

THE NEW PARCEL POST.

WASHINGTON, January 26.—The president to-day approved the postal convention recently concluded between the United States and Canada. By this convention, articles of every kind or nature which are admitted to the domestic mails of either country will be admitted to the same rates of postage, and under the same conditions and classifications to the mails exchanged between the two countries except that articles other than letters in their usual and ordinary form are excluded from the mails unless they are so wrapped or enclosed as to permit their contents to be easily examined by post-masters or customs officers. All articles exchanged under this agreement are required to be fully prepaid at the rate of postage applicable to similar articles in the domestic mails of the country of origin. Articles other than letters in their usual and ordinary form, on their arrival at the exchange post office of the country of destination, will be inspected by customs officers of that country who will levy the proper customs duties upon any article found to be dutiable under the law of that country. The transmission of the following named articles is absolutely prohibited. Sealed packages which from their form and general appearance are not letters, and are not wrapped or enclosed as above required; publications which violate the copyright laws of the country of destination; packets, except single volumes of printed books which exceed four pounds six ounces in weight; liquids, poisons, explosives or inflammable substances, fatty substances, or those which easily liquify; live or dead (not dried) animals, insects and reptiles; confections, pastes, fruits and vegetables, which exhale a bad odor; lottery tickets or circulars; all obscene or immoral articles and other articles which may destroy or damage the mails or injure persons handling them. This convention goes into effect March 1, 1883.

A WASHINGTON correspondent tells an amusing story about a letter received at the postmaster-general's office, enclosing a two-cent stamp, with an explanatory note setting forth that the writer had been tempted to make use of a stamp which had not been properly cancelled, and becoming conscience smitten, had taken this mode of reparation. There is a fund in the treasury department into which "conscience money" can be paid, but there was no precedent to show how a postage stamp sent in under such circumstances should be disposed of, and the officials were correspondingly embarrassed. Finally a record was made of the fact in the book of letters received in the postmaster-general's office. The letter was then endorsed by the chief clerk and sent to the third assistant postmaster-general. When it reached that official it was transferred, after due consideration, to the finance division. Another entry was here formally made of letters received, and the letter was then placed in the hands of the chief of the division, who pasted the stamp on the letter, drew his pen through it and wrote the word "cancelled" underneath. He then affixed his signature, which was witnessed by one of the clerks, who also signed his name. The letter was then carefully filed away for future reference.