

unaware that under the system whereby the salaries of postmasters were determined a very substantial commission was allowed by the Department to postmasters on the sale of their stamps, and that such a practice therefore entailed a loss to the postal revenue. A privilege which had originally been established to meet accidental cases became an abuse, the demands for redemption of stamps having grown to such an extent that as a measure of self-protection the Department had to take the step it did. But to meet a need which the frequent use of stamps as a medium of remittance disclosed, the Department, simultaneously with the discontinuance of redemption of postage stamps, inaugurated the Postal Note System, which may be described as a simpler and cheaper kind of money order, designed for the transmission of small sums of money ranging from 20 cents to five dollars.

LABOR DAY IN CANADA.

The first Labor Day in Canada was celebrated in Toronto in 1885, on which occasion nearly all the Labor associations of Canada were represented. At Montreal the first Labor Day was held in 1886 and the first at Quebec in 1891. Labor Day became a legal Monday holiday through the instrumentality of Sir John Thompson, who introduced a bill into the House of Commons in the session of 1891, making the first Monday in September Labor Day.

CANADIAN STANDARD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The legal standards of weights and measures of Canada are the imperial yard, imperial pound avoirdupois, the imperial gallon and the imperial bushel. The imperial gallon is equal to 277.273 cubic inches, or 1.51171 litres of the metric system. The wine gallon used in the United States is equal to 231 cubic inches, or 3.785 litres. The bushel should be determined by weighing, unless a bushel measure be specially agreed upon, the weight equivalent to a bushel being as follows: Wheat, 60 lbs.; Indian corn, 56 lbs.; peas, 60 lbs.; barley, 48 lbs.; malt, 36 lbs.; oats, 34 lbs.; beans, 60 lbs.; flaxseed 56 lbs.; hemp, 44 lbs.; blue grass seed, 44 lbs.; lime, 80 lbs.; castor beans, 48 lbs.; potatoes, turnips, carrots, parsnips and beets, 60 lbs.; onions 50 lbs.; bituminous coal, 70 lbs.; clover seed, 60 lbs.; timothy and buckwheat, 48 lbs. By an Act of Parliament passed in 1879 the British hundredweight of 112 pounds and the ton of 2,240 were abolished and the hundredweight was declared to be 100 pounds, and the ton 2,000 pounds avoirdupois.

LAST PUBLIC EXECUTION IN CANADA.

The last public execution in Canada took place in Ottawa on February 11, 1899, when Patrick James Whelan was hanged for the murder of O'Arcy McTee. During the session of 1889 an act was passed providing that executions of sentences imposing the extreme penalty of the law should take place within the prison walls, and that no one should be present thereat except the necessary officers and certain other persons admitted by special order of the sheriff.

DOMINION COAT-OF-ARMS.

It is popularly supposed that the coat-of-arms of the Dominion consists of the arms, joined as quarterings, of all the provinces which form Confederation. This idea has, to a certain extent, been confirmed by the semi-official enrolment given in many Government publications, but it is none the less erroneous, for the quarterings are confined to the original four provinces. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, which, on July 1, 1867, were united by the British North America Act into the Dominion of Canada. Therefore, a correct coat-of-arms contains the arms of