

## Civil and Social Department

## THE POST OFFICE IN THE NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

A communication from Lord Clarendon, Postmaster-General, to the Lords of the Treasury, recommending her Majesty's government to surrender the control of the Post Office in the North American colonies, is already before the people of Canada. Colonial and Imperial rights are so closely connected, on this question—the one, as it were, running into the other—that it is difficult to draw the line of demarcation between them, and apportion to each its just amount of rights and duties, without giving to the other reasonable ground of complaint. Hitherto the causes of complaint connected with the Colonial Post Office have been all on one side. On one side has been power and profit; on the other, suffering and complaint. The old tenure is to be dissolved. A division line is to be drawn; but it will be on that by one party and the settlement must be accepted by the other. Let us see if we are offered fair and honorable terms. We may premise that if England has no clearly defined right to assume the entire control of the Post Office in the North American colonies, she has rights connected with that department, which she will not, and ought not to surrender. To preserve these rights she states, in the form of a suggestion from the Postmaster-General to the Lords of the Treasury, the conditions on which she will surrender the control of the Colonial Post Office: Lord Clarendon says:—

"I beg leave to suggest that the North American Post Offices should be administered on the following principles, and that no Bills of the Provincial Legislature, which are not compatible with them, should receive the assent of the Imperial Government.

First.—That no transit postage shall be chargeable on letters forwarded between any of the North American Provinces, for the cost of conveyance through any of those Provinces.

Secondly.—That the uniform internal Colonial rate of two pence the half ounce shall still remain in operation as regards letters transmitted in the British Mails, between the United Kingdom and the North American Provinces, and that the same uniform rate shall be extended to the correspondence of those countries with which we have Postal Conventions, in case such countries should establish Packets of their own, and her Majesty's Government should demand in their favour the concession of such a privilege. Of course, in the event of an uniform internal rate of less amount than two pence being adopted for Provincial letters, the benefit should be given to the correspondence of the United Kingdom, and the foreign countries alluded to. This rate should be collected according to the Prussian scale.

Thirdly.—That the pre-payment or payment on delivery of postage, shall still remain optional with respect to the correspondence transmitted between each of the Provinces respectively, but that each Province shall keep, as now, the amount it collects, in order to avoid complicated accounts and many expenses for exchanging orders, for the purpose of ascertaining the actual revenue to which each is entitled for the unpaid letters which it transmits to either of the other Provinces, and for the paid letters received from those Provinces for delivery. With respect to the correspondence transmitted between the North American Provinces and the United Kingdom, and that forwarded through the United Kingdom, a similar optional payment shall still remain, wherever it is practicable, but the existing mode of account shall be retained both with respect to the British Packet Postage, and the uniform internal Colonial rate of two pence."

These conditions are absolute. They are the conditions on which the Home government consents to make a surrender of the control of the department to the North American colonies. With regard to the transmission of British letters through the colonies she requires no new conditions, and no advantage for herself which she does not equally claim for other "countries with which she has postal connections."

Before the surrender of the control is made, the colonies are required to agree on some uniform plan, which will be applicable to them all.

We observe that the question has been raised whether, under the new plan, it would not be advisable to make pre-payment of all letters compulsory. It is acknowledged that such a plan would lessen the expense of the department. But unfortunately it does not always happen that the cheapest plan can be adopted; and we fear that under present circumstances, compulsory pre-payment of letters could hardly be successful.

We might almost take it for granted that an uniform rate of postage, for Canada, and perhaps for all the North American colonies, will be adopted. Whether it be 1d or 2d or 2½, will be a question for future discussion and settlement. In a thinly populated country like Canada, with its extreme settlements very wide apart, there can be no question that a rate of 2d would produce more revenue than 1d, and 2d more than 1d. It therefore becomes a question whether it be advisable to make the department self-sustaining or to make up any deficit in the revenue of the department from the general funds of the Province.

## THE COMMON SCHOOLS OF UPPER CANADA.

We learn, from a circular issued from the Education Office, that the Chief Superintendent of Common Schools for Upper Canada is about to pay a visit to the several Districts in this part of the Province. The time when he will make his several visits is mentioned below; and at seven o'clock in the evening of the first day mentioned as the time he will visit each District, he will deliver a public discourse on "the Importance of Education to an Agricultural, Manufacturing, and Free People." At nine in the morning of the second day, he will meet the District Superintendent, Trustees, Clergy, District Councillors, and as many of the friends of Education as think proper to attend. He will answer questions relating to the Common School Law, and consult on the best means of improving and rendering it efficient. The Provincial Normal School will come under consideration, as well as the establishment of school libraries, and the publication of a semi-monthly Journal of Education for Upper Canada. Those who have suggestions or enquiries to make, must be prepared to present them in writing.

General attention should be given to the subject; and the intelligent in every part of the country, should express their opinions with regard to the present system of school instruction, suggest improvements if they have conceived any, and satisfy themselves on doubtful points by enquiry:—

The following are the dates at which, (D.F.) the undersigned will be in the several Districts for the purposes stated above, viz:—

Districts.	Months.	Days of the Week.
Talbot	Sept. 29 & 30,	Wed. & Thursday
Brook	Oct. 1 & 2,	Friday & Saturday
Wellington	4 & 5,	Monday & Tuesday
Gore	7 & 8,	Thursday & Friday
London	11 & 12,	Monday & Tuesday
Huron	13 & 14,	Wednesday & Thursday
Kent	18 & 19,	Monday & Tuesday
Western	20 & 21,	Wednesday & Thursday
Niagara	25 & 26,	Monday & Tuesday
Eastern	3 & 4,	Wednesday & Thursday
Ontario	8 & 9,	Monday & Tuesday
Dalhousie	10 & 11,	Wednesday & Thursday
Bathurst	12 & 13,	Friday & Saturday
Johnstown	15 & 16,	Monday & Tuesday
Midland	17 & 18,	Wednesday & Thursday
Prince Edward	19 & 20,	Friday & Saturday
Victoria	22 & 23,	Monday & Tuesday
Newcastle	24 & 25,	Wednesday & Thursday
Colborne	26 & 27,	Friday & Saturday
Simcoe	2 & 3,	Thursday & Friday
Home	7 & 8,	Tuesday & Wednesday

## GOOD PROSPECT AHEAD.

At the commencement of the late Session of the Provincial Parliament, we ventured the prediction that an Address of the House of Assembly to Her Majesty, praying for the opening of the navigation of the St. Lawrence to the vessels of all nations, would be cheerfully responded to by her Majesty's government. The result proves that we were right. A Dispatch has been received by Lord Elgin's government from Earl Grey, which intimates the willingness of the Imperial government to treat the free navigation of

the St. Lawrence as a separate question, without reference to the Navigation Laws as a whole. The Dispatch was written previously to the arrival in England of the Address of the House of Assembly on the subject, and was therefore penned when the Colonial Secretary was not cognizant of the wishes and feelings of the people of Canada on the subject. The Colonial Secretary intimates that there will be no obstacle to the free Navigation of the St. Lawrence, when the wishes of the Colonists are known to be favourable to it. The evidence on that point, contained in an unanimous Address of the House of Assembly, is now before her Majesty's government. We may therefore expect with confidence that the boon will be conceded; that we shall soon be in a position to draw a large portion of the carrying trade of the Western States through our canals and rivers; and if the rates of tolls be judiciously adjusted; if they be placed at that point, which will yield the greatest amount of revenue; neither so high as to drive the trade through other channels, nor so low as to sacrifice available revenue, Canada will in a few years be the lightest taxed country in the world; as the proceeds of the canal tolls will go far towards supporting the expenses of the Civil Government.

## ORDER OF AGRICULTURE.

Royalty is at length stepping forward to heap honours upon the tillers of the soil. It has perhaps hitherto been thought that they, honoured by the nature of their calling and their own industry, needed not the adventitious or artificial distinctions it was the practice or in the power of Royalty to bestow. We are happy to see that the distinctions and rewards which are to be given by Royalty to the cultivators of the soil, are to be the reward of distinguished merit:—

"The King of Prussia has just created an order destined exclusively to agriculture, that is to say, to cultivators and persons who distinguish themselves in this department of industry. The decoration bears on one side the effigy of the King of Prussia, on the other, a motto 'For Agricultural Merit,' surrounded with a crown of wheat, with vine and olive leaves. These classes are to be established in this order—The King reserves to himself the exclusive right to distribute the order of the first class; the second and third will be granted to farmers presented by the College of Economy. The distribution will take place annually, on occasion of agricultural festivals, and the solemn sessions of Agricultural Societies in the Prussian Monarchy."

## SKETCHES OF THE COUNTRY,

BY "THE FARMER'S SON."

The Crops in Dumfries, Waterloo, Woolwich, Guelph, Nicol, &c.—Disastrous effect of a terrible Hail Storm—Fine Farms—Intelligent Dutch Farmers—Fruit—Delightful section of country—Lunestone—Menonites—Appearance of Rot amongst Potatoes raised from the seed.

To the Editors of the Canada Farmer.

Nicol, Sept. 18th, 1847.

DEAR SIRS.—With pleasure I sit down to write you a slight sketch of the parts of the country through which I have passed during the last two weeks. I will begin with Dawson's Bridge, a little village between Paris and Galt; the enterprising inhabitants of this part of Dumfries have, during the present season, erected at this place an excellent free bridge, which was very much needed, the old one having been in a very dilapidated condition for some months past. From this place I passed through the northern part of West Dumfries: a fine part of the country, although it contains numerous marshes and ponds of water. The crops in this section of Dumfries are not very good, the oats in many parts being short and thin; in some places, however, they are excellent. There is not much barley raised here. Buckwheat generally looks well, although the farmers in this part do not raise much of this kind of grain. Rye is not much cultivated here. The wheat had been harvested, but in part of this section, it will not yield more than one-third of an average crop. This great failure was caused by a terrible hail storm which entirely destroyed some fields of wheat, into which some turned their cattle, and some their plough and horses—turned over the ground and sowed buckwheat on it. I visited the place a few days after the storm, and carefully examined different fields, in some of which the greater part of the heads left standing appeared like heads of wheat that

had passed through the threshing-machine and been only half threshed. Wheat, also, was considerably injured by the winter, being "frozen out;" and, consequently, was thin on the ground. I heard no complaint in this part about the potato rot, but was told that it had not yet appeared, and that potatoes were likely to prove a good crop. Turnips are generally thin on the ground and also small; however, some fields that I saw were very good.

I have visited Waterloo, Woolwich, Guelph, and Nicol, within the last fortnight, and am highly delighted with this section of the Province. Waterloo, you are well aware, has been settled many years, chiefly by people from Pennsylvania. It is a beautiful section of country, naturally; and more beautiful artificially, i.e., the farmers by their industry and perseverance have made their fields as much more beautiful than the "wild woods," as they are more valuable. To be convinced of the truth of what I say, you should travel through this township. View the fine farms, containing extensive fields, cultivated in a superior manner; the commodious buildings, barns especially, about which everything, or many things, are arranged in a way the most convenient as well as advantageous conducive to the ease as well as the wealth of the owners. There are, however, exceptions. The Dutch generally are a reading people, as you will observe by the list of names forwarded to you, although some esteem an agricultural journal of little value. One wealthy farmer, an old gentleman, said he would not take such a paper, as he knew more about farming than those who published it; the truth of which I did not in the least doubt: for soon after I viewed the part of his farm next to the road, which produced a most luxuriant crop of this-les, some being more than six feet high, with numerous large branches in which the fowls might perch. Another farmer said he would not give a shilling for an agricultural paper, and he likewise had some vegetables of rich growth, especially nettles, which were quite as large as his neighbour's this-les. But these were only exceptions. And most of them are, as I said before, a reading people, and well aware of the utility of such a paper. The crops are, generally, and long good in Waterloo. Wheat is generally plump, although much of it was killed by the severe winter. Oats generally is excellent, although in some parts it is short. Barley is not cultivated to any great extent. The potato rot is again appearing in its worst form, and is likely to deprive many of the greater part of their crop for the present year. Turnips are grown by several farmers to a considerable extent. Apples are not abundant; very few peaches are grown; I never saw so many plums in any other township; pears are grown to some extent; cherries are not plentiful. I beg pardon, I had nearly omitted corn, which omission would have been similar to the farmers who grow very little.

My remarks upon Waterloo, minus fruits, may be applied to the other townships mentioned.

But here allow me to return to Waterloo, and give you a more minute description of this beautiful and, to me, highly delightful section of country. Proceeding north from Galt, (at which place I crossed from West Dumfries) for a distance of three or four miles along this part of the road you do not observe the best farms in Waterloo, nor scarcely the second best, although some of them display the results of the energy of their owners. About three miles north of Galt the road crosses a branch of the Grand River. At this place there is no bridge at present, it having been carried away by the heavy rains in the former part of the season. The parts of Waterloo through which the river flows are very stony. Limestone predominates, being found in large beds or layers. The river in many places is also skirted with cedar trees, interspersed with birch, some ash, and a few other varieties. Passing along about half a mile, we gain the summit of the hill, north of the river. On your left stands the Menonite meeting-house, in which the Dutch families in this part hold their meetings. And here let me remark, that the Dutch in Waterloo are chiefly Menonites. But time warns me that I must leave this part of the subject. On Saturday, 11th inst., wheat was standing out in the fields in Nicol; some remaining uncut.

A gentleman in Nicol, near Fergus, informed me that about eight or ten years since he commenced the experiment of growing potatoes from the seed. Last year his potatoes rotted quite as much as others; this season they are rotting also. It is about three weeks since the first appearance of the rot this season, and remember, this is among the potatoes from the seed at the above mentioned time.

THE FARMER'S SON.