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THE TRADE REVIEW

Intercolonial Journal of Commerce.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1867.

LETTERS PATENT FOR INVENTIONS.

E publish in other columns a pamphlet by Messrs. Charles Legge & Co., offering suggestions with reference to the proposed new act for granting patent rights.

The most important of these suggestions, and one which we are convinced could not fail of benefitting this country if adopted, is that the present law of Canada be altered so as to permit citizens of the United States,—now entirely excluded from such privilego,—to take out patents here. Canadians are now charged a fee of \$500 if they desire to take out patents in Washington, a fee almost prohibitive in its amount; but so soon as they remove the filiberal restrictions which shut out the inventors of the United States, so soon will they be able to obtain patents in that country on terms as favorable as the Americans themselves.

The other suggestions of Messrs. Legge & Co. are well worthy of consideration.

MAIL DELIVERIES AND BRANCH POST OFFICES IN CITIES.

THE three results to be sought after by the Post 1 Office Department are safety, cheapness, and speed; and when a letter is carried safely at the smallest possible cost and at the quickest possible speed, the Department may be said to have arrived at the nearest possible point to perfection. We are glad to see that the Department is progressing in this desiralle direction. We need not now go back to the time when a letter cost a shilling and took a week to be carried a distance that the postman new gets over in a day and charges five cents for. Nor need we do more than allude to the promised change, by which the postage is to be reduced to three cents. These reforms show that we are advancing on the road to perfection in the art of carrying letters, although we have not arrived at it yet. That we are a long way off perfection must be evident from a comparison of the working of our system with that of other countries. In this article we propose to point out two particulars in which our system is open to reformation. we allude to the number of post offices established in our cities, and to the mode of delivering letters adopted in our city offices. We shall also contrast our system with that established in England, and our readers can see for themselves which is the heat,

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General Agents for Canada.

FRED. COLE. Secretary.

FRED. COLE, Secretary.
Inspector of Agencies—T. C. Livingston P.L.S.
9-ly

With regard to numbers, our post office system is to have but one office in each city, town, and village in the Dominion. Now, it must appear plain to every one that, although one office may do very well for a village, or even a town, yet that one office is totally inadequate to the wants of a city, especially if it is a large one. But we adhere to the one office system notwithstanding its inconvenience and absurdity; and the practical result is that the city of Montreal, with a hundred and thirty thousand inhabitants and no end of trade, commerce, and finance to look after, has no preater post office accommodation than any outlying village of a few score souls, with no trade or commerce at all to transact. Is this right? On what principle are the citizens of Toronto and Hamilton restricted to one post office? Why should there not be two or three or four or more offices in every citybranch offices, of course-so that every one in the community, no matter how far his place of business from the central office, might receive his letters speedily and without the great inconvenience that at present is experienced.

But it may be said that those business men in our cities who live one or two miles, according to the size of the city, from the post office have their letters brought to their doors by a postman. True it is that in every city there is a postman, and this postman does carry correspondence. But, alas! he is a very slow coach. As the stage coach is to the steam engine. so is the present postman to the wants of the age We are always thankful when he gratifies us with a letter which is only a day or two late. He is the horror of business men. We could not tolerate him for a moment, and yet he charges a penny for every letter he dallies over. In a large city his presence must be severely felt, and as our cities are increasing in population every year, the evil must be growing in proportion. The necessity of this official's untimely visit would be done away with if a number of branch offices were established in every city. The number would, of course, be regulated by the size and populstion of the city. The wants of the business peop o living at a distance from the centre of the city would thus also be supplied. In the United Kingdom such a system has long been established. Take London or Dublin for example. There a great number of branch offices have been established, and instead of a man having to travel a couple of miles to pest a letter, all he has to do is to go into the next street, a few minutes' walk, where there is an office in which he can purchase a stamp, buy a money order, and mail a letter. In some of our cities we have made a distant approach to this by setting up iron pillars in the streets at places distant from our solitary office, into which letters can be dropped for transmission to the central office. But this system comes far short of what is required. There is a sense of insecurity about an iron box standing at a street corner that there reguld not be alouf a brayoh office, and beside that