

# CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE.

Vol. II,

DECEMBER, 1895.

No. 22.

## CANADA'S REGISTERED MAIL.

**T**HE large revenue annually received by the Government for carrying registered matter leads one to think of the methods adopted for the safety of such articles, and also of the fact that in case of a loss, the Government do not hold themselves liable for such losses. Now it is evident that were a sender mails a registered letter and same is not received by the party addressed, the sender must again remit the amount, and yet the government is the party who loses the package—it is the same, whether lost, or stolen, or mislaid. Now were this to happen in a well-regulated office some one would surely be decapitated, and because the Government is the offender, nothing is done, save sending a tracer with the usual result.

In the latest report of the Canadian Postmaster-General the number of letters delivered during the year amounted to 3,237,200 and the cases where letters were tampered with runs up to 222.

Then comes the following :

“The contents or a portion thereof were recovered from the officers responsible or were otherwise made good in 42 cases. In 39 cases in which the contents wholly or in part were stated to be missing on receipt of the letters, no evidence could be obtained to account for the alleged dis-

crepancies. In 38 other cases the contents wholly or in part of letters lost, stolen or mis-delivered were made good and recovered, 28 letters were stolen from postoffices or mails en route, the contents of which were not recovered, and in 29 cases of a similar character the department was successful in recovering the contents or in having them made good. There were 35 letters accidentally destroyed during course of post.”

Now the above is a first-class report for a country having a population of 5,000,000 people and much more so, when the extent of the territory covered in Canada is considered. It speaks well for the men who compose the Civil Service, and Canada well deserves the eoniums bestowed on her postal administration by foreign powers many considering it unsurpassed.

Now it may be that the aggregate loss is so little as to make it beneath the notice of officials to consider ways of remedying the evil. If the loss is small, then ought the Government to willingly pay the amount ; but if it is great, then a system of insurance should be effected, and all who want to secure additionally safety for their money or valuables be requested to exhibit such goods for inspection before sealing the package. It would be another step in advance, and Canadians would be pleased to see their country inaugurate such a policy.

ADAM WILLIAMS.