

of stage coach was then adopted for the regular transmission of mails and passengers. The first stage of this character ran between Vienna and Brussels in 1516.

In 1635 James I. appointed Matthew Le Quester postmaster of England. This man was the first English speaking postmaster. His first act was to establish a post between London and Edinburgh, to go night and day and to return within a week's time. Twenty years later the Government fixed rates for letter carrying all over the kingdom. It cost four cents to send a letter seven miles, and twenty-eight cents to send it 300 or more miles in those days. In 1784 the net revenue of the English postal service amounted to but \$750,000. Since that date fast trains have been introduced, and last year the revenue amounted to over \$8,000,000. In connection with our postal service we have the telegraph and savings banks departments and these return a very large revenue apart from that of the post office. There are at present in the united kingdom over 20,000 offices and 17,000 road letter boxes.

The present postal system of Germany was only established in 1871, the same year that the Japanese adopted the same system. The French have the best system in the world. It is also the cheapest. They will take anything in the shape of a letter or parcel from your door and deliver it at any point in the world known to civilized man. I have known English merchants to send letters for South Africa to Friends in Paris, where the letter would be readdressed, French postage paid, and the letter forwarded.

Russia has perhaps the worst system, not even excepting China. In China the ancient Persian system still obtains. Official despatches are sent at the expense of the Government by mounted couriers. Private enterprise supplies the public with a safe and speedy service. The Chinese love competition. After a Chinaman has

written his letter to a friend in America, for instance, he goes to the shop of a man whose business it is to forward letters. They dicker as to price and the Chinaman departs and has another dicker with another postman. After the bargain has been made he receives a receipt for his letter, and in case it is not delivered as agreed, the postman must pay a forfeit agreed upon when he received his fee. In Turkey the mails are chiefly handled by the foreign post offices at the sea ports.

The United States were without a postal system until 1710. It was not until 1874 that the postal system of the present day became practically universal.

During that year there was a postal convention held at Berne, Switzerland, and a treaty for the formation of a general postal union signed. The countries now in that union are France, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Great Britain, United States, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Netherlands, Africa, Russia, Servia, Canada, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Sandwich Islands, Japan, Corea and Australia.

The system of prepaying postage was adopted in England in 1840, when adhesive labels were sold to the public, and received at the offices as evidence of payment when attached to letters. It was seven years later before the United States adopted the system which is now universal. Ever since the stamp system has been introduced the rates of postage have been decreasing, but are yet far too high. Twenty years from now I hope to see a letter posted at Toronto go for one cent to any place in the civilized world. It could be done now, only the governments fear to lose money. I believe if the rates were reduced that, on the contrary, more revenue would be derived, since the small cost would stimulate activity among business men."

Mr. Wardell, who has retired from service, is visiting Canada for the first