

Auditor General's Report—Part N

(4.) The Dead Letter Office was first required to furnish an account in October, 1888, and it was found that there was a surplus of \$143.94 which could not be accounted for, and which amount was accordingly placed in Suspense Account.

(5.) The entry of \$72 is simply a reversal of a previous charge against Revenue, the amount having been deducted from Revenue in June quarter, 1895. The amount was remitted by the postmaster at Princeton, Ont., on the 28th March, 1893, and the registered letter, after having been initialed for by a clerk in the Bank of Montreal, disappeared and could not be found. The amount was made good by the clerk and was placed in Suspense Account.

For the future, amounts in Suspense Account will be transferred yearly.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

The Auditor General.

R. M. COULTER, D.P.G.

Re Sale of Waste Paper.

AUDIT OFFICE, OTTAWA, April 13, 1898.

SIR,—The postmaster and inspector at Toronto, and the postmasters at Halifax and Quebec, account for the proceeds of the sale of waste paper.

Why are there no returns from the other city postmasters and the other inspectors? The returns for December quarter contain the following:—

Toronto Postmaster—

3,310 lbs. waste paper at 15 cents.....	\$4 96	
290 lbs. book paper at 30 cents.....	0 87	
295 lbs. string at $\frac{1}{2}$ cent.....	1 48	
	\$ 7 31	

Inspector at Toronto—

4,500 lbs. waste paper at 25 cents.....	11 25	
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Halifax Post Office—

3,538 lbs. waste paper at 20 cents.....	7 08	
Less cartage, 8 loads at 15 cents.....	1 20	
	5 88	

Quebec Post Office—

965 lbs. waste paper at 10 cents.....	0 96	
Less cartage, 3 loads.....	0 75	
	0 21	

The small quantity accounted for at Quebec and the small price obtained, and the cartage charged there and at Halifax, call for some explanation.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

The Deputy Postmaster General.

J. L. McDOUGALL, A.G.

POST OFFICE DEPT., OTTAWA, May 23, 1898.

SIR,—With further reference to your letter of the 13th ultimo, regarding the disposal of waste paper by the postmasters of city offices, and the post office inspectors, I beg to say that this matter was gone into thoroughly with all the offices, with the result that in all but a very few places it was found impossible to dispose of the paper at any price.

The postmaster at Halifax will not, in future, pay cartage for the removal of his waste paper.

The postmaster at Quebec has certified that 965 pounds was the whole accumulation of waste paper at his office from the 1st June, 1897, to 21st October, 1897, that 10 cents per 100 pounds was the best price obtainable, and that, as the purchaser would not pay cartage, it had to be paid by the postmaster. The postmaster is now trying to arrange for the sale of the paper at the Lachute Mills, where the postmaster at Montreal has found a sale for the accumulations at his office.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

The Auditor General.

R. M. COULTER, D.P.G.