

For the first few years of the Queen's reign the post offices of Canada and the other colonies were under the control of the British Postmaster General.

In 1844 we find the Post Office Commissioners of Nova Scotia petitioning the British Postmaster General to issue postage stamps for use in the colony. No notice was taken of this first request. A second appeal brought forth a polite refusal.

A few years later all the British North American Colonies joined in a demand for colonial management of the post office, and offered to account to the Postmaster General of the United Kingdom for all letters going to or by way of the United Kingdom.

The combined requisition stirred the Imperial Government to action. The time was opportune.

The leading men in the Imperial Parliament were beginning to recognize the fact, that to retain the affections of the colonies, a greater measurement of self-government would have to be granted them.

Consequently, when petitioned on post office affairs, an act was passed by the Imperial Parliament in the twelfth and thirteenth years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, entitled "An Act for enabling Colonial Legislatures to establish Inland Posts."

After a great deal of correspondence between the various Colonial Governments an agreement regarding post office management was arrived at and an act was passed by the Legislature of each of the colonies of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island on the lines of the agreement.

The respective acts were approved by the Imperial Government and became law in each colony in 1850 or 1851.

With the introduction of colonial control of the post office and the issue of adhesive stamps the number of letters and post offices increased very rapidly.

In the first year of Confederation (1868) there were 3,638 post offices. The total number of letters posted was eighteen millions, or about 5.37