

perfect account can be kept; the bags can always be examined with ease and despatch; and the accounts of every Post-Master checked with absolute certainty by a comparison of it with those of his neighbours. Here, however, there was none of this. Except in certain cases, too few to make out any rule, each office may be said to have mailed direct upon every other; the Post-Master making up a separate package for every office having a letter to its address, and throwing his lot of packages loose (letters and printed matter separate) into the mail-bags; and with this chaos of loose parcels of all sorts and sizes, the bags had to pass from hand to hand, for every Post-Master first to pick out (hurriedly, in privacy, and therefore almost without personal responsibility) his own share, and then throw in his contributions in return.

The matter was made worse by two other peculiarities of the system, results of the same general cause.

The old Post-Office Law under which the Department existed had made no mention except of letters. By tacit consent, the Deputy Post-Master General had been suffered (in this silence of the law) to send printed matter in the mails on his own account; to exercise, in short, a sort of franking privilege in regard to it, for his own benefit, such as in old times some Post-Office functionaries at home enjoyed. At first, its value was small; but latterly it had become somewhat enormous,—£2,635 8s., deducting cost of collection, for the year ending in July 1840.

Again, neither the law nor the General Post-Office had taken thought for the collection of United States postage on letters for or from the United States. But a private arrangement had long existed between the United States Post-Office and the Deputy Post-Master General, by which the latter was constituted the general agent of the former for this service. The United States Government would not render the like service for us; so that our postage had to be prepaid to the line, though theirs need not be. Apart from this objection, the arrangement was in other respects complex and inconvenient in the last degree; yielding considerable profit to the Deputy Post-Master General and a few Post-Masters, but extremely little to most of them, and yet giving a world of trouble to them all. All one can say for it is, that, bad as it was, it was just better than none at all would have been.

Post-Masters had thus to render three sets of accounts; one for letter postage, to the Department; a second for newspaper postage, to the Deputy Post-Master General on his own account; a third for United States postage, to the same officer as the quasi functionary of a foreign state.

They were paid for the three services, separately, and under rules neither too simple nor too equitable. In fact, the great majority, with all the unnecessary trouble thus thrown upon them, got next to no direct emolument at all. Their *real compensation*, speaking of the Post-Masters at minor offices generally, was the Franking privilege, which they enjoyed without stint for their own correspondence; a kind of compensation bearing no proportion to the labor and responsibility to be paid for, and therefore itself almost of the nature of an abuse.

The Provincial Postage rates, too, had stood unaltered from the days of the 5th Geo. III. Cap. 25, being—Heaven save the mark—as follows:—

For a single letter,—i. e., a letter of one piece of paper, and not weighing one ounce,—for a distance not over 60 miles,—4d. sterling,— converted in practice into

	s.	d.	s.	d.	cy.
Do. from 60 to 100 miles.....	0	6	stg.	0	4½
Do. from 100 to 200 miles.....	0	8	—	0	7
Do. from 200 to 300 miles.....	0	10	—	0	11
Do. from 300 to 400 miles.....	1	0	—	1	2
Do. from 400 to 500 miles.....	1	2	—	1	4
Do. from 500 to 600 miles.....	1	4	—	1	6
Do. from 600 to 700 miles.....	1	6	—	1	8
Do. from 700 to 800 miles.....	1	8	—	1	10½
Do. from 800 to 900 miles.....	1	10	—	2	1
Do. from 900 to 1000 miles.....	2	0	—	2	3

And so on forever, adding 2d. sterling, for every 100 miles; and for double and treble letters, and letters over an ounce in weight, two, three, four or more rates, according to the well-known old rule of the Anu-Rowland Hill age,

That any approach should have been made to regularity and efficiency, under these and other like disadvantages, says much for the pains-taking and capacity of those whose labors brought it about. The report does give evidence, however, that in this respect there was no short coming; and that the practical result, as a whole, was far better than could have been anticipated under such disadvantageous circumstances.

AGRICULTURAL MEETINGS.

The first meeting of the Upper Canada Provincial Institution, for the encouragement of Agriculture and Manufactures, was held at Toronto last week, and afforded a most gratifying proof that the time has arrived when Canada will not be content to lag behind other countries in the race of improvement and the development of native skill and industry. From the accounts in the newspapers,

it would seem that the exhibition of stock would have done no discredit to an English Agricultural Show, whilst for specimens of mechanical art and the produce of the garden and the loom, the meeting was not less remarkable. It is, indeed, pleasant to read of competitions such as these, where the object is to increase the fruits of the earth, and add to the comforts and enjoyments of society. In such competition there is no fear of going wrong or making enemies: every step gained brings with it some good for the community, and the advantage, instead of passing with the occasion, remains permanently, to increase the common stock of the earth. At Toronto, the premiums offered were very numerous, and included not merely agricultural produce and stock, but also manufactures, and (what in Great Britain would be unusual) the "fine arts." It was, indeed, a general demonstration of what the Upper Province can do, and of her ability to furnish herself, not merely with the necessaries of life, but also with many of the luxuries. Viewed in that light, it ought to encourage those who fear the results of Free Trade, and look upon the Colony as a sickly child that cannot support itself away from the leading "nursings" of its mother. It should also teach the farmer that he may rely more on himself instead of looking to the Government for protection. Had any one ventured to tell the agriculturists assembled at Toronto that they were not able to compete with their American neighbours, we will be bound they would not have been very well pleased, and would have given as indignant a contradiction to the assertion as was given by an English farmer at a similar meeting held a few weeks back, and who had been told that "ruin would result by his being placed in competition with the foreigner." "It was a libel on the English farmer," replied this party, "to suppose that he had not a spirit of energy and enterprise sufficient to compete with the foreigner. Never was there a grosser libel on any class of men than to say our farmers are less spirited and able than the foreign farmers in their pursuits. Let them have the same facilities for carrying on their occupation as are afforded to the manufacturer—give them the same certainty of tenure—allow them the same privilege of borrowing capital (for all are pressed at times) at the same rate of interest, namely, 4 per cent—and they will be able to produce corn as cheap as the foreigner, as well as support the labourers with even a better rate of wages." The same spirit which animates the English farmer, burthened as he is with a heavy amount of rent and taxes, may fairly be expected in the Colonial farmer, whose position is in many respects so much more desirable:

We give below an account, taken from the *Toronto Globe*, of the principal features of the show, from which our readers will judge of the strides our Upper Canadian friends are making. Nor is it at Toronto alone that these cattle shows flourish. We seldom take up a paper in which we do not meet with some account of an agricultural meeting, accompanied by remarks showing the interest the agricultural community take in them. In Lower Canada also we are glad to find a similar spirit springing up, and although we do not expect just yet to see a second "Provincial Institution," there is enough to encourage a sanguine hope of steady and rapid improvement:—

"The show of stock was considerable, a large part of superior quality. We much admire the display of short horn, or Durham, cattle, which were collected from the eastern and western parts of the province, as well as from the Home District. The cows of this breed were particularly good, and attracted the attention of visitors during the whole day. The prize cows of Mr. Howitt, of Guelph, and of Mr. John Wetenhall, of Nelson, Gore District, were very superior animals, and, we are assured, would have obtained a creditable position in either the Highland Society of Scotland, or in the Royal Society of England. These gentlemen disposed of some of their stock at a very high figure, and had, what we should consider, very handsome offers for the remainder.

"There were some magnificent sheep exhibited, and although it is, perhaps, unfair to refer to the stock of any particular breeder, when all the animals were so good, we cannot omit the notice of Mr. George Miller's (of Markham) ewes and weathers. In no part of Britain can superior sheep be found, and if Mr. Miller could improve the quality of his wool, without decreasing the size and symmetry of the carcass, we think his sheep would be unequalled in any country. Some of these sheep would weigh (slaughtered) forty pounds per quarter.

"The dairy-room contained many excellent specimens of cheese and butter. We were surprised that none of Mr. Thom's (of Scarborough) celebrated cheeses were there, but we suppose his demand is so great that he has never any on hand. There was a display of vegetables that would have done no dishonour to Covent Garden Market. The varieties of fruit were very small, the apples were, however, of various kinds, large and beautiful.

"MANUFACTURES.—There was much to encourage the friends of the province in the woollen goods exhibited. We saw several specimens of cloth of good texture and handsomely finished, and blankets in imitation of Yorkshire and Whitney manufacture, which for quality of wool and texture, and for finish and colour, could not be excelled any where. The specimens of stoves and tinware were creditable. The show of ploughs and harrows in the grounds attracted much attention, containing much