

years of such service, or in the case of service in any part of the Dominions beyond the Seas, or any country under British protection which, under the Pension Acts or regulations applying thereto, is recognized as unhealthy, after not less than sixteen years of such service, be awarded a medal to be designated "the Imperial Service Medal"; provided that no such medal shall be granted, except on the recommendation of one of the principal secretaries of state.

POST OFFICE REFORM.

Abolish the Postmaster-General?

The London *Globe* has given publicity to some startling suggestions for reform in post office administration. It would begin at the top by abolishing the Postmaster-General! The suggestions in full are as follows:

"To-day the question is again raised as to whether the time has not arrived to make a change in our system of Post Office administration. The latest proposal is in favour of the abolition of the office of Postmaster-General and the creation instead of a Board of Directors with a permanent chairman. This interesting plan is put forward by "Past President" in a letter to the *Times*, and he points

out that as long ago as 1877 the late Mr. W. H. Smith had advocated a change from the system now, as then, prevailing.

"The essential thing, says that writer, is continuity of management, and management by practical business men. It would not do to appoint a Board of ex-Treasury officials or a chairman who was always looking for "promotion" to some other department. The chairman should be a man determined to find his career in the Post Office, and to give his whole time and attention to it. Although not in Parliament, he should rank before all Permanent Secretaries of Departments and before all Under-Secretaries of States, whether Parliamentary or Permanent, and should have the same freedom of access to the Prime Minister that any Minister has. He should be paid at least £3,500 a year, and should be sworn of the Privy Council. His permanent colleagues on the Board should be a Director of Posts and a Director of Telegraphs, equal in rank and each receiving £2,000 a year. They should be chosen from the staff of the Department for their capacity as administrators. Each should be a specialist and should attend to his own job, which he would find quite big enough. It is important that neither should be subordinate to the other.

"To co-operate with the permanent chairman and directors there should

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