

Australian swan, is cherished as racy of the soil. But the adoption of a stamp common to all Her Majesty's dominions for purposes of intercommunication, would serve to mark, in an emphatic and practical way, the unity of the Empire. Such a stamp could be printed wherever issued, upon a uniform design, changing only the name of the country of origin, and where, as in Canada, there is a different currency, the denomination.*

When Rowland Hill decided to make the postage the same for a letter to Scotland as for one to the next street in London, his calculation was based not only upon the large proportion of total cost assignable to terminal charges, but upon a general principle of "making the good pay for the bad." The millions of letters collected and delivered in London and other large centres at a high profit make up for those delivered at great distances and in outlying parts at little or no profit and often at a considerable loss. This principle is still confined to the United Kingdom. It should be extended to the Empire. There is no valid reason why a correspondent in Hampshire writing to a third cousin in the Isle of Skye about a terrier should have part of the cost of his letter paid out of the profit made by the Post Office on London letters, while another writing from Sussex to his brother in Australia has to pay the whole cost of his letter, and, as shall be shown by and by, a great deal more than its real cost. Sauce for the Hampshire goose should be sauce for the Sussex gander. Admit the principle, as it has been admitted since 1840, of "taking the rough with the smooth," and there is no just ground for drawing a ring-fence round the United Kingdom and applying the principle there and there only.

A somewhat plausible objection to the extension to Colonial mails of the principle of making the good pay for the bad is that "whatever may be the case in individual instances, there can be no doubt that, taken throughout, postages over these long distances must cost a

* The design for such a stamp, shown (in forms applicable to countries where the coinage differs) on the outside of this pamphlet, is suggested as appropriate to its Imperial character.