

CANADA'S POSTAGE STAMPS.

WITHIN the past few months business men have been complaining bitterly of the inferior quality of the stamps now supplied to the public.

To fully realise the cause of this, one has only to be about the stamp office in the post-office at Montreal on a night when the New York mail is about to close. It is no uncommon thing to witness some business man, who has just a minute or two to spare, rush to the wicket and get supplied with stamps. Being supplied, and while preparing them so that they can be adhered, he finds that the stamps of this Dominion are not made so that they can be detached with any degree of haste. He sadly mutilates the figurehead of Her Majesty in his vain attempt of separation. With a something that sounds not altogether parliamentary, the torn stamp is given a thump worthy of a Fitzsimmons. His troubles are not over, however. As he is about to place the letter in the box he observes, notwithstanding his fistic feat, the edges of the stamp slowly but surely curling up, as if in silent retaliation for the harsh treatment received at his hand.

To get the stamp properly fixed takes time, and time in these go-a-head days means money. The delay might also be the means of losing a mail, and it is needless to mention to what inconvenience a business man is oftentimes placed through the loss of a mail. To see the rear lights of a train by which one intended to go is a most bitter pill to swallow, and so with the loss of a mail. When this occurs through one's own negligence the pill can be made a little more palatable than when occasioned by some second party, and more especially from such a body as the Government of a country.

The Government, no doubt, get missiles hurled at their head for mistakes over which they have no control, but in a matter of this kind, which affects the people all over the country, it is time that the attention of the powers that be should be called to it.

Nothing is more provoking than to get a hint, when addressing a correspondent again, to see that the necessary passport be attached. The private and business man feel alike on this point, and knowing that a stamp has been attached makes them feel it all the more. Then again, how slovenly does a letter with a mutilated stamp appear.

Could this not be remedied by the Postmaster-General looking into the matter? Possibly, as the members of Parlia-

ment do not use the stamps very often, it might be well for the people at large if, for a short time at all events, they had to use the inferior class of workmanship now served out to the public. Perhaps then the grievance might be redressed.

Post-office officials say: "The stamps bad! Why, we don't find anything the matter with them, therefore we cannot complain to our superiors." If they had to use them more, might they not be able to see "eye to eye" with the less favored individuals who have to use them every hour of the day?

Take a sheet of one cent stamps, and an expert need not be called in to pass an opinion upon it, for a glance can tell that they are not finished as they ought to be. The gum seems to be of an inferior quality, and has the appearance as if the hair of the gum brush had just been set a little too wide apart. They appear as if they had been got out in a hurry, and that the perforating machine had not time to complete its task, for it is safe to say that not on one single sheet of stamps will a clear perforation line be seen. They look altogether like a third-rate article, and not at all what they should be.

Might not some M.P. who is working for an opportunity to bring himself forward take up this question as his "Flowing Tide" and help to do away with the inconvenience now felt by the public in the matter of inferior stamps?

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