employed are known to us and all who transact business there. But the object we have in view in advertizing to this subject, is more than local. The legislature of the Province, following the principle established in Britain, has provided that length of service shall be considered proof of good conduct and efficiency, and entitle the office-holder to increase of salary. It had been matter of remark that the expenses of the Hamilton office were higher than elsewhere. The Report just published shows that, in the matter of salaries, this arises from the lengthened incumbency of the Postmaster and most of the Clerks. Far distant be the day when the policy, the justice of encouraging long and faithful service by increased emolument shall not prevail. The following are extracts from the Report:

From the information imparted by the Postmaster, and from our own observation, we entertain the opinion that the employees engaged in the office are competent to perform the several duties allotted to them.—We have been pleased to find that there is an absence of everything resembling insubordination on the part of all employed, and that amongst the entire staff harmony appears to prevail; an interest is manifested by each clerk to perform in a satisfactory manner the duties assigned to them, and there is a willingness to assist each other in the general work of the office.

E. Ritchie has been Postmaster at Hamilton since October, 1831. The order and system with which the office is conducted, the good-feeling which prevails towards each other among the members of the staff, and the discipline observed, indicate the fitness of Mr. Ritchie for the position which he occupies. His salary is \$2000 a year, and he has in addition a residence in the Post Office building with fuel, gas and water, gratis.

F. E. Ritchie is the Assistant Postmaster. He was appointed a clerk in the office in July, 1848, and was advanced to his present position in July, 1859. Mr. F. Ritchie is quite competent to perform any work in the office which might be allotted to him. His salary is \$1400 a year.

C. Howard is a clerk of the 2nd class, and was appointed in September, 1842. Mr. Howard has charge of the general delivery wicket; he is rather slow, but careful and correct in the performance of his duties.—His salary is \$1100 a year.

A. Crisp is a clerk of the 2nd class, and entered the office in May, 1849. He is principal mail despatch clerk, and is active and diligent. His salary is \$1,100 a year.

H. Colbeck is a clerk of the 2nd class, and was appointed in September, 1854. He is energetic and prompt in the performance of his duty, and is an excellent clerk. Mr. Colbeck attends to the Money Order business, enters and delivers registered letters addressed to Hamilton, makes up the chief portion of the English mails, and keeps the accounts connected therewith. His salary is \$900 per annum.

J. B. Eager is a clerk of the 3rd class and entered the office in January, 1853. He attends to the box wicket, and assists in making up the morning mails. Mr. Eager has fair abilities, is quick and correct, and is of an obliging disposition. His salary is \$800 per year.

H. A. Eager is a clerk of the 3rd class, and was appointed in January, 1854; he is a brother of the clerk last named. Mr. Eager enters the registered letters despatched from Hamilton, and assists in opening and closing mails. He is a willing, active, and competent clerk. His salary is \$800 per annum.

J. A. Smith is a clerk of the 3rd class, and was appointed in November, 1854. He attends at the box and delivery wickets, sorts letters and papers for Hamilton delivery, and assists in making out the list of advertized letters. Mr. Smith is of agreeable manners, and is active and attentive in the

discharge of his duties. He receives a salary of \$800 per annum.

George Armstrong is a clerk of the 3rd class, and was appointed in September, 1855. He stamps letters, and sorts letters and papers for despatch, and assists in making up mails. Mr. Armstrong is an excellent clerk,—active, correct, and industrious.—He is paid at the rate of \$800 per annum.

C. W. Bregar is a 3rd class clerk, and received his appointment in March, 1857.—He makes up the received side of the monthly sheets, acknowledges the railway mail clerk's and the United States letter bills received, and attends one of the wickets for a period of two hours each day. Mr. Bregar writes a good hand, and is industrious and attentive.

A. Burns, the messenger, was appointed in September, 1857, and receives a salary of \$300 a-year. He has not a residence in the Post Office building. Mr. Burns is a willing, steady and industrious man. He attends to the opening and the closing of the office, keeps the office clean, saws all wood consumed in the building, and assists in opening and closing mail bags on the arrival and departure of mails.

B. Dunnett, the letter carrier, receives, in payment for his services, the penny rate which he collects on letters and the one cent rate on newspapers, in lieu of a fixed salary. These fees amount, it is estimated, to about \$300 a year. Mr. Dunnett performs his work to the satisfaction of the Postmaster, and no complaints have been made against him of any lack of attention or carelessness in the performance of his duty.

SALARIES.

The total amount paid in salaries to the Postmaster, Assistant Postmaster, eight clerks, and the messenger, is \$10,600 per annum. The average (taking the sums paid to the Assistant Postmaster and the clerks) being upwards of \$922 to each member of the staff, exclusive of the Postmaster, who receives \$2,000, appear disproportionately large, when compared with the salaries paid in some of the other city post offices.

It should not be thought, however, he inferred that more extravagant salaries are paid in the Hamilton office than in the city offices alluded to. The true deduction is favorable rather than otherwise to the management, since it arises from the fact of the long period of service the clerks have sustained. The shortest term of service is upwards of five years; the others range from seven to twenty years,—an evidence of good understanding existing between the Postmaster and the other persons engaged in the office; a circumstance of no trivial moment in an establishment, the efficient working of which so much depends on the honesty and business qualities of all connected with it. It is needless to mention, that to the provisions of the Civil Service Bill, which assigns salaries commensurate with the term of service, is attributable the excess of expenditure, under this head, of the Hamilton over those other city post offices of which the clerks are of more recent appointment.

TREASURES IN CANADA.

The metallic wealth of Canada is peeping into the light of day, piece by piece. We select a few of the latest items of discovery. Is the silver ore lying under the Flamboorough heights, and cropping out at the town of Dundas, to remain undeveloped much longer?

GOLD EXCITEMENT AT QUEBEC.—The Quebec Mercury of Monday has the following:—

It will scarcely be credited that we have a California almost at our doors; yet it is nevertheless a fact that in the Seigniorie of Vandrouil and on the tributaries of the river Chaudiere, about fifty miles from Quebec, gold is found in abundance. One nugget of pure gold, worth \$18 per ounce, and weighing a pound and a quarter, was picked up in the bed of one of these streams, which at this season of the year is almost dry. Another nugget weighing nine ounces and also pure from the same region, was disposed of in the town this week. It is said that about \$20,000 worth of gold has been gathered there this season. One man residing near the locality has in his possession a gallon full of the precious metal, in pieces of all sizes. Since the golden news has leaked out people have been flocking to the diggings in crowds, and no doubt many will realize handsome sums.

The Chronicle of the same day says,—
‘We were yesterday shown some specimens from the gold regions of the Chaudiere of a most respectable nugget character, one

piece weighing four ounces and a half. Dr. Reed, in whose possession these specimens of the precious metal were, informs us that over ten thousand dollars' worth of gold has been taken during the present year from the property of George Desharats, Esq, alone. We hear also that much larger nuggets than those we saw have been found. One of these valuable lumps, weighing some ounces over a pound, is said to be in the possession of an individual who, doubting his own right of possession, the gold having been found on private property, does not choose to acknowledge the fact. This region is likely to become celebrated as a gold field.’

GOLD DISCOVERIES IN BEAUCE.—Considerable excitement has been caused on the Shore parishes by extensive gold discoveries in St. Francois de la Beauce. It appears that along the banks of the Riviere Gilbert, in the third concession of that parish, the richest deposits have been found. There is doubtless considerable exaggeration in many of the rumours which prevail; but the prospects, nevertheless, are promising in the extreme. A correspondent of Le Canadien, writing on Saturday last, says that within the last six weeks about \$12,000 worth of gold was taken out. A man named Ferol Pontin, with three companions, in a single day, realized the amount of \$1,100. Some of the nuggets are said to be worth between \$20 and \$250. There has already been a considerable rush of diggers to the spot, anxious to secure a share of the ‘filthy lucre’; and at last accounts about 150 persons were at work.—Quebec Gazette.

COPPER MINES BACK OF BELLEVILLE.—We have for some time been aware that investigations were being carried on in the Township of Lake (the Township next behind Marmora,) with the view of developing copper ores believed to exist there in quantity.

Mr. Dean, Mr. Thomson, of the Commercial Bank, and Mr. Loucks, of Lake, were the parties interested in the prospecting, and they became so convinced of the existence of valuable deposits of copper, that a short time ago they procured the services of Captain Williams—an eminent mining Engineer, at present engaged in developing mines in Lower Canada. He visited the spot, and after a careful examination expressed himself ‘certain that vast deposits of copper existed there.’

On this recommendation, the parties interested engaged an experienced practical miner, who is now busy with several men in ‘opening the eyes of the mine.’ As the result of the first week's work, he reports that he has taken off the earth across the ridge that contains the vein for a distance of thirty five feet, and blasted the rock at three different points in that distance—that is, at each side and near the middle. On the west side he developed the vein to the width of four and a half feet, on the east side to the width of five feet, and on the middle two feet and a half; and believes that as soon as he can get the surface rock off, the vein will be found to extend the whole width of the cut. The miner now at work remarks in his report,—‘I have never before seen the prospect so good on the surface, or improved so rapidly on going down a short distance, as it is here.’

We are informed that there are several veins in the neighborhood equally promising, and everything indicates that it will be a great mining district.

It may be premature to speculate on the effect of this discovery on this Town and County, but it must be immense. The fact that the copper lies directly north of the Marmora Iron Works, so that the one outlet will serve for both, is very important; and it has been within our knowledge for some time that there was every prospect of the Iron Works resuming operations as soon as the existence of copper in paying quantities in the country back of Marmora was established beyond a doubt,—a fact which we fancy is now no longer a matter of conjecture.

A gentleman sent out from England by parties very largely interested in the manufacture of iron and steel, visited Madoc and Marmora a few weeks ago to look at the ores, chiefly to see if they would answer for the manufacture of steel direct from the ore, by a new process, lately patented in England and he remarked to a gentleman residing in Belleville who met him in Montreal, that the best iron ores he had ever seen were Madoc and Marmora.—(Hastings Chronicle.)

A theoretically benevolent man, on being asked by a friend to lend him a dollar, answered briskly, ‘With pleasure;’ but suddenly added, ‘Dear me, how unfortunate I've only one lending dollar—and that is out.’

THE PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS OF THE HARVEST.

Hay harvesting has made very rapid progress during the present week, and with the present genial weather must soon be brought to a close. The crops of hay, however in a few instances, are spoken of as light, but on the other hand, it is admitted that, the comparatively small amount of labor required in getting them in, will more than compensate for any deficiency in quantity. Indeed it is allowed that for some years, at least, hay has been gathered with less anxiety than in the present season. The crop, on a whole, is good. Wheat in general looks admirably strong and healthy in the straw; and doubtless, if the weather continues favorable, not only an abundant, but an early harvest may be anticipated. Oats are unusually promising. Turnips in general are doing well, and appearances are said to be most encouraging. As to the present crops, in general, one agriculturist, who has been in this country for a number of years, writes us, saying, ‘Taking my crops as a whole, I never had any cleaner, more even, or more promising.’—Owen Sound Advertiser.

THE WEATHER.—During the past few days the weather has been cold for the season, and the mornings chilly. Farmers are busily engaged in gathering in the crops; and, from all we can learn, the yield will be as heavy as was anticipated some weeks ago.—British Standard, Perth, Central Canada, Aug 19.

MENTAL EXERCISES.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA, NO. 5.

I am composed of 66 letters :
My 61, 31, 53, 35, 52, 42, 45, 15, 60 10 is a county in New York.
My 44, 1, 9, 14, 24, 65, 43, is a county in Pennsylvania.
My 13, 53, 21, 3, 18, 63, 26 is a county in Virginia.
My 25, 2, 7, 17, 29, 30, 34, 19, 16, is a county in North Carolina.
My 5, 59, 36, 47, 57, 65, is a county in Georgia.
My 22, 28, 64, 33, 11, 48, 56, is a county in Kentucky.
My 37, 6, 20, 27, 24, 39, 46, 54, is a county in Indiana.
My 41, 33, 4, 51, 23, 50, is a county in Ohio.
My 44, 49, 58, 62, is a county in Illinois.
My 8, 12, 50, 17, 40, is a county in Mississippi.
My whole is a quotation from Byron.
J. J. M.

CHARADE.

My first reveals a father's gift
A boon from sire to son,
That cleaves to him through good and ill.
Unit his race be run;
Attends him to the porch of death,
And lives when man resigns his breath:

Consider next the smallest thing
You can in words express,
And when the smallest thing is found,
You'll find my second less;
'Tis smaller than a lady's hand,
A miser's gift, or grain of sand.

There's nothing tangible in me,
In doubt I veil the right;
And living in obscurity,
I die when brought to light;
With no desire to covet fame,
My whole exists without a name.
D. A.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.

One of the greatest European states. A province of Spain. A county of Wales.—A county of Ireland. One of the largest islands in the world. A province of Belgium. A country of Northern Europe. The initials and finals give the names of the first and last countries; also of two countries whose names are together prominently before the world. J. A.

MARY ANN'S ENIGMA.—Mary Ann, writes from Wainfleet and says ‘I am composed of 29? (29 what?)’

My 13, 7, 3, 21, 11, 24, 25, is a country in Europe.
My 19, 13, 23, 4, 20, is a river in British North America.
My 1, 23, 5, 29, 14, 12, is a city in Ohio.
My 6, 27, 24, 6, 7, 28, 1, is the capital of one of the United States of America.
My 19, 9, 15, 22, 11, 21, 25, is a river in Canada.
My 18, 2, 10, 6, 27, 17, is a Lake in Canada.
My 12, 2, 8, 9, is a river in Africa.
My 26, 11, 28, 16, 23, is a Duchy in Italy.
My whole is the name and place of residence of a gentleman, reader of the Canadian Illustrated News.
MARY ANN.