

"The Commercial Agency of Canada."

The recent inquiry at Ottawa into the working of mercantile agencies in this country has had the effect of bringing to light the fact, that Messrs. Murray, Middlemiss & Co., proprietors of the agency whose name appears at the head of this article, have won for themselves, by their zeal and straight forward actions in endeavoring to promote the interests of wholesale dealers, manufacturers and bankers, and secure them as far as possible from probable loss through granting credit to parties unable to meet their just obligations, the confidence of their patrons generally. This agency commenced operations about three years ago in the face of great opposition. At every step the proprietors have met with prejudice and obstacles of no ordinary moment; yet, by their indomitable energy and persevering impartiality, have gradually worked their agency up to its present position.

The enterprise is purely a Canadian one, although having world-wide connections, and affords facilities for their purpose, which we have reason to believe are unsurpassed, if indeed they are equalled. The head office of this institution, of which our Dominion merchants should feel proud, is located in MONTREAL, with branches at Toronto, Hamilton Halifax and St. John.

The Saint John Branch Office was opened for business in April, 1873, a little over one year ago. Under the superintendence of its present manager, Mr. Allen, it has, in this short space of time, assumed proportions far exceeding the most sanguine expectations of the proprietors.

In order to secure a central location, and to accommodate their many patrons, and also their staff of clerks, the offices of the company in this city have been removed to the rooms lately occupied by the American Consul, Bayard's building, Prince Wm. street.

Mr. Allen, although coming here from Canada a perfect stranger, has, by his courtesy and obliging disposition, made for himself a large number of friends in both business and social circles, and undoubtedly has won the approbation of his employers, who, we trust, may retain him as their representative in St. John for many years to come.

A STORM-BEATEN POST OFFICE.—The smallest post office in the world is kept in a barrel, which swings from the outthrusting rock of the mountains overhanging the Straits of Magellan, opposite Terra del Fuego. Every passing ship opens it to place letters in or take them out. Every ship undertakes to forward all letters in it that it is possible for them to transmit. It hangs there by its iron chain, beaten and battered by the winds and storm; but no locked and barred office on land is more secure. It is not in the track of mail robbers.

Post Office, St. John, N. B.**Mail Arrangements.**

Office open daily (Sundays excepted) from 6 a. m. to 9 p. m.

MAILS close.		MAILS due.
6.00 a. m.	<i>Per International Railway.</i> — Rothsay, Clifton, Kinc- ton, Hammond River, Har- vey, Centreville, Hills- ford, Moncton, Amherst, Halifax, P. E. Island, etc., Reboul, St. John, King- ston (Kent County), Luc- tonville, Chatham, New- castle, etc.	
6.00 a. m.	<i>Per Western Mail.</i> —Fair- ville, South Bay, St. An- drews, Woodstock, Bang- or, Portland, Boston, Montreal, Ottawa, etc.	7.15 p. m.
7.30 p. m.	Fredericton, daily	3.30 p. m.
8.30 a. m.	<i>Per River Steamer.</i> —Ham- stead, Gagetown, Upper Gagetown, Sheffield, Shef- field Academy, Upper Sheffield, Mungerville and Upper Mungerville, daily.	6.30 a. m.
8.30 a. m.	<i>Per St. George Mail.</i> —Mus- quash, Clunich's Mills, Prince of Wales, New River, Mac's Bay, Le- preux, and St. George, daily.	6.15 p. m.
8.30 a. m.	Piarsine, close Saturday; due Monday	11.30 a. m.
8.30 a. m.	Spring Lake, close Friday; due Monday	6.15 p. m.
7.09 a. m.	<i>Per Digby Route.</i> —Digby, Yarmouth, Annapolis, Bridgetown, Windsor, Ac., Monday, Wednesday, Fri- day and Saturday	11.30 a. m.
5.30 p. m.	<i>Per Lunenburg.</i> —Yarmouth and Westport, Friday	
10.00 a. m.	<i>Per Elgin Stuart.</i> —Windsor and Parrsboro, close Tues- day evening; due Wednesday evening, as tide per- mits	5.00 p. m.
9.09 a. m.	<i>Salt Spring Mail.</i> —French Village, Golden Grove, Lakeside, Smithtown, Ti- tusville, Salt Springs, close Friday; due Thursday	5.00 p. m.
7.30 a. m.	<i>Hammond Mail.</i> —Barnesville, Upham, Hilldale, Ham- mond Vale, etc., close Wednesday; due Tues- day	5.00 p. m.
7.30 a. m.	<i>St. Martin's Mail.</i> —St. Mar- tine and West Quaco, daily Willow Grove and Fair- field, close Tuesday and Thursday; due Wednes- day and Friday	2.30 p. m.
7.30 a. m.	Quebec Road, Loch Lomond, Upper Loch Lomond and Shanklin, close Wednes- day and Saturday; due Monday and Thursday	2.30 p. m.
7.30 a. m.	Black River, Ten Mile Creek & Gardiner's Creek, close Monday and Friday; due Tuesday and Satur- day	2.30 p. m.
7.30 a. m.	Carleton—Twice a day	2.30 p. m.
7.30 a. m.	Indiantown—Twice a day.	2.30 p. m.
7.30 a. m.	Mildredville—Tuesday and Friday	2.30 p. m.
7.30 a. m.	Musque—Saturday	2.30 p. m.

The bags for Eastern Mail Clerk will be open for letters for places east of Hammond River until 6.30 a. m.
The bags for Western Extension Mail Clerk will be open for letters for places west of Grand Bay, until 9 a. m.

After the closing of the morning Railway Mails, newspapers will be received for Car Mails while Postal Car Bags are open, and forwarded if brought to the Office separate from papers for other routes, if so addressed at the window.

Mails for Eastport are forwarded per International Steamers, closing at 7.30 a. m. on the days the boat leaves.

Mails for England, via Halifax, close August 10, at 7 p. m., and every alternate Monday; via Quebec, every Thursday at 8 a. m.; via United States, every Monday, Tuesday and Saturday, at 8 a. m.

Correspondence for Bermuda and West Indies will be sent to Halifax every day. Correspondence for British and Foreign West Indies, Cuba, Porto Rico, Mexico, Central America, China, Japan and the Sandwich Islands, forwarded daily, via United States, if so addressed and prepaid. See United Kingdom, West India and Foreign Miscellany.

Correspondence for Newfoundland sent to Halifax every day. Mails leave Halifax once in two weeks. Postage—Letters, 6 cents; Newspapers 2 cents; must be prepaid.

Mails for St. Pierre and Miquelon are conveyed by sailing packets, after arrival at Halifax of Steamers from England, as follows:—From North Sydney, in summer, fortnightly; and in winter, from Halifax, once in four weeks. Postage same as to places in the Dominion.

Postage to any part of the Dominion, 3 cents when prepaid, 5 cents if unpaid. Transient Newspapers 2 cents each. Periodicals 1 cent per 4 oz. Books and Pamphlets 1 cent per 2 oz. Must be prepaid by stamp.

Newspapers from the offices of publication for subscribers in the United Kingdom, or Newfoundland, can be sent at the prepaid rate commuted rate applicable to papers for subscribers in the Dominion.

Postage on Drop Letters for St. John delivery, 1 cent each, to be prepaid by stamp. If unpaid, will be sent to Dead Letter Office, Ottawa. Postage to Carleton and Inland towns, 2 cents.

Letters intended to be "registered" must be posted a quarter of an hour previous to the closing of the particular Mails by which they are forwarded, and the postage, as well as the registration fee, must be prepaid.

The Street and Hotel Letter Boxes at the following places will be visited at 5.00 a. m., and 6.00 p. m., viz: Corner Orange and Carnation streets; Robertson's Stable; Park Hotel; Railway Station; Corner of Union and Waterloo streets; Barnes Hotel; Royal Hotel; International Hotel; Hotel's Point; Corner of Sydney and British streets; Victoria Hotel; R. D. McArthur's, Charlotte street; Waverley House.

The Box at Marsh Bridge will be visited at 6.30 a. m. and 5 p. m.; at T. M. Reel's Drug Store at 6.30 a. m. and 7 p. m.

The Boxes in Portland, at Mr. Young's, Main street, will be visited at 5 a. m. and 7 p. m.; the Box near St. Luke's Church, at 8 a. m. and 7 p. m.

J. HOWE,
Post Office, St. John,
July 31, 1874.
Postmaster.

Refusal of the Coasting Trade.

(From *Le Canadien*)

We concede the use of our canals and other advantages, to the United States; it is but strict justice that they should accord to us the registration of our ships in their ports. This advantage will compensate for the concessions which we make them. We earnestly draw the attention of our shipbuilders to this fact, and we recommend them to take all the measures necessary to prevent the Canadian Government from accepting, without a word uttered, a refusal, so unjust, and let us add, so humiliating for Canada. If, from the American point of view, the treaty which they are endeavoring to negotiate, has only for its end to favor their commerce at the expense of ours, it would be much better to stay in *statu quo*. *Le Journal de Quebec* pretends that the draft intends the registration of our shipping in American ports. We do not know whence it draws its information; but the contrary assertion is to be found in the New York *Herald* and in the Montreal *Herald*, who draw their information from official sources.