

\$46,061. In 1877, the postmasters of New Brunswick received \$25,614; in 1881 they received \$29,863. In 1877, the postmasters of Manitoba received \$1,339; in 1881, they received \$5,255. In 1877, the postmasters of British Columbia received \$4,205; in 1881 they received \$5,046. In 1877, the postmasters of Prince Edward Island received \$3,814; in 1881 they received \$5,449. This is for the country postmasters alone; the difference in these two years amounts to about \$75,000. No one will say they are not well entitled to the increase they have received, and which was based entirely on the amount of work done and the mail matter that went through each office.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. What steps have been taken to remedy complaints as to insufficient postal accommodation at Winnipeg? I am aware that owing to the influx of population there, the present provision can hardly be expected to be sufficient, but the complaints which have reached me, both from private and public sources, are both numerous and loud.

Mr. O'CONNOR. The clerks in the offices there have been largely increased; seven or eight experienced clerks have been sent from Ontario and Quebec up there. Besides that letter boxes have been established in various parts of the city, and letter-carriers have also been increased in order to relieve the office.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Will the hon. the Finance Minister be good enough to give the figures which he said bore out the statement that the difference, though large, was less now comparatively than in former years before 1878.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I have made the statement in my Budget Speech, and am taking out the figures now.

Mr. MACKENZIE. The expenditure of 1874-75 was \$1,695,000, and the deficit, \$288,000, or about half last year's deficit.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. If the hon. gentleman will take the four years following, and compare them with the two years, 1878-79 and 1880-81, he will find a different result. I recollect it was said that I did not, in my comparison for the post offices, extend the five years, as I did in other cases. That was quite true, because, in 1874-75, we had a higher rate of postage. We were then receiving a larger sum for performing the same work, therefore I took the four years when the rates for postage were the same as in 1879-80 and in 1880-81, for comparison. I cited the figures to show there was a reduction in the average of the four years.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. The invariable result hitherto has been that reduction in rates have produced a larger revenue, in the course of a very few years. That has been the experience in England, and is corroborated, to a certain extent, by our own experience. This is what my hon. friend pointed out as entirely vitiating my hon. friend's comparisons.

Mr. MILLS. Has the hon. gentleman, in that calculation, included the expense in the first four years of changing way offices in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick into post offices. There was a very considerable expense incurred during those years in consequence of those changes, and the hon. gentleman's comparison is manifestly unfair if it has not included this expenditure.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I admit there was some additional expense incurred in changing the way offices into post offices, but the same rate of salaries existed in 1878 and has not changed. The only difference I know is that the printing was very large during four or five years when these way offices were converted, and it was smaller afterwards.

Mr. CURRIER. I would like to enquire of the Postmaster General what advantage the public or the Depart-

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex).

ment have reaped from the new system of doubling the price of the post office boxes. I know it has been a serious inconvenience to many citizens. Has it increased the revenue?

Mr. O'CONNOR. I cannot say whether it has or not. There has been no return yet made on that subject. The change was made during the incumbency of my predecessor.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that in the city of Quebec, since the post office boxes have been increased, the letters are now distributed very late. When we paid \$1.50 for a box we received our letters early in the day, now we are paying \$4 to \$6, and we get our letters very late.

Mr. ANGLIN. I think an opportunity should be given to the Postmaster General to say whether the rumor is well or ill-founded, which states that the uniforms for the letter-carriers in several cities and towns of the Dominion have been imported ready made from Great Britain.

Mr. O'CONNOR. There has been a great deal said about that matter, but the rumor is altogether unfounded. The uniforms are made in this country, though others have contended that it would be better to import them.

Mr. ROSS (Dundas). I desire to bring to the notice of the hon. the Postmaster General one or two matters that should claim his attention. In some country post offices, the postmaster gets only a salary of \$10 for attending to the mails twice a week. Now, is that the way to pay the servants of the Government. We pay city postmasters and their deputies large salaries, yet we ask country postmasters to attend to the post office, to enter into bonds, for a salary of \$10 and upwards. Then there is another point. In large and thriving villages, such as I have in my county, the postmasters have to devote their whole time to the office, and employ assistants, for only \$600 a year. They have to furnish the office, employ competent assistants, and to distribute to some fifteen or twenty corresponding offices, and for all these duties they only receive from \$600 to \$900 a year. It seems to me there should be some readjustment in the allowances to country postmasters. The postal service is becoming every day more important in this country, and people are every day appreciating and demanding better postal facilities; yet, in many neighborhoods, people have got to put their hands into their pockets and pay a certain sum yearly to keep the postmaster in office.

Mr. O'CONNOR. There must be very few offices where the postmasters receive no more than \$10 a year, and that is in places where there is but very little to do. Moreover, these offices are generally kept by persons who are carrying on some other business, and they are glad enough to get charge of the post office in order to attract people to their place of business. As to the large villages and towns, I think my hon. friend exaggerates a little the state of affairs there. The postmasters in all the towns are paid a percentage upon their collections. Besides the 40 per cent. which they receive on collections, they are allowed compensation for forwarding offices, lights and things of that kind. As a general rule, I think, they are pretty fairly dealt with.

Mr. McCUAIG. I am free to admit that the salaries paid to postmasters throughout the country are small, but we are applying for an increase to the number of post offices. Whenever we add to the number we increase by a large amount the expenditure which is already very large. If this House is prepared to vote double the present sum the Postmaster General will be quite willing to increase the salaries of the postmasters, but unless it is prepared to vote a large sum in addition to that already granted, the salaries cannot be increased. I consider it my duty to bear my testimony to the very faithful manner in which the Post Office