

including machinery, labour and all other expenses connected therewith?

2. How many were employed in the manufacture of binder twine each year since its commencement, their position, and the total cost to the country?

3. What was the quantity manufactured in the year 1896? The cost of manufacture per pound in that year, and the price at which it was sold per pound in the province of Ontario in 1896?

4. Have any sales been made this year? If so, to whom sold? What quantity, and at what price per pound? What are the terms and conditions of the sales and payment?

5. When sold in large quantities, at a reduced price, has the Government made conditions and stipulations with the purchases that the consumer will be protected in getting twine at the same price as formerly sold by the Government?

6. Do the Government intend to further manufacture binder twine? If not, why? What has been done, or what is to be done with the plant used for the manufacture of binder twine?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). In reply to the hon. gentleman I beg to say: 1. \$40,280. 2. In 1894, four officers, aggregate salaries \$3,620, and about 40 convicts; in 1895, four officers, aggregate salaries \$3,620, and about 40 convicts; in 1896, three officers, aggregate salaries \$2,800, and about 40 convicts. 3. The preparation of this statement would require considerable time and the question should therefore be put in the form of a motion for a return. 4. Yes. To the Hobbs Hardware Company. The sale includes the actual output up to August 1st—approximate quantity sold, 500 tons. As the goods have not yet been placed upon the market the price cannot be made public at present. The terms and conditions of sale are cash on delivery. 5. No conditions have been exacted. The keen competition of the past few years and the lowering of the duty in 1894 have made this unnecessary. 6. The matter is under consideration.

POSTAL REGULATIONS.—UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

Mr. LANDERKIN (for Mr. Britton) asked:

It is stated that under the postal laws and regulations of the United States, the sender of a letter may have said letter returned to him at any time, before its actual delivery to the person to whom such letter is posted, provided the sender fully identifies himself to the postmaster at the office at which the letter was mailed, and deposits with the postmaster to defray any expenses made in recalling the letter. Is there any such law or regulation in Canada? If not, has the matter been considered by the Postmaster General, or in his department?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). The only way I can answer this question is to give to the House the regulations of the United States and those of Great Britain. The regulations of the United States are as follows with regard to withdrawal of mail matter:

Mr. McDUGALL.

UNITED STATES.

381. Before Despatch.—After mailable matter has been deposited in the post office, it cannot be withdrawn except by the writer thereof, or the sender, or, in case of a minor child, the parent or guardian duly authorized to control the correspondence of the writer. The utmost care must be taken to ascertain that the person desiring to withdraw the matter is the person entitled to do so. If necessary, the postmaster should require the applicant to exhibit a written address in the same hand as that upon the letter, and such description of the letter or article mailed, or other evidence, as will identify the same and satisfy the postmaster that the applicant is entitled to withdraw it.

The postmaster acts at his peril in permitting such withdrawal, and would be liable, however honest his intentions, were he to deliver it to an imposter or one not entitled to it. He should in no case delay the mail or retard the business of his office in order to search for a letter desired to be withdrawn.

Withdrawn by Sender After Despatch.—After a letter has passed from the mailing post office, the delivery of the same may be prevented, and its return to the writer secured, by an application by the writer to the postmaster at the office of mailing, stating reasons therefor, identifying the letter, and supporting such application with sufficient proof in writing. Upon such application and evidence, and upon a deposit being made by the writer of a sum sufficient to cover all expenses incurred, the postmaster shall telegraph a request for the return of such letter to his office, if it has been forwarded, to the postmaster at the office of address, carefully describing the same, so as to identify it and prevent the return of any other matter. On receipt of such request, the postmaster at the office of address, carefully describing the same, so as to identify it and prevent the return of, will deliver it to the writer upon payment of all expenses and of letter rate of postage on the matter returned, on the envelope of which postage-due stamps of the proper value must be placed and cancelled, and upon the prepayment also of a registered parcel, addressed to the First Assistant Postmaster General, Division of Correspondence, Post Office Department, in which the postmaster shall inclose and transmit the application of the writer and all proofs submitted by him, together with the writer's receipt for it, and the envelope of the returned letter.

CANADA.

Property in Post Letters and Other Mailable Matter.

(Sec. 43, 49th Vict., Chap. 35.)

From the time any letter, packet, chattel, money or thing is deposited in the post office for the purpose of being sent by post, it shall cease to be the property of the sender, and shall be the property of the person to whom it is addressed, or the legal representatives of such person; and the Postmaster General shall not be liable to any person for the loss of any letter, packet or other thing sent by post.

GENERAL POST OFFICE REGULATION IN UNITED KINGDOM.

Postmasters are not allowed to return any letter, parcel or other postal packet to the writer or sender, or to any one else, or to delay for-