

## POSTAL BILL.

THE following resolutions were moved by the Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, in Committee of the Whole, and adopted:—

1. On each letter transmitted by post for any distance within the Dominion of Canada, when paid at the time of posting, one uniform rate of three cents per half-ounce or fractional part thereof; and when not so prepaid at the time of posting, a rate of five cents per half-ounce or fractional part thereof.
2. On each letter not transmitted through the mails, but posted and delivered at the same Post-office, known as "local" or "drop letters," the rate of one cent per half-ounce.
3. On each letter delivered by a letter carrier, a rate not exceeding two cents in addition to the proper rate of postage, according to preceding rates.
4. On each "local" or "drop letter" delivered by a letter carrier in cities or towns where there is a free delivery, a rate of one cent in addition to the proper rate of postage according to preceding rates.
5. On each dead letter, when returned to the writer, the rate of five cents in addition to the payment of the proper rate of postage according to preceding rates.
6. On letters called Ship Letters, brought from beyond sea in vessels not being Post-office Packets, a rate not exceeding five cents for each such letter, and that such rate be payable by the receiver in addition to the proper rate of postage according to preceding rates.
7. On newspapers printed and published in Canada, and sent to regular subscribers in Canada by mail as follows:—  
Upon each such newspaper, when issued once a week, the rate for each quarter of a year, commencing on the first of January, first of April, first of July, or first of October, of each year, shall be five cents; when issued twice a week, ten cents; when issued three times a week, fifteen cents; when issued six times a week, thirty cents. And in that proportion, adding one rate of five cents for each issue more frequent than once a week; and that such rate be prepaid in advance from the first day of the quarter from which the payment commences, for a term of not less than a quarter of a year, at either the office of mailing or delivery.
8. On each newspaper other than those specified in the preceding resolution, and exchange papers sent by post in Canada, a rate of two cents.
9. On periodical publications other than newspapers, a rate of one cent per four ounces, or of half a cent per number when weighing less than one ounce and posted singly.
10. On books, pamphlets, occasional publications, printed circulars, prices current, hand-bills, book manuscripts, printers' proof sheets, whether corrected or not, maps, prints, drawings, engravings, photographs, when not on glass or in cases containing glass, sheet music whether printed or written, packages of seeds, cuttings, bulbous roots, scions or grafts, patterns or samples of merchandise or goods, a rate of one cent per ounce.
11. On all letters, newspapers, and other mailable matter passing by mail between any place in Canada and the United Kingdom, any British possession, the United States or any other foreign country, such charges and rates of postage on being posted in Canada, or on delivery therein, as may be agreed upon under any arrangement made by the Postmaster-General for the transmission, despatch, receipt and delivery of the same, and contained in any regulation made by the Postmaster-General in pursuance of such arrangement.
12. On and for the registration of letters or other mailable matter passing by mail between places in Canada, a rate not exceeding six cents for each letter or article of mailable matter, in addition to the proper rate of postage according to preceding rates.
13. On closed parcels, other than letters and not containing letters, and sent by parcel post, such rates for conveyances as the Postmaster-General shall from time to time make.
14. On all mailable matter not being letters, newspapers, or other things before mentioned, such rate of postage as the Postmaster-General shall from time to time, by regulation, approved by the Governor-General in Council, establish and declare.

## ADJOURNMENT OF PARLIAMENT.

THE following bills received the assent of the Governor-General:—

- Act relating to the indemnity to members and salaries of the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament.
- Act respecting the office of Speaker of Commons of the Dominion of Canada.
- Act respecting the statutes of Canada.
- Act to authorize the apprehension and detention of such persons as shall be suspected of committing acts of hostility, or conspiring against Her Majesty's person and government.
- Act to amend the Act of Incorporation of the Commercial Bank of Canada, to authorize its amalgamation with any other bank or banks, or for its winding up.
- Act to amend the Grand Trunk arrangements Act 1862, and for other purposes.
- Act to amend and consolidate the several Acts incorporating and relating to the Canadian Inland Steam Navigation Company, and to change its corporation name to that of Canadian Navigation Company, and for other purposes.
- Act to incorporate the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway Company.
- Act for the settlement of the affairs of the Bank of Upper Canada.
- Act respecting the Customs.
- Act respecting the inland revenue.
- Act respecting the Public Works of Canada.

Act respecting the collection and management of the revenue, the auditing of public accounts, and the liability of public accounts.

Act to protect the inhabitants of Canada against lawless aggression from subjects of foreign countries at peace with her subjects.

Act to prevent the unlawful training of persons to the use of arms and the practice of military evolutions, and to authorize Justices of the Peace to seize and detain arms collected or kept for purposes dangerous to the public peace.

Act to impose duties on Promissory Notes and Bills of Exchange.

Act for granting to Her Majesty a certain sum of money required for defraying the expenses of the public service not otherwise provided for, for the period therein mentioned; for certain purposes respecting the public debt, and for raising money on the credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Act respecting banks.

Act respecting the construction of "The Intercolonial Railway."

Act imposing duties on Customs, with the tariff of duties payable under it.

Act for the regulation of the Postal Service.

Parliament then adjourned until the 12th of March, 1868.

## SUGGESTIONS WITH REFERENCE TO THE PROPOSED NEW ACT RESPECTING LETTERS PATENT FOR INVENTIONS.

IN conducting an extensive business, procuring letters patent for inventions, we have had opportunities in our intercourse with the great body of manufacturers, inventors, and mechanics in the Dominion, and elsewhere, of learning their views with reference to the patent laws here, and the various alterations and amendments which, in their opinion, should be introduced in the new law now under consideration.

From many quarters, we have been requested to place the details of the proposed improvements in a proper form, with the view of bringing the same under your notice, for consideration.

That the several alterations and amendments to be presently mentioned should be made is, as far as we can ascertain, the general wish of the country, and will be hailed by manufacturers and inventors not only in the Dominion, but through Great Britain, the United States, France and other countries, with much gratification, as an important step towards placing the Dominion in the position she should occupy with relation to letters patent for inventions, and the important consequences flowing therefrom.

At the present time, all the nations of the world, with the exception of Canada, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Greece, Turkey, China and Japan, grant letters patent for inventions to all foreigners, on the same terms as their own subjects. No matter how illiberal the governments may be in other respects, or how high the protective walls may be erected for the supposed benefit of their subjects, they are, with the exception of the above named countries, with some of which we should scarcely deem it an honour to be classed) singularly unanimous in the free and equal rights accorded to all people, in matters of invention.

In this respect "free trade" has prevailed with the most gratifying results, as is proved by the enormous strides in manufacturing industry which have taken place in Great Britain, France, United States, Holland, Belgium, &c., &c., attributable in a great measure to the inventive genius of the people, fostered and supported by wise and liberal patent laws, which secure a proper remuneration to the inventor, irrespective of nationality. Among the British Provinces in America, we find that New Brunswick and Newfoundland have wisely shaken off the shackles of prejudice and exclusiveness, and allow all foreigners to obtain patents on the same terms as are granted to their own citizens. This applies also to all Great Britain's Colonies in the eastern and southern hemispheres. By this arrangement, the inhabitants of these Colonies or Provinces are permitted to obtain patents in the United States for the reduced fee of \$35, in place of the discriminating fee of \$500 charged to the inhabitants of Canada, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, in return for their exclusiveness in not permitting American citizens to obtain letters patent on any terms, even by the payment of an equally large fee.

The United States Patent Law is so framed, that as soon as we cease to discriminate against their citizens in the granting of patents in the Dominion of Canada, their fee at once drops from \$500 to \$35, without additional legislation.

The proposed change in our laws, by which this good result would be obtained, will at once open a market of 35,000,000 of enterprising, wealthy and speculative people to our Canadian inventors, as all wishing to apply could afford to pay the lesser fee of \$35, while but few can pay, in the first instance, the larger fee of \$500. In return for 35,000,000, given to our inventors, we give theirs but about one-tenth the number, and as our inventors, as a class, will equal if not excel those of the United States, in point of ability, we have a large margin in our favour, by the proposed alteration. From this it is evident that if in the new law, we adhere to the exploded exclusive principle, it will result, to use a common but forcible expression, in "cutting our own throats" without doing much harm to our neighbours.

A United States patent granted to one of our clients, recently sold for eighty thousand dollars in gold, for the six New England States, and for thirty thousand dollars in greenbacks for each of several other States. We are acquainted with several other Canadian patentees who have sold their inventions for large sums in the United States, and with many more as valuable inventions which would sell equally well, could the inventors afford to pay the high fee in that country.

It is to be hoped the spirit displayed by New Brunswick and Newfoundland, will be acted on in framing the New Dominion Patent Law, and that British, American, and other citizens may be allowed to obtain patents on the same terms as granted to our own people, in return for their liberality—in fact that our legislation on this important subject be progressive and not retrograde; that the policy of the Dominion from this time separate or part company with that followed by Turkey, Greece, China, and Japan, and thus enable our country to take its place in the ranks of enlightened progressive nations.

A special clause with reference to patents issued to alien inventors, similar to the one in the United States Patent Law, might be inserted, to the effect that the patent be kept on sale at a reasonable rate for eighteen months from date, or otherwise the patent to become void.

A large revenue would flow into the Patent Office from foreign inventors and if periods for which the patents are granted be made short, but renewable on payment of additional fees, they being in operation or on sale, as in some other countries, a large percentage of the patents granted would lapse from non-payment of fees at the expiration of the first or second periods, and the invention thus become public property.

There are many arguments which could be brought forward in support of a liberal Patent Law, while, on the other hand, no valid reasons can be given for the abrogation of all Patent Laws by the few theoretical and mystical gentlemen who advocate this course. We reply to their arguments, such as they are, by significantly pointing to Turkey, Greece, Switzerland, &c., &c., as samples of the results produced by the action of their strange and ridiculous theory, and to which condition England, United States, and other liberal patent countries would soon approximate, were the great stimulus of wealth and honour removed from their inventors, by wiping out their liberal Patent Laws, which guarantee and secure to them these two great prime movers of intellectual and physical activities.

With the foregoing remarks applicable to the proposed alteration of the existing Patent Laws of Canada, in so far as they relate to the class of persons to whom patents may be granted, we will now proceed to indicate the changes which may be advantageously made in the remaining sections of the law, as given in the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, pp. 419-432, following the sections in regular order.

Sections 1 & 2.—To remain as at present.

Sections 3 & 4.—To be altered to admit British subjects and foreigners to obtain patents, whether resident in the Dominion or not. The total duration of patents should be fourteen years, and not renewable for any additional term. If the invention is a good one, money enough can be made by the proprietor of the patent in that time, and it should then become the property of the public.

It may be questionable whether (in the event of the fees being raised) it would not be desirable to divide the total duration of the patent into, say, three stages, as in Great Britain—1st being three years, 2nd of four years, and the last one seven years—a distinct fee being payable at the commencement of each period. This arrangement has been found to work very well in the mother country, and also in other countries. If the invention prove a valuable one, the patent can be extended from term to term; on the other hand, if it be of little worth, the patent may lapse at the expiration of the first or second term, and then be open to the public, the patentee saving the balance of the total fee.

In France and many other European countries, an annual tax is paid for periods ranging from one to twenty-two years, the patent becoming void if the annual fees are not paid at the proper time. This course causes much trouble, both to the patentees and to the respective patent offices, and it is thought the longer periods before mentioned are preferable in every respect.

Section 5.—Might be altered to suit aliens who may have obtained patents in foreign countries, before making application in the Dominion of Canada—parties using the said invention in the Dominion, prior to the application for a patent by the foreign inventor, to be suitably protected.

Sections 6, 7, 8 & 9.—To remain as at present.

Sections 10 & 11.—If patents are granted to foreign inventors for *bona fide* inventions, these two sections should be abrogated.

Sections 12 & 13.—To remain as at present.

Section 14.—To be altered to suit heirs, &c., of deceased foreign inventors.

Section 15.—To remain as at present.

Section 16.—Should be abrogated, if 14 years be made the full term of patent.

Sections 17 to 29.—To remain as at present.

Section 30.—If the three term system be adopted, we would recommend the payment of *twenty-five dollars* as the Government tax for the first term of three years—for a second term of four years, an additional payment of *fifty dollars*, and for the last or final of seven years, the further payment of *one hundred dollars*—or a total fee to the Government for the fourteen years of *one hundred and seventy-five dollars*, in place of *twenty dollars* for a like term as at present.

All, or nearly all, inventors can afford the first payment of \$25, and three years will test the value of the invention—if it prove a good one, the next fee can easily be raised, and so on. If it prove of no great value, the patent may be allowed to become void, by non-payment of next fee, and consequently be open to the public. The first fee should be moderate in amount, to give the inventor, if a poor person, a chance of obtaining the patent without calling in outside assistance, which, when done, other persons frequently reap the harvest, by obtaining the control of the patent to the detriment of the patentees.

Section 31 to 34.—With reference to the substance of these sections we would strongly advise that a nearly similar course be followed in regard to the unexpired periods of all patents granted in each of