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3rd Session, 5th Parliament, 20 Victoria, 1857.

**B I L L .**

**An Act to amend the Post-Office Laws of  
this Province.**

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Received and read 1st time, Friday, 8th  
May, 1857.

Second reading, Tuesday, 12th May, 1857.

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**Hon. Mr. SPENCE.**

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**S. Derbshire & G. Desbarats, Queen's Printer.**

## An Act to amend the Post-Office Laws of this Province.

**W**HEREAS it is expedient to amend the Post-Office Laws, in the manner hereafter provided: Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows: Preamble.

5 I. Sections one and five of the Post-Office Act passed in the eighteenth year of Her Majesty's Reign, and chaptered seventy-nine, are hereby repealed. Sect. 1 and 5 of 18 V. c. 79, repealed.

10 II. Newspapers printed and published within this Province and addressed from the Office of Publication, shall be transmitted from the Post-Office where mailed to any other Post-Office in Canada, or to the United Kingdom, or to any British Colony or Possession, or to France, free of Canadian postage. Newspapers printed in the Province, when to pass free.

15 III. Newspapers printed and published in the United Kingdom, or in any British Colony or Possession, or in France, when received in mails addressed to this Province and directed to any place in Canada, shall pass through the Post and be delivered at the Post-Office addressed, free of Canadian postage. And when printed in H. M. dominions or in France.

20 IV. For the purposes of this Act, the word "newspapers" shall be held to mean periodicals published not less frequently than once in each week, and containing notices of passing events. What shall be deemed Newspapers.

25 V. Periodicals printed and published in this Province other than newspapers, when specially devoted to General Education, Agriculture or Temperance, or to any branch of Science, and addressed directly from the Office of Publication, shall be transmitted from the Post-Office where mailed to any other Post-Office in this Province free of postage. Certain other periodicals to pass free.

30 VI. Letters and otherailable matter addressed to or sent by the Speaker or Chief Clerk of the Legislative Council or of the Legislative Assembly, or to or by any Member of the Legislature at the Seat of Government, during any Session of the Legislature, or addressed to any of the Members or Officers in this section mentioned at the Seat of Government as afore-  
35 said during the ten days next before the meeting of Parliament, shall be free of postage. Letters to the Clerks and Officers of the Legislature to pass free in certain cases.

VII. So much of the twelfth section of the Post-Office Act, passed in the session held in the fourteenth and fifteenth years Post Master General's re-

ports when to  
be made and  
up to what  
time.

of Her Majesty's Reign and chaptered seventy-one, as requires the Postmaster General to make to the Governor General of this Province, annually, certain Reports for the purpose of being laid before the Provincial Parliament at each Session thereof, for the year ending the fifth day of April previous to such 5 Session, is hereby repealed; and it shall, hereafter, be the duty of the Postmaster General to furnish such Reports annually so that they may be laid before the Provincial Parliament within ten days after the assembling thereof, and such Annual Reports shall be made up to the thirtieth day of September previous to 10 each Session.

Post Masters,  
&c., may be  
called upon to  
account and  
pay over, at  
such intervals  
as the Post  
Master General  
shall see  
fit.

VIII. Nothing in the twenty-first section of the Act last above cited, shall be construed to prevent the Postmaster General from requiring any Postmaster or other person authorized to receive the postage of letters and packets, to render his 15 accounts and pay over to the Postmaster General the balance by him due, at shorter intervals than three months, but it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to instruct and require any such Postmaster or person, or any class or number of such Postmasters or persons, to render his or 20 their accounts and pay over the balance due by him or them, respectively, at the end of every month, or such other period as the said Postmaster General may from time to time see fit to appoint; and if any such Postmaster or person shall fail to render his accounts and pay over the balance by him 25 at the time so appointed, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to cause a suit to be commenced against him, and to such suit and to such default on the part of the Postmaster or other person as aforesaid, all the provisions of the said twenty-first and of the twenty-second section of the said 30 Act do and shall apply as fully as to cases where the accounts are required to be rendered and the balance to be paid at the end of every three months.

Certain parti-  
culars as to  
the money  
order Branch  
to be included  
in P. M. G's.  
annual Report.

IX. In addition to the information required by the Act recited in the preceding section, it shall be the duty of the 35 Postmaster General to include in his Annual Report, Returns of the transactions of the Money-Order Branch of the Post-Office Department, shewing:

List of money  
order offices.

First—The Money-Order Offices in operation at any time within the year for which the Return is made, designating in 40 each case the County wherein the Office is situated, the number and amount of Orders issued and paid, and the amount of Commission arising thereupon at each Office respectively—distinguishing, with respect to the Commission, the proportion allowed as compensation to the Postmaster, and the proportion 45 accruing to the Revenue in each case;

Secondly—The annual cost of the Money-Order system, *Annual costs.* specifying in detail the disbursements for salaries, advertising, account books, printing, stationery, and every other item of expenditure ;

5 Thirdly—The names of the additional Money-Order Offices *New offices.* opened, and of such Money-Order Offices as may have been closed within the year ;

Fourthly—The losses, if any, sustained in conducting the *Losses.* system, and how incurred.