

Two Cent Letter Postage.

Mr. Mulock; our Postmaster-General, has announced that on and after Jan. 1st, 1899, the uniform rate of two cents per ounce would be charged on letters in Canada, except in other cases especially provided for, and also applies to letters going to the United States.

It is estimated that the loss in revenue for the half year ending June 30th, will be between \$400,000 and \$500,000, and for the next fiscal year it cannot be less than \$800,000.

Mr. Mulock, however expects to make up for it by pulling the pockets of philatelists a little more. The present three cent stamp will die a natural death, and the two cent stamp, that is, the one with the numerals in the corners, will have its colors changed to red.

It now appears that to help make up the deficit a duty of ten cents per lb will be imposed upon tea.

Hamilton Notes.

The first British mail containing correspondence at the reduced rate of postage applicable to the United Kingdom and certain British possessions, was closed at the postoffice early Tuesday morning, Dec. 27th, for despatch by the steamship St. Louis, sailing from New York on Wednesday.

The mail was a large one and contained a large number of letters prepaid with the new Imperial postage stamps. Post-master Adam Brown was present at the

closing, and had the pleasure of filling and sealing the first sack dispatched from Hamilton containing correspondence under the reduced rate of postage.

The Inter-Imperial postage stamps were placed on sold here Wednesday, 7th Dec. for general use and up to the date of Dec. 27th, 80,000 had been disposed of at the post-office.

The mailing of large and small packages containing Christmas gifts were just double the quantity to any previous Christmas, and much credit is due to the clerks at the postoffice as not one parcel missed a regular mail.

The 3c stamp will be no longer required, and when the issue exhausts, there will be no more printed. The color of the domestic postage stamp according to the suggestion of the postal union, being red, it will be necessary to change the color of the 2c to red, when the present issue is exhausted. We are led to suppose that there is a likelihood of being a 7c stamp issued to take the place of an 8c stamp when used for registration.

Business is on the boom.

Imperial Penny Postage.

London, Dec. 31.—During the first three days of the new postage rate in England, about 36,700 letters, enjoying the new privilege, were mailed. Over 4,000 letters paid the old rates through the ignorance of the senders.