

have not got it to-day ; and yet " we " have given it to the whole Empire. I am doing my right hon. friend the greatest service when I am calling his attention to these extravagances of language that cannot be sustained.

If the Imperial postage is a matter of great Imperial concern, its inauguration is not due to my hon. friend nor any of the " We's " about him. The hon. gentleman ought to know that Mr. Henniker-Heaton, the member for Canterbury, in England, spent twelve years of his life, night and day, fighting for this question of Imperial penny postage throughout the Empire. And for this little " We " to step in and wipe out Mr. Henniker-Heaton is an outrageous piece of presumption in contradiction with all the facts. Mr. Henniker-Heaton, after fighting all the officials of the Post Office Department with a vigour and determination that few men in any parliament have ever exhibited in any country of the world, succeeded, after long years, in convincing one of the ablest men in the United Kingdom that he was right. That man was the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, a gentleman who, when he becomes convinced, does not take very long to give expression to his convictions. What did Mr. Chamberlain say to my right hon. friend and the other premiers, when assembled in London during the Jubilee ? He said :

I should also mention the desire which is widely felt, and which I share, for an improved postal communication with the colonies. I believe the matter entirely rests with the colonies themselves, and they have revenue difficulties in the matter which have hitherto prevented our coming to any conclusion ; but I confess that I think one of the first things to bind together the sister nations is to have the readiest and easiest possible communication between the several units, and as far as this country is concerned, I believe we are quite ready to make any sacrifice that may be required in order to secure a universal penny post throughout the Empire.

What did my right hon. friend say to that proposal ? Not a word. Did he second it ? Did he say that Canada must prepare to adopt it ? Not at all. He gave no support to the proposition whatever. But his friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), when he found these other gentlemen, his colleagues, coming back bedizined with all kinds of decorations, began to think it was time for him to look out for himself. Then " I. William Mulock " issued the very wonderful despatch which will not soon be forgotten. The revenue of New South Wales is \$45,993,523 a year ; but that colony was too poor to do what we had done, and declined distinctly to do it. That great colony, New South Wales, with nearly \$46,000,000 revenue, was not rich enough to adopt this Imperial penny postage. The colony of Victoria, with a revenue of over \$30,000,000, was too poor to adopt it. The colony of New Zealand, with a revenue of \$26,250,000, was

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too poor, and declined distinctly, on the ground that it could not afford this luxury of an Imperial penny postage. The colony of the Cape of Good Hope, with a revenue of \$35,750,000 per annum, was also too poor ; and although that colony seconded the resolution, it refused to carry out the scheme unless England would bear a part of the expense. That is the position taken by these colonies.

Now, what has happened ? I have been mortified, in the last degree, to find Canadians so wanting in intelligence as to put forward a claim on the part of the Postmaster General of Canada (Mr. Mulock), that he it was who accomplished this scheme of Imperial penny postage. I do not hesitate to say, that if any public man in the Government of England had done what the Postmaster General of Canada did, he would have ceased to be a member of the Government the next day, and would never have been heard of again in connection with the post office or anything else. To find this man deified and held up as the one who has accomplished this Imperial penny postage for the whole British Empire is a reproach to the intelligence of Canadians. What did our Postmaster General do ? He published, it appears, without the authority of an Order in Council—I see a smile pervading the countenances of his colleagues at my exempting them from the mortification of having been guilty of knowing what their colleague was doing—his ukase, " I, William Mulock," by which he proclaimed to the world that, from such a day, every letter of an ounce weight should go to any part of the British Empire with a three-cent postage stamp on it. As soon as Her Majesty's Government became aware of that proclamation, our Postmaster General was told that he did not know what he was doing. He was told that he had no such power, that the thing was altogether beyond the control of the Government of Canada, and that he could not do anything of the sort. Thereupon, out came another proclamation, cancelling the first one until further orders, and declaring that all letters would require five cents per ounce postage instead of three cents per ounce. What was the result ? The Postmaster General found himself in this position, that every man who received one of these letters bearing a three-cent stamp, had to pay a fine of fourteen cents. He had to pay seven cents additional postage to bring it up to ten cents per ounce, and then, as short postage was punished by a fine, every man had to pay fourteen cents. Then, to extricate himself from this difficulty, the Postmaster General sent out instructions to his officials all through Canada, to do what they had no right to do—to put their hands into the consolidated revenue and make good the difference out of that fund. To tell me that the Postmaster General of Canada has got the postal revenue of this country to make ducks and drakes of as he pleases—the thing