

Hill's principles over the wider geographical area of to-day. Those principles, so far as material to the present purpose, were (1) the recognition of the preponderance of terminal charges for letters over the cost of their transportation, and the consequent justice and advantage of equalising postal rates over long and short distances, (2) "taking the rough with the smooth" and "making the good pay for the bad." Those principles are as applicable to the whole Empire to-day as they were to the United Kingdom fifty years ago. But to apply them without pecuniary loss the Post Office must get out of many traditional habits of conducting the Ocean Packet service.

(4) The adhesion of all parts of the Empire to the International Postal Union whereby the Imperial rates would necessarily be and remain assimilated to and regulated by the Postal Union rate, is the solution aimed at by the Post Office authorities. The principal groups of Colonies at present outstanding are South Africa and Australasia, and these are invited to attend a Conference of the Postal Union in May of this year with a view to joining it. The effect would be to make it more difficult than at present to shake off the trammels of the Postal Union. The Postal Union Convention, as it stands at present, presents a fatal barrier to the realisation of a uniform Imperial system. There are other obstacles to be dealt with before this is discussed.

(5) The standing obstacles to a uniform Imperial post within and without the United Kingdom are:

(a) The unwillingness of the Exchequer to surrender revenue. This has been partly overcome, but the unwillingness to make further concessions may continue, and therefore the pressure must not be relaxed. The right of Colonial correspondence to share the postal facilities made possible by the surrender of revenue has also been admitted in principle. But it yet remains to carry this to its legitimate conclusion.

(b) The payment out of Post Office revenue of enormous subsidies to steamship owners and companies for political and military purposes, the charging of these payments to debit of the working expenses of the Post Office,