

two? I inquire to know, as Togo hath it.

Or is that four cents appropriated by the retail dealer himself? If so, I make my profoundest bow to his dealership and would much like to be told why he takes toll of four cents on every purchase of one pound of "sirloin steak, best." Do I get anything for that four cents? If so, what; if not, why not?

I may be told that four cents is a small matter to raise a fuss about. I heartily agree. Then why may I not keep my four cents and still get my pound of "sirloin steak, best," without anybody making a fuss about it? The four cents is a small matter when left with me, but if it is added to four other cents of my next door neighbour, and four other cents of his next door neighbour—and so on to the limit of population—in the coffers of the retail dealer, perhaps it becomes part of quite a big thing. "Mony a nickle maks a muckle," as has been truthfully remarked in a language which suggests calling them "bawbees" not "cents," with an implication of careful regard for them which, I fear, does not always rule the financing of the average civil servant.

Observe, Mr. Editor,—please observe, and tell everybody else to do the same,—that I have not said either that there is an actual four cents in this case, or that if there is it has been received by anybody in particular. But I notice that prices vary in a way which is beyond any business rule or reason that I have ever heard of or can imagine.

There is a sort of rule-of-thumb that furnishes the only explanation that I can think of. It seems to me that some people are "easy" and are given a chance to pay high prices, while some other people are "wise" and are served at low prices. As well as I can judge, Ottawa people, on the whole, are wealthy—or feel wealthy—and those who supply them do not like to disturb their equanimity.

But, for my part, I would like to know about that four cents. If I could trace that money, perhaps I should find it stacked up with sundry other coins that I have missed from time to time. And then, perhaps, I could work out a scheme to prevent other money leaving me in the same way.

A. C. CAMPBELL.

Ottawa, April 6th.

THE NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.

The Postmaster-General received on April 5 the design for the new postage stamps bearing the effigy of King George. The design was sent to Mr. Lemieux by the Imperial government, and was intended for the use of all the colonies, being an "Empire" stamp.

Mr. Lemieux promptly and vigorously voiced his disapproval of the design, on the ground that it was not distinctly Canadian, and later laid his objection before the Governor-General. The Governor-General cabled to the British post office authorities, telling them of Mr. Lemieux's objection. Mr. Lemieux also asked Lord Grey to say to the British government that Canada wishes to submit a design of her own.

That some kind of postal establishment existed in Job's time we know, because he says, "Now my days are swifter than a post." In the book of Esther we read, "He wrote in the King's name and sealed it with the King's ring and sent letters by post on horseback." Sennacherib wrote a letter to Hezekiah. Siculus speaks of one of the kings of Egypt receiving his letters each day and there have been discovered in Egypt inscriptions and seals referring to a postal system. According to Zenophon, King Cyrus was the first to establish a horse-post in the year 550 B.C. This was presided over by Darius before he ascended the throne. Darius was thus the first Postmaster-General.