

amount of postage charged by another; and though it would undoubtedly be more satisfactory, and the benefits more complete, if the cheapest rate obtained both ways, yet it is not essential that they should ever be assimilated, and certainly not that they should be so from the outset. Moreover, though the Colonies did for some time hesitate about reducing the rates, they showed no reluctance to the drop of fifty per cent. proposed last year; indeed, Queensland went further and reserved to herself the right (which, by the way, if she enjoys, surely this country may also exercise) of establishing a penny postage of her own to England by the British India line of steamers. If the proposals made in this paper are in any way practicable, and the Home Administration can be induced—as, by sufficient popular pressure, it certainly could be induced—to reform its methods and curtail its expenditure in accordance with the principles here insisted upon, in that case the Colonies will no longer be deterred from making further reductions: by the fear of loss, since none need occur. Ultimately therefore we may fairly look forward, if the people of this country choose to take the matter up, to uniform rates of postage throughout the Empire, not only outwards, but inwards, and also between the various over-sea countries of the Empire themselves.

RESUME OF SECTION IV.

The existing inland rates could be extended throughout the Empire without pecuniary loss.

The basis of the plan proposed to this end is payment upon a weight basis and abolition of existing fixed contract system.

Upon a weight basis mail matter would be shipped with other first-class cargo, and freight paid accordingly.

The receipts upon Colonial correspondence at inland rates would, after paying freights on liberal terms, leave a fair margin for other expenses.