

and the other three have a fixed salary of \$1,100 a year without any per diem allowance under an old scale of salary appropriated to this particular service. All Officers hereafter appointed should be classed as ordinary Railway Mail Clerks with a per diem allowance as above.

POST OFFICE INSPECTORS.

There are 7 Inspectors now on the establishment.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Head Quarters.</i>
1.—Nova Scotia.	Halifax.
1.—New Brunswick.	Fredericton, should be St. John.
1.—Quebec West to Three Rivers.	Quebec.
1.— Do Three Rivers, West to Ottawa River.	Montreal.
1.—Ottawa River, West to Cobourg.	Kingston.
1.—Cobourg West, to Hamilton.	Toronto.
1.—Hamilton to Western limit of Dominion.	London.

The Inspectors are paid a fixed salary of \$2,000 per annum and receive when travelling an allowance of \$2 dollars per diem, and 10 cents per mile for each mile off railway and steamboat routes where the Department can give free conveyance.

This is a most important class of Officers. In fact, the satisfactory working of the machinery of the Post Office service generally must always depend largely on their zeal and efficiency.

The immediate supervision of the performance of Mail service by the Contractors and Couriers all over the country is in their hands, for this requires local knowledge and facilities for quick reference and enquiry.

For the same reasons the Railway Mail Clerk service is under the Inspector's superintendence; also the general management and direction of the distribution and circulation of correspondence; they direct where and how Mails should be made up, &c., &c.

All questions concerning new Post Offices and Post routes, and alterations affecting those existing, are examined into by them, and whatever may be authorized, in respect to such matters, carried into practical effect by them.

All ordinary Postmaster's Bonds, and Mail Contracts are drawn up by them, and they are responsible for the due execution of such instruments.

They conduct, in a measure judicially, with the aid of local Magistrates, enquiries into public charges made against Postmasters.

Inspectors see to the collection of arrear accounts, transfer the charge of a Post Office when a change of Postmaster takes place; enquire into all cases of mail robbery, or of loss of letters, and attend to a multiplicity of other duties, of a more or less important and troublesome character.

Theoretically an Inspector should periodically visit and inspect all the Post Offices in his District; but the various duties above sketched out so engross his time, that for some years past inspection of the country offices upon any regular system has been impracticable; and yet it should be an essential feature in any well organized Post Office administration.

It is recommended to strengthen this branch of the service by the appointment of a class of Assistant Inspectors, specially charged with travelling duties in connection with the inspection of offices, and having their compensation dependent, to a considerable extent, on the amount of such duty performed.

Further, the general expansion of the service, and the increase in the number of the Inspectors, render it very desirable that the Department should have the services of a Chief Inspector, stationed at Head Quarters, with authority over all the Inspectors and their Districts; to be available when the conduct of an Inspector or chief City Postmaster is in question; to promote uniformity in the management of the duties confided to the several Inspectors, especially in the Railway Mail service, and generally to carry the authority of the Department over these Officers to the immediate sphere of their action,