

the year, stating in each case its date and intended duration, the name of the contractor, the routes embraced in the contract, with the length of each, the time of arrival and departure at the end of each route, the mode of transportation contracted for, and the price stipulated to be paid by the Department. By omitting that statement the annual report of the Department would be reduced one-third, and so far as its usefulness was concerned, he could not conceive why it should be printed. In the United States the Post Office Department had abolished its publication in its report. Any member who desired could always see at the Public Departments the contracts awarded. The list of Post Offices established in Canada, during the year, he also proposed to strike out of the annual report; it was of little or no use to the public, and its omission would effect a considerable saving. He also proposed to omit Report No. 14, which was a copy from the records of all offers made for carrying the mails upon contracts advertised for public competition in the Dominion. If the House would agree to also strike this out, they would save a large sum, which was every year increasing. The twelfth, fifteenth and sixteenth sub-sections of the seventy-seventh section were verbally amended. Further provision is made for offences which are to be included as misdemeanours under the seventy-seventh section of the act, among these being the posting of immoral publications, pictures, &c. The sub-section was as follows:

"To post for transmission or delivery by or through the post any obscene or immoral book, pamphlet, picture, print, engraving, lithograph, photograph or other publication, matter or thing of an indecent, immoral, seditious, disloyal, scurrilous or libellous character, or any letter upon the outside or envelope of which, or any post card or post band or wrapper upon which, there are words, devices, matters or things of the character aforesaid, shall be a misdemeanor. The eighty-first section of the said act is hereby amended by inserting immediately before the word "such" in the fourth line thereof, the words "or if any person uses or attempts to use for the purpose of transmission by or through the post, any post card or stamped envelope or stamped post band or wrapper, which has been before used for a like purpose,"—and by inserting after the word "used" in the seventh line of the said section, the words "and the post card or stamped envelope stamped post band or wrapper so used more than once."

Hon. Mr. Macdonald.

A new section (numbered thirty in amendment with) was introduced to enable government to obtain better security from the employers of the Department in the interest of the public who might require to furnish bonds from guarantee societies or others, for the due discharge of their duties. The expense which would be involved by the adoption of the bill was \$150,000. That was exclusive of free delivery of letters in nine cities of the Dominion, Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Ottawa, Hamilton, London and Toronto, which would cost \$45,000. The increase in the number of drop or city letters distributed at Montreal since the adoption of the free delivery system had been ten fold, and he expected to realize a very large sum from the increased business caused by the introduction of the free delivery system. The convenience arising from a free delivery of letters could only be estimated by the satisfaction it had already given in Montreal, and it was intended within a few days to establish it in Toronto, and as soon as possible in the Lower Provinces. He hoped that on 1st July all the principal cities of the Dominion would have a free delivery of letters. With those explanations he moved the second reading of the bill.

Mr. CURRIER said it was to be regretted, since the Postmaster General had made so many improvements and reforms in his Department, that he was taking a backward step in one particular—namely, in charging more than one cent for "drop" or local letters. The increased charge, he thought, would be a very great inconvenience, and there would be but very little increase of revenue to the Department arising therefrom. Hon. members who represented city constituencies knew how large was the number of 'drop' letters passing through the respective city Post-Offices, containing accounts for money due and remittances in payment, which, if the proposed increase were carried into effect, would not be sent by post at all. The benefit to be derived by the Department, he thought, was by no means a compensation for the inconvenience it would cause the public.

Mr. OLIVER said it would have been better if the Postmaster General had consolidated the whole Post Office law. It was a most difficult thing for people in