

who is thoroughly acquainted with every detail of the service, a sagacious, wide-awake, astute official and one who can thoroughly judge the requirements and possibilities of the service. What his trials are with the M. P. who is constantly looking for his share of patronage, with the persistent office seeker or with discontented contractors we have but a faint idea. The outside Service includes all the established post offices, railway mail service and Inspectors. Each of the fourteen divisions are presided over by an Inspector under whose supervision are the official inspection of offices, investigations and the opening and closing of post offices. The appointment of officials is purely a political matter though efforts have been made to relieve the service from such control, by this means preventing any possibility of the introduction of the "spoils system" now working such ruinous results in the United States service. The salaries of all superintendents, clerks, inspectors and postmasters of cities and large towns are fixed according to statute but in villages and small towns, they are determined according to the postal revenue.

There are few nations, and certainly no colonies, that surpass Canada in the matter of providing postal facilities. There are 9,191 offices for a population of 4,833,239 inhabitants, or one for about every 530, while in Great Britain there is one for every 2,007, and in Germany one for every 1,981 inhabitants. These figures show how favourably Canada compares with the great postal countries. The Department was not slow to recognize the possibilities of the Yukon district, for in January, 1894, an office was opened at Fort Cudahy, and at the present time the principal mining centres are supplied

with monthly mails by the Northwest Mounted Police. To reach the lonely settler and the distant miner in the remote regions of British Columbia and of the Territories, the most effective way yet devised is by the employment of couriers, who carry the mail in large cotton duck pouches over immense distances. In establishing such offices and postal routes, very little consideration is taken of the probable revenue, for the main motive is the desire for public welfare and accommodation.

In contrasting the Canadian service with that of England or of France, or with any of the well-governed countries of Europe, we are not surprised to learn that the revenue far exceeds the expenditure, while in Canada and the United States there are annual deficits, as instanced in our own Department for the year ending June 30th, 1897, when there was a shortage of \$586,539.92. If we consider the long distances over which the mails are carried during collection and transit, as well as the sparse population of the western part of Canada, it will be readily seen that it must be some time before the revenue can exceed or even equal the expenditure. And again, the officers of the Department, knowing that the service is for the general use and benefit of the public, must make additions and extensions of the postal system as the country gradually develops, and in order to provide postal facilities proportionate to the progress of settlement, it is necessary for them to establish new offices, the expenditure for which must, for a number of years, be in excess of the revenue derived therefrom. The importance of providing every part of the Dominion with postal communication should be properly understood by the