

the invention. This involves no injustice of which the person interested has a right to complain, as he has bartered honour for a consideration. A writer of literary ability may, in the same way, voluntarily assign the honour due to his work to another person. When however, he, who has laboured hard for many years in promoting a reform, of which he was the pioneer advocate, is ignored, while some political official is paid public honours for such reform, because he was associated with its inauguration, there is a great injustice done, for honour has not been paid to whom honour is due.

We are hearing the title "Rowland Hill the Second" applied to several politicians who were officially connected with the scheme of Imperial Postage recently decided upon. This title is one of which any man might be proud; it carries indeed with it a higher claim to public respect than a mere ordinary title of rank. Rowland Hill was one of the greatest benefactors of the British race. The extraordinary demand for popular education which burst out in 1840 all over England was doubtless one of the results of cheap postage. The 17th of this month will be the 59th anniversary of a law being passed in the British House of Commons, by which the vast bulk of letters passing through the post offices in the United Kingdom were made subject to a uniform rate of one penny. He first advocated this reform in a pamphlet published in 1837, so that he achieved his object by two years' agitation. In 1844 he was presented with \$65,000 as a public testimonial. In 1860 he was granted \$100,000 by Parliament, and was knighted in acknowledgment of his services in securing penny postage. Other public honours were showered upon him to mark the nation's gratitude. It is then no mean distinction to be styled his successor, and "Rowland Hill the Second" is a title which should not be loosely applied. To whom is it due? Some twenty years ago, Mr. Henniker-Heaton, M.P., suggested a reduction in foreign postal rates, more especially on letters to the colonies. He spent freely in advocating this reform. In July, 1895, he published a paper entitled: "Ten years postal progress. An Imperial Plan." In that brochure he said: "Let us abolish postal frontiers within the Queen's dominions. Let the Postmaster-General be empowered to declare the British Empire henceforth a single Postal District, with a uniform penny postal rate for letters, whether transmitted ten miles or ten thousand miles." In that one expression, "The British Empire, a single postal district," is embodied the whole scheme of Imperial penny postage. The original reform of penny postage was strongly opposed by the post-office authorities, who predicted an alarming loss of revenue, yet the penny letters at once yielded more than the six penny and shilling ones had done, and, during the hard times in 1840 and 1841, the postal revenue was the only one which showed no decrease from the depressed state of trade. Imperial penny postage has met with the same obstruction from the British post-office authorities, against which Mr.

Henniker-Heaton protested in a speech in the House of Commons on 19th September, 1893, and since then repeatedly in public addresses. To him then is due the honour of being the successor of Rowland Hill, as the suggestor, and, for many years, the persistent advocate of Imperial penny postage. While giving to this pioneer the honour due to his labours, his foresight and his public spirit, we may also recognize the services rendered to this movement by our own Postmaster-General, the Honble. William Mulock, M.P., and the Honble. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P. They stand to the Imperial postal reform scheme in a relative position to that held by the Hon. Mr. Baring, who, when Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced the Act by which British penny postage was established. It is interesting to recall that the Queen's confidential friend, Lord Melbourne, was Premier at the time, and a memoir of that date states that "Her Majesty expressed warm approval of the penny postage Bill." To Mr. Mulock we are disposed to give much credit for pressing the scheme of Imperial postage upon the home authorities. We do not anticipate that, from an economic standpoint, the reduced postage on letters to Great Britain, and most of the other colonies, will be as great a success as was the change made by the Act of 17th August, 1839, which came into force on the 10th Jan., 1840. But, in the words of Mr. Henniker-Heaton: "It indicates the high-water mark of 19th century civilisation. It ignores the impotence of each man, taken by himself, and places at his disposal, to further his tiny, insignificant aim or business, all the resources of an Empire." Every enlargement of the facilities for intercourse between the citizens of the British Empire strengthens the bonds of Imperial unity, and enables the millions who are severed by geographical divisions to realize their identity as members of one community. Imperial penny postage may sacrifice some portion of the revenue from the postal service. But the people of Canada, who will not be directly benefited by the cheaper postage, will not complain if thereby the sense of Imperial unity is deepened amongst those who owe allegiance to the British Crown. In the extension of Imperial trade, Canada is deeply interested. Our preferential treatment of British goods by lower duties imposed on them, as inaugurated this week, has given offence to foreign nations who threaten retaliation. There are clouds on the political horizon in the East which are disquieting, as they have in them the possibility of war in which Great Britain would probably be involved. Such commercial and political conditions and contingencies point to the necessity for every feasible step being taken to develop inter-imperial trade and to consolidate the Empire as a political entity. A system of Imperial postage will have this tendency; it will thereby be of service to the people under the British flag, and it is a befitting duty therefore to pay "honour to whom honour is due" in recognising the pioneer advocate of Imperial penny postage.