A TRANSATLANTIC P. P.

INTERVIEW WITH THE POSTMASTER ON THE SUBJECT.

The Negotiations in Progress—What a Civil Service Head Thinks of Municipal Exemption—Poorly Paid Government Employes.

Seeing reference made to the establishment of a parcel post between England and Canada, and hearing parties interested in trans-Atlantic matters talking of it, The World yesterday interviewed Postmaster Patteson and asked whether he had seen the allusion in the Mail newspaper.

"No," said the postmaster, "but it is true, I know, that negotiations have been in progress for some time with a view to the establishment of parcel post between England and Canada, and Sir Alexander Campbell, the postmaster-general, is anxious to bring them to a satisfactory termination. And I think he will be successful," added the postmaster.

"Do you know of your own knowledge that there is a public demand for this improvement?" asked our reporter.

"Seldom a week passes without somebody being called upon to pay letter rate here, and a fine besides, upon a parcel posted in England by some friend who presumed that a parcel post system was in force between the two countries. The victim generally comes round to my room to air his or her grievance. It would, no doubt, be an immense boon to families having representatives on both sides of the ocean. I have brought it under the notice of the department frequently, and years ago used to ventilate the matter in the press; but nothing as yet has come of it. It has been a hobby of mine ever since I came to live here."

"What are the difficulties?"

"Shadowy, I think. The appraisements for customs purposes could be done in this office by a proper officer, as well as at the custom house, and the duty collected before delivery. The chief difficulty, probably, is in the immenses inland distances that these parcels would have to be carried for a trivial rate."

"The ocean steamers and the railways would demand an increased subsidy, I suppose?"

"No doubt they would try for it; but the matter does not come at all within the scope of my official duties or knowledge. From personal observation and experience I know that such a parcel post is badly wanted, and I can see no insuperable difficulties. They have parcel post between India and England."

"Do you know the limits of weight and size in the case of India?"

"No. But of course this is all known well enough at Ottawa."

"What is the difference between the size of parcels allowed to pass in Canada and in England?"

"In England the limit is length and girth combined, 6 feet, weight 7 lbs. Here the maximum weight is 5 lbs, length 2 feet, girth 1 foot. But in any Anglo-Canadian parcel post system the limits would probably be not only far under the English maximum but under ours. In England the average distance a postal parcel has to travel would not, I think, exceed 100 miles. Here it would be greatly more. One parcel from Toronto to Calgary would cost the department as much for conveyance as fifty between Toronto and Hamilton. The application of a general rate regardless of the distance is an easier matter in England than in the dominion. And this is one reason why the department is self-sustaining in England and not in Canada."

"On the whole, then, you think parcel post into Great Britain is likely to be established?"

"I can't say why it should not be; but I have no official knowledge of the negotiations."

As The World retired, after thanking the P. M., Mr. Patteson called after him to ask why The World was pitching into the exemption of dominion salaries from municipal taxation. He asked if he could possibly defend the exemption, the P. M. admitted that it was based on no good or fair business principles—but, said he: "The cities should be glad to forgo the trifle in question, when you consider that the heads of the civil service on whom the taxation would fall most heavily are the worst paid men in the country. I have no end of correspondence and interviews, to preserve discipline among 120 men, am responsible for an immense sum of cash handled in the money order and savings bank offices, and am paid $3000. The salary paid to men with equivalent responsibilities in private business would be double mine. My predecessor had $3500, when the business here was less than half what it is now. But I am aware that if I resigned to-morrow, fifty capable men would apply for the office if the salary were reduced one half. That is a contingency not taken into consideration by the board of directors, who fix their managers' salaries at sums ranging from $15,000 to $5000 per annum. And yet it is equally true that cheaper substitutes could be found. I could give you a dozen instances in this city. Official salaries are low enough without being docked, but the exemption is indefensible on any other ground, though I know the specious allegations brought forward by the civil service petitioners against alteration of the act.

Gracious Good! Goodness Gracious.

—What is that firm, Pittman & Co., doing? Why, they have almost monopolized the mantle trade this season, and no wonder, for they have the handsomest store in Canada and the finest assortment of goods in their specialty ever shown in the dominion. Call any afternoon and see the style of trade they are doing at 218 Yonge street. It will surprise you. 135

Had a Mole in Her Stocking.

A specialist in throat troubles was called to treat a Boston lady who manifested so much interest in his surgical instruments that he explained their uses to her. "This laxyngoscope," said he, "is fitted with small mirrors and electric light; the interior of your throat will be seen by me as clearly as the exterior; you would be surprised to know how far down we can see with an instrument of this kind." The operation over, the lady appeared somewhat agitated. "Poor girl," said her sister, who was present, "it must have been very painful." "Oh, no, not that, not that," whispered the Boston lady; "but just as he fixed his instrument in place I remembered that I had a hole in my stocking."

Have a Cigar.

—Another large lot of our justly famous "*Royal Grenadier*" cigars to hand, done up in 50's. They are better than ever and every one *union made*. Gentlemen who enjoy a first-class cigar should try our "*Royal Grenadier*." Smokers say *it is the best 5c. cigar in this city*. Sold only at "*The Jewel*" cigar store, 104½ Queen street west, 3 doors west of Elizabeth street, on Queen. 246 x. A. B. MACKAY.

The Celebration of New Years.

—Notwithstanding the absence of snow the day was spent in a jolly manner. Calling was in order. As usual, lots of tea, coffee, wine, etc. Now that the boys have cultivated a taste for a fine Havana cigar they will not indulge unless they can get a General Middleton or our Brave Boys brands, union made, and registered. Manufactured only by W. R. Dobson, 159 King street east. 246 X

Real Estate.

—Persons having real estate to sell are requested to leave description with Eager & Faulkner, 21 Adelaide street east. If desired, they will be published in their spring list free of expense. No charge is made unless sale is effected through them. 246x.

—Stanton's Sunbeams—beautiful little photographs on tinted mounts—$1 per dozen. 134 Yonge street. All other sizes at lowest prices for first-class work. 246

A SILLY GIRL'S DISAPPOINTMENT.

She Visits Her Note-paper Lover to Find Him Red-headed and Pug-nosed.

ELMIRA, Jan. 6.—This morning Theda A. Strumbis of Rollin, Mich., a bright and pretty young lady of good family, arrived in the village of Canisteo, Steuben county, and hired a horse and drove immediately to Hartsville. On her return, and while waiting for her train, she told her story. Several months ago she began a correspondence with a young man named George Benjamin, whom she had never seen. The letters between them became more frequent and affectionate until a marriage engagement was made. The ceremony was to have been performed on New Year's, but on that day the expectant bride, having made all the preparations for the wedding, received a telegram from Benjamin's sister announcing that Georgie was very low with typhoid fever, and could not keep his engagement, and that he was continually asking for Theda. The telegram urged her to come to his bedside, and she hurried as fast as possible. He had never sent his photograph, but described himself as good looking and having dark hair and moustache. With evident disgust the young woman said he proved to be red-headed, pug-nosed and squint-eyed. He was not sick when she arrived at his house, and had not been ill at all. There was a scene there, and the disappointed and foolish girl returned to her home, refusing to have anything to do with the note-paper lover.

JESUIT CLAIMS IN CANADA.

A Compromise Expected to be Arrived at With Quebec.

MONTREAL, Jan. 8—In 1625 three Jesuit Fathers—Lalemant, Masse and De Brebeuf—came to Canada from France. After some time they were followed by other members of the order, and before a century had passed the Jesuits had acquired considerable property at Quebec city and in other parts of what was then called "New France." In 1762 the order was suppressed in the mother country, and in 1774 the same royal mandate was carried into effect in this country. The estates belonging to the Jesuits, however, remained in possession of the executors of the order until 1800, when the country had been under the English flag for seventeen years, when they were vested in the crown. The Jesuits never abandoned their claim on their confiscated property, and for some time past measures have been taken to obtain restitution. It appears now that the pope has authorized the archbishop of Quebec to enter into negotiations with the provincial authorities for the purpose of settling the claims of the Jesuits, and, as the majority of the members of the local legislature are French Canadian Catholics, it is thought that the compromise will be effected.

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Patent Act of 1872 and Amendments, Section 28.

Notice is hereby given to all persons desirous of making and using the invention in Electric Cables and Apparatus for the Manufacture of the same, for which certain letters patent of Canada were granted to R. S. Waring, that the undersigned is prepared to grant licenses upon reasonable terms under each and all of said letters patent and otherwise place the patent inventions in possession of the public in accordance with the provisions of the above recited act. Communications may be addressed to me in care of the Standard Underground Cable Company, Pittsburg, Pa., or No. 123 Pearl street, New York, U.S.A., all applications will receive prompt consideration and reply. R. S. WARING, Patentee.

The following is a list of the letters patent above referred to: No. 18239, Dec. 1, 1883, Electric Cables; 18240, Dec. 1, 1883, Electric Cables; 18241, Dec. 1, 1883, Splicing Cables; 18243, Dec. 4, 1883, Dividing & Branching Cables; 18253, Dec. 4, 1883, Branching & Looping Cables; 18277, Dec. 11, 1883, Submarine Electric Cables; 21231, March 12, 1885, Electric Cables; 21232, March 12, 1885, Electric Cables; 21233, March 12, 1885, Electric Cables; 21234, March 12, 1885, Electric Cables; 21235, March 12, 1885, Repair Defects in Cables; 21236, March 12, 1885, Joints for Electric Cables; 21237, March 12, 1885, Mandrels for Cable Press; 21238, March 12, 1885, Mandrels for Cable Press; 21239, March 12, 1885, Mandrels for Cable Press; 21240, March 12, 1885, Mandrels for Cable Press; 21241, March 12, 1885, Mandrels for Cable Press; 21242, March 12, 1885, Mandrels for Cable Press; 21243, March 12, 1885, Mandrels for Cable Press; 21244, March 12, 1885, Mandrels for Cable Press; Canadian Patent to Waring & Hyde, 17307, Sept. 10, 1883, Insulation Material. 36

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