

is known as the civil service. About 2000 persons are permanently employed.

Upon Confederation of the Provinces in 1867, an Act known as the Post Office Act, was passed by Dominion Parliament. This Act took effect from the 1st of April 1868, and from that date a uniform system of post office organization was established throughout the country. The domestic rate was reduced from 5c to 3c per half oz; rate to United States was reduced from 10c to 6c the half oz, and reductions were also made in the rates on newspapers, periodicals, and miscellaneous matter.

On 1st January, 1869, there were 3,638 offices in the Dominion, and the revenue realized was \$1,024,701.00.

On 1st of January, 1870, the rate of postage on letters from Canada to the United Kingdom was reduced from 12½c to 6c the-half oz.

When the post offices of the Dominion came under a central administration at Ottawa in July, 1867, it was found that there was great diversity in practice in the mode by which postmasters were compensated for their services, some being paid by a regular salary, some by commission on the business of their offices, and some part commission and part salary. A general scale of compensation was therefore adopted, a minimum salary of \$10 a year to all small offices where the business did not warrant a higher payment, and in all other cases a salary equal to 40% on all postal business up to \$800 per year, and 25% all over that amount, and a special allowance in addition where the work had to be done during the night, and for forwarding or distributing mails for other offices. This change took place on the 1st of January, 1870, salaries to be raised every two years.

The inclusion of the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia necessarily involved the department in heavy expenditure to maintain communication with the older Provinces throughout the vast

extent of country lying between the great lakes of Ontario and the Pacific Ocean. One of the first routes established was from Winnipeg—then known as Fort Garry—to Pembina, at a cost of \$3,000 a year; another was from New Westminster to Barkerville, in British Columbia, 486 miles, at an annual cost of \$16,000.

Post cards were first issued to the public in June, 1871. Their success was proved in that 1,500,000 were issued between June, 1871, and January, 1872.

In 1872 the rate of postage upon letters sent from Canada to Newfoundland was reduced from 12½c to 9c per half oz, and the rate of postage upon other matter made the same as within the Dominion.

Prince Edward Island entered the Dominion in July, 1873, and arrangements were at once made for bringing the postal system of that Island into harmony with the rest of the Dominion.

The system of free delivery by letter carriers was commenced in 1874 in the cities of Toronto and Montreal, and street letter boxes were also introduced in the larger cities and towns, and persons to be called stamp vendors authorized to sell stamps to the public. Up to this time postage stamps could only be obtained from postmasters.

In 1874 an important change was made in the treatment of dead letters. Before, only such letters as appeared to be of value or importance had been returned to the writers; but it was decided that owing to the unsatisfactory discrimination which a cursory reading of the letters rendered possible, the system should be changed, and all letters in future returned to the writers.

In 1874 a treaty for the formation of a general postal union, and the adoption of uniform postage rates and regulations for international correspondence, took place in Berne, Switzerland, and was signed by representatives of the different nations of the world. This treaty did not include the British possessions beyond the sea