

Hansa and White Cross lines might be renewed on condition that a *pro rata* deduction be made from the subsidies for any cargo carried from or to a British port. The subsidies were, however, withdrawn, and the contracts have not been renewed.

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

The desirability of assimilating the single postage rate and limit of weight to those in the United States (*viz.*, two cents for one ounce), was early in the year considered by the Council, but in view of the annual deficit in the postal revenue, it confined itself to asking the Postmaster-General to increase the weight limit for a single rate (three cents) from half an ounce to one ounce. Consideration was promised, and the Council hopes that during the forthcoming session of Parliament the concession referred to will be granted.

The need for additional branch post-offices and street letter-boxes in this city, was also urged upon the Postmaster-General, and two Receiving Houses have been established, one in the West and one in the East end.

INSOLVENCY LEGISLATION.

The bankers and merchants of this city having presented a requisition to your Council asking that steps be taken to procure the enactment of an Insolvent Law last session, Parliament was immediately petitioned praying for legislation whereby insolvent estates might be equitably distributed. It became evident, however, that for any such legislation to receive consideration from the present Parliament, it must be in the shape of a complete Insolvent Act with Discharge Clauses.

SUPPRESSION OF BUCKET SHOPS.

The Council, having previously agreed to endeavour to procure legislation for the suppression of bucket-shops, heartily supported the Hon. Mr. Abbott's Bill respecting gaming in stocks and merchandize. That Bill became law, and the Council hopes that it will fulfil its object.

NEED FOR A DOMINION AGRICULTURAL BUREAU.

The need of reliable information respecting the crops and dairy products of the whole Dominion induced the Council to address the Minister of Agriculture in November, soliciting that he would consider the advisa-