

OFFICIAL POST OFFICE NOTICES.

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS, &C., FOR AMERICA.

THE following important alterations have been made in postages between Great Britain and the United States of America:—

We beg to call particular attention to the fact that now book packets—which, as understood, embrace many things more than books—are admitted into the United States. The Post Office announcement is as follows:—

On the 1st October next, and thenceforward, the entire postage, British and United States combined, chargeable on newspapers posted in the United Kingdom addressed to the United States of America, and whether forwarded by British mail packet, United States mail packet, or by private ship, must be paid in advance instead of the British postage only, as heretofore, and no further charge will be levied on their delivery. The following is the postage required to be paid, and this payment must be made by means of postage stamps:—For each newspaper duly registered at the General Post Office for transmission abroad not exceeding 4 ozs in weight, 2d.; for every additional 4 ozs 2d. On and from the same date, book packets and packets containing patterns or samples of merchandise may be forwarded from the United Kingdom to the United States of America, by British or United States packet, or by private ship, at the following rates of postage, which must be paid in advance by means of postage stamps: for a packet not exceeding 4 ozs in weight, 3d.; above 4 ozs and not exceeding 8 ozs, 6d.; every additional 4 ozs, 3d. These rates of postage comprise the whole charge to the place of destination, unless the packet contain any article which is liable in the United States of America to a customs duty. In any case where such duty is chargeable it will be levied on the delivery of the packet.

Under the terms "book packets," are comprehended stitched or bound books, periodical works, prices current, sheets of music, plans, maps, catalogues, prospectuses, announcements, and any other kind of printed papers, as well as engravings, prints, drawings, lithographs, and photographs (when not on glass); but no letter, or communication of the nature of a letter, must be forwarded in such packets or in or upon their covers. Every book packet must be sent without a cover, or in a cover open at the ends or sides. With the exception of packets containing unbound proof sheets only, in which ordinary corrections in writing will be allowed, there must be no writing or marks upon the packets, or upon their covers, other than the name and address of the persons to whom they are sent and the name and address of the persons who send them.

The following regulations must be observed with respect to packets of patterns or samples:—

1. There must be no writing or printing in addition to the address of the person for whom the packet is intended and the address of the sender other than a trade mark and numbers and the prices of the articles; and these particulars must in all cases be given, not on loose pieces of paper, but on small labels attached to the samples, or the bags or boxes containing them.

2. The patterns or samples must be sent in covers open at the ends, so as to be easy of examination. Samples, however, of seeds, drugs, and so forth, which cannot be sent in open covers, may be enclosed in boxes, or in bags of linen, paper, or other material, tied at the neck, or the bags may be entirely closed, provided they be transparent, so that the officers of the Post Office may be able to satisfy themselves as to the nature of the contents.

The rule which forbids the transmission through the post of any article which might injure the contents of the mail bags, or the officers of the Post Office, is so far relaxed in this case as to permit patterns of scissors, knives, razors, forks, steel pens, nails, keys, watch machinery, metal tubing, pieces of metal or ore, and such like articles to be forwarded, provided that they be packed and guarded in so secure a manner as to afford complete protection to the contents of the mail bags, and the persons of the officers of the Post Office, while, at the same time, the samples may be easily examined.

If any book packet, or packet of patterns or samples be posted unpaid, or insufficiently paid, it will not be forwarded.

No book packet, or packet of patterns or samples must exceed two feet in length, or one foot in breadth or depth.

In order to prevent any interruption to the regular transmission of letters, a book packet or packet of patterns or samples may, when it is necessary, be kept by any head Postmaster for 24 hours beyond the time when, in the ordinary course, it would be forwarded.

Upon any newspapers, book packets, or packets of patterns or samples, which the senders desire to register, a registration fee of 4d. must be paid in advance, in addition to the postage.

By command of the Postmaster-General.—General Post Office, Sept. 16, 1867

REGISTRATION OF LETTERS

On and after the 1st of October next the regulations in force with regard to the registration of letters to or from any of the British Colonies will be as follows:—

1. All letters containing coin, and all letters which shall have written or put thereon the word "Registered," or any other word or words of the like meaning, or to the like effect, whether the same shall have or contain therein coin or not, posted at any Post Office in the United Kingdom, addressed to any of the British Colonies, or posted at any Post Office in any of such Colonies, addressed to the United Kingdom, shall be delivered to the Post Office for registration, shall be registered by the Post Office at the time of the same being posted, and a rate of postage of 4d. for every such letter registered at any Post Office in the United Kingdom during the ordinary hours appointed for the registration thereof shall be charged for such registra-

tion, in addition to any other rates of postage payable thereon; and every such registration rate shall be paid at the time of such letter being posted.

2. If any such letters shall be posted without being registered, such letters shall be registered at any Post Office in the United Kingdom through which they may pass in course of transmission thereon by the post, and shall be forwarded so registered to their destination, and shall be charged with a registration rate of postage of 8d., in addition to any other rates of postage chargeable or payable thereon, with a deduction, nevertheless, equal to the amount of any stamps which may have been affixed to such letters in payment, or part payment of the registration fee chargeable thereon.

3. Any such letters may be detained for the purpose of being registered at any Post Office in the United Kingdom through which they may pass in course of transmission thereof by the post, until the next ordinary despatch to that by which they would have been forwarded, conveyed, and delivered, if they had been registered by the Post Office according to the directions herebefore mentioned.

By command of the Postmaster-General.—General Post Office, Sept. 16, 1867.

THE GRAIN CROP OF EUROPE.

A PROSPECTIVE HEAVY DEMAND FOR AMERICAN CEREALS.

THE London correspondent of the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*, (who, we understand, is editorially connected with the *London Economist*), writing under the date of August 10, has the following remarks upon the grain crops of Great Britain and the Continent:—

"But if we assume that the crop of wheat in this country will be below an average, what is likely to be the course of the market between the present time and the close of the year? There are some who persist in believing that the value of wheat in this country must continue to rule high, but I may state that these are few in number. Most persons, indeed, connected with the corn trade, are of opinion that in the event of the crop of wheat being under an average, but not greatly deficient, the quotations, in the face of our large prospective importation, must give way. To those who have not watched carefully the course of the foreign markets, this assertion has been a matter of surprise; but if we look into the future, and endeavor to ascertain what supplies of wheat we are likely to receive, it is certain that no other conclusion can be arrived at.

"In respect to the United States I shall say but little. I may state, however, that on this side we are led to believe that we shall once more be in the receipt of large supplies from your side, and that the trade in breadstuffs, which has been so long in abeyance, will shortly be resumed on an extensive scale. Through a private source I was informed yesterday that a leading American house had made very large purchases of wheat in Chicago; that the produce had been drawn against; that the exchange had been collected, and that the outflow of bullion from New York was likely to be checked.

"You will remember that in one of my letters, written about six weeks since, I mentioned that the crop in the South of Russia had suffered considerably from a protracted drought of ten weeks' duration; but as the farmers in the interior were forwarding large supplies of produce to the Odessa market, it might prove that the injury reported to have been done had been greatly overrated.

"No doubt, had the dry weather continued, the crop would have been lost; but genial rains opportunely set in, and the plant not only recovered, but the crop has turned out as satisfactorily as it did last year. You will bear in mind that the South of Russia, during the last twelve months, has furnished us with the greater proportion of our foreign supplies of wheat, and it therefore follows that a successful wheat crop in that region is likely to have an important bearing upon the course of prices here. In Austria the crop is very abundant, and the result of the harvest in Hungary is equally satisfactory. In Galicia the crop has suffered from floods and heavy storms; but, with that exception, the wheat crop in these districts has proved abundant, and we shall consequently receive large supplies from Hungary and Austria, via the Danube and Trieste. In Prussia, the result, so far, does not appear to be unfavorable. On the banks of the Vistula, viz. in Polish Prussia, heavy rains and floods have prevailed, but these are always made the most of both in that country and abroad."

IRISH BUTTER.

THE great question of reform which is now agitating the Irish mind is the substantial one of butter. A meeting of the Cork Farmers' Club was held on Saturday to consider the report of a committee who had conferred with the butter merchants on the subject. Whilst admitting the existence of abuses the committee attribute to other causes the falling off in the London markets. They state that, so far from the demand for Irish butter having decreased in the English markets, the returns of the Cork market show that it had largely increased, but the exports which were formerly consigned to agents in London are now sent direct to the provinces. Hence the London agents regard Irish butter with disfavour, because they no longer make a commission upon it, while, on the other hand, the foreign butter, not having the quality branded on it and the quotations known, as the Irish has, they are able to make 8s. or 10s. per cwt. more by selling Irish butter of the same quality. They say that the inferior quality of one-half the butter which comes to the Cork market is owing to the fact that many farmers have not suitable cowhouses or dairies, and,

as they have no leases or right to compensation or outlay, they cannot be expected to build such houses. The committee therefore recommend that the attention of landed proprietors be called to the matter. They condemn the practice of soaking firkins, overvaluing and overloading, suggest that the size of the firkins should be diminished and two sets introduced, one to contain not more than 70lb., and the other 35lb., smooth inside and neatly finished, and that frauds should be severely punished. In the course of the discussion on the report it was stated that the Macroom Farmers' Club recommended that uniform casks of 56lb. and 28lb. be substituted for other large ones now in use, and that all butter branded in the Cork market and not sold within a month be re-inspected. Mr. Maguire, M.P., has observed that the complaints were such as could be rectified by the farmer. To illustrate the magnitude of the trade, he mentioned that one merchant in the room exported last year 60,000 casks, and he pointed out the necessity for prompt attention to the matter by reminding the farmers that "their foreign trade was done up; their Australian trade was done up; America supplied herself and many other countries which Ireland supplied before. Therefore their great dependence was on the English markets." Some difference of opinion was expressed as to whether the merchants were not to blame for overhauling, and also as to the expediency of letting the makers be present while the inspectors examined the casks. The report was ultimately referred back to the committee for reconsideration.—*Liverpool Daily Post*.

AGRICULTURE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

IN a letter to a local paper Mr. Harnett, a lecturer of some repute, says:—"The configuration of this country is very singular, it seems so strange to find a country expand into such grand dimensions as you travel from these coasts. But it's just right, although a reversion of the general order of things. We find the first thing to occupy the attention of the Canadian Parliament is the admission of this Colony into the Confederation. No doubt it will be admitted. What then? The configuration of this country is precisely what the wants of man in that event require. I have long felt that one overland route cannot be sufficient for the great nation springing up on the Pacific Coast. There must be a Northern one as well as a Southern. Now, you see, as the future emigration crosses the Rocky Mountains, their pilgrimage is ended; instead of having six hundred miles further to travel as in California. Mining, farming, stock raising, are open to them to choose between at once, with ample prospects in each to invite immediate settlement. I know no portion of California, except one or two of its favored spots, that compete with British Columbia in these respects. To-day, from Lilloet to Soda Creek, North and South, and how far East and West, I do not know, it is a perfect garden, full of agricultural and pastoral wealth, fruits and vegetables of splendid character, pasturage and natural hay, in endless profusion—crops of wheat and barley that would do credit to any country. What impious trash to talk of this country dying out! Let these things be made known through your columns in England, Canada, California, everywhere, constantly, vigorously, and you will do much towards helping your country to take that place amidst the great nations springing up so rapidly on the glorious old Pacific, to which she is so justly entitled. That seems to me the higher duty of the Press, instead of wrangling over the dry bones of political issues that are dead. If it be said that the season is short, and climate bad, let us remember that nature is always retributive, and that other countries ranking high to-day suffer more in these respects than you do. Even in California, in many places North, is no better off. Taken altogether, I am astonished at the fertility of British Columbia; and if I am accused of seeing too much, I retort upon others by saying that they see far too little."

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THE OVERLAND ROUTE.

Montreal to the Pacific coast in twenty three days—the work to be done at the other end of the line.

THE *British Colonist* (Victoria, Vancouver Island), of the 19th August, contains the following:—

We are happy to inform our readers that Mr. Waddington's efforts to open an overland communication with Canada have so far not been altogether or unavailing. An active correspondence on the subject has, it appears, been carried on for some months with Canada through Dr. Powell, of this city, who has had the kindness to forward Mr. Waddington's views and statements, and have them backed there by influential parties favourable to the undertaking. These gentlemen have taken up the matter warmly, and the moment being favourable it has length been carried through, as will be seen by the following paragraph received by this mail and communicated by Mr. Waddington. It is taken from the *Norfolk Reformer*, of June 27th, published in Simcoe, Canada.

ROUTE FROM LAKE SUPERIOR.

"£55,900 was appropriated by an Order in Council, on Saturday, from the Upper Canada Colonization Fund, for the opening of a road from Lake Superior to Red River settlement. The amount is to be expended as follows:—Thunder Bay to Dog Lake, 25 miles, \$35,000; dams at the outlet of Dog Lake, \$6,000; Jordan's Rapids to the depot on Savanne River 11 miles, \$9,000; clearing out flood wood in Savanne River, \$1,000; superintendencies and contingencies, \$4,000. The road and navigation thus opened up will terminate within 70 miles of Rainy Lake, whence the navigation is uninterrupted, except by a short portage at Francis, to the Lake of the Woods, about 50 miles from Fort Garry."

The importance of this step can hardly be sufficiently appreciated by our population, for with the 911 miles