

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Postmaster-General of New Zealand has sent a message to Hon. William Mulock, Postmaster-General of Canada, announcing that the colony will adopt penny postage on January 1, next.

We are under obligations to Mr. George Johnson, Dominion Statistician, for a copy of "The Statistical Year Book of Canada, for 1899." This is one of the most interesting publications issued by the Government, as it contains a fund of information condensed into compact form not elsewhere easily attainable. Its contents are largely made up from the Departmental returns submitted to Parliament, but it contains in addition valuable and instructive information which the people of the Dominion would do well to acquire. The dates and events connected with the discovery and history of Canada are of themselves sufficient to recommend the publication, but in addition to this we have a short history of the country, a description of its physical features, its constitution and government, treaties affecting it, etc. The statistical portion includes agriculture, minerals, fisheries, trade and commerce, currency and banking, railways and canals, marine, post office, finance, insurance, telegraph and telephones and electric light, militia, social and other statistics, a list of senators, members of the House of Commons, those of the provincial legislatures, and a copious and comprehensible index.

It is the custom of the management of THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER to send copies of this paper to non-subscribers when the issue contains anything supposed to be of special interest to those to whom it is sent. In doing this an opportunity is offered to those interested to quickly correct any incorrect statements, if such have been made, as well as to bring the paper into notice and obtain new subscribers and advertisers. This is a proper and legitimate procedure recognized by the postal authorities. Persons have sometimes hesitated to receive the papers thus sent, under the impression that they would be asked to pay for them. There is no expectation of pay. Such papers are sent as a compliment and as business policy. They are free.

At the recent meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association a resolution was passed calling upon the Government to make the following changes in the administration of the Patent Office: To spend such proportion of the net revenue from the fees as is necessary to secure competent examiners, and provide them with the necessary facilities for their work; to provide for the printing of all patents, so that copies could be obtained at reasonable rates; to have the examiners trained in the method of examining in vogue in the United States; to make it incumbent on examiners to take the applications in the order of filing; to provide a sufficient number of examiners to expedite the business of the office. Mr. F. B. Fetherstonhaugh, the well-known patent barrister, speaking of this matter, said that while the passage of the resolution would do no harm, he desired to pay a tribute to the manner in which Hon. Sydney Fisher had administered the patent office. The Minister of Agriculture had done and was doing all he could to keep the office at a high standard. Dealing specifically with the matters touched

on in the resolution, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh said Mr. Fisher had already arranged for printing the patents. He was getting more money for the service, and the examiners were trained men, who were thoroughly competent. They were required to and did take applications in the order of their receipt.

We are in receipt of a letter from Mr. J. S. Larke, commercial agent of the Government of Canada at Sydney, New South Wales, in which he says:—"I thank you for sending me a copy of the tariff edition of THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER. It is indeed very useful to me in my work here, the advertising portions of it being as valuable as any. I have had it but a week, and already correspondence has been begun with twenty different concerns who advertise in it, with a view of securing agencies for the sale of goods thus brought to the attention of the Australian public." It is quite evident, from what Mr. Larke says, that a large number of our friends who advertise their business in THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER are reaping a good reward therefrom by selling their products in Australia. Our tariff edition is on file in every important commercial centre in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, West Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand.

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER is in receipt of a letter from a firm of general merchants in Waimate, Canterbury, New Zealand, who desire to be placed in communication with Canadian manufacturing concerns who do or would like to do export trade to that country. They are dealers in all lines of iron goods, furniture, woodenware, oils, etc. They inform us that they pay cash at sight draft for all goods sent to them. They offer as references some of the best banking houses in London. Further particulars upon application to this office.

Mr. James M. Swank, general manager of The American Iron and Steel Association, has favored us with a copy of the second edition of the supplement to the directory to the iron and steel works of the United States, in the preface to which we are informed that in March last was presented to the trade a descriptive list of the consolidations of iron and steel companies which had taken place in the United States since January 1, 1898—twenty-three in all, the present publication being a more complete list of such consolidations, embracing those organized since March as well as those previously described, numbering thirty in all, the information relating to each consolidated company being revised and verified down to August 15. The book comprises seventy-eight well-printed pages, and contains an authorized description of the organization of each of the consolidations mentioned, giving its capitalization, list of officers, and a list of properties owned and operated by it, with the names of previous owners of iron and steel works. The name and character of every plant are fully stated. For detailed information concerning the plants mentioned and their products reference is given to the page or pages in the directory in which they are fully described. Iron ore mines, coal mines, coke ovens, railroads, and lake vessels owned by the consolidated companies are also given in sufficient detail. The supplement is printed and bound in uniform style with the directory; price \$2.00 per copy.