

Q. Was there any schedule of prices before July, 1874?—No.

Q. There was no arrangement as to prices come to earlier than November?—No.

Q. Then between November and July these difficulties took place about the prices?—Well they could hardly be called difficulties. Occasionally the prices were discovered to be incorrect.

Q. You did not communicate with anybody about that except the Inspector?—No.

Q. Mr. Griffin, can you tell us why the amount of printing should be so much greater during those two years than it was formerly?—It was owing to the changes in the Way Post Offices in New Brunswick; in order to assimilate them in accordance with the other parts of the Dominion they had to be furnished with entirely new blanks and forms.

Q. Was the change made in 1874?—It began in 1874 and continued through 1874 and 1875.

Q. The amount of printing in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick seems to be much larger than in Ontario and Quebec?—Well, that was the cause.

Q. How long did that continue?—For about two or three years.

After recess—

Letters dated November 20th and December 17th were read.

Q. Do you know of any other schedule before this one of July?—No.

Q. What did you mean this morning when you said that the prices under this schedule averaged less?—My impression is that the prices were less than those previously paid; there had been no previous schedule.

Q. I suppose there would have been considerable difficulty in dividing the printing, giving two-thirds to one and one-third to the other?—I do not remember that there was; the fact is we had no account before the second letter was sent.

Q. As a matter of practice would it have been difficult for the Postmaster-General or Inspector to know when he was giving two-thirds to one and one-third to the other?—Of course there would have been difficulty.

Q. Referring to letter of the 22nd of April, 1875, where is report No. 564?—It would be a letter from the Inspector, and I have not got it with me.

Q. That, of course, you can produce?—Oh, yes.

Q. You had no personal communication with any party in regard to this printing?—No.

Q. I think you stated that at the time the change was made, no account had been rendered?—No; it was hardly possible.

Q. Was any work done?—We could see by the first account. It would depend upon what the wants of the service might be between the first letter and the second, modifying it. No doubt something was ordered.

Q. I see that on the 17th of December, instructions were given by your Department, to give all the printing to the *Freeman*, and none to the *Globe*. Do you know of any Departmental reasons?—No.

Q. Do you know who the proprietor of the *Globe* was?—No, I have no idea.

Q. I understand you to say the amount of work was largely increased by changing the Way Offices into Post Offices, and that the work was much larger for those two years than for other years. Will you have the kindness to state to the Committee what was required during these two years?—Each of these offices required a different set of forms and blanks. It required about \$25 worth to fit each of them out. Indeed, for my own information, I went into the matter, and found it cost nearer \$30 than \$25, altogether for each office, and there were some five hundred offices. It was substantially the same as establishing five hundred new Post Offices.

Q. Was there any printing done by Messrs. Chubb & Co.?—Not that I know of.

(Signed)

W. H. GRIFFIN,
Deputy Postmaster-General.