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No. 239.

2nd Session, 6th Parliament, 22 Victoria, 1859.

B I L L .

An Act to amend the Post Office Laws.

Received and Read, 1st time, Tuesday, 12th
April, 1859.

Second Reading, Thursday, 14th April, 1859.

Hon. Mr. SIDNEY SMITH

S. Derbishire & G. Desbarats, Queen's Printer.

An Act to amend the Post Office Laws.

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

1. There shall be payable on all Newspapers sent by Post in Canada, except "Exchange Papers" addressed to Editors and Publishers of Newspapers, such rate of Postage, not exceeding one cent on each such Newspaper, as the Governor in Council shall from time to time direct by regulation, and such rate shall be payable on all such Newspapers posted on or after the first day of July next. Rate of Postage on Newspapers.

2. So much of any Act as provides that Newspapers posted within this Province shall pass free of Postage, in cases other than those in which they will be free under this Act, is hereby repealed. Inconsistent enactments repealed.

3. In order to adapt the operations of the Post Office to the Decimal Currency, the internal letter postage rate shall be changed from three pence to its equivalent of five cents per half ounce ; the charge for advertising a dead letter from three farthings to two cents ; the charge for returning a dead letter to the writer, from one penny to three cents ; and in all cases where a one half-penny or penny rate of Postage is chargeable, those rates shall be changed to one cent and two cents respectively. Rates converted in decimal currency.

4. To promote simplicity and economy in the business of the Post Office, all letters posted in Canada for any place within the Province, and not prepaid, shall be charged seven and a half instead of five cents per half ounce on delivery ; and on letters posted for the British Mails, for the other British North American Provinces, or for the United States, when not prepaid, there shall be charged such addition to the ordinary rate, not in any case exceeding a double rate, as the Post Master General may agree upon with the Post Office Authorities of those Countries, for the purpose of enforcing pre-payment. Extra rate on letters not prepaid.

5. The Post Master General may establish a Parcel Post, and Parcels other than letters and not containing letters, may be sent by such Parcel Post, and when so sent shall be liable to such charges for conveyance, and to such regulations as the Governor in Council shall from time to time see fit to make. Parcel Post may be established.

Non-liability
of Post Master
General.

6. The Post Master General shall not be liable to any party for the loss of any Parcel sent by Parcel Post.

Wilfully des-
troying par-
cels, &c.

7. Wilfully and maliciously to destroy, damage, detain or delay any Parcel sent by Parcel Post, shall be a misdemeanor.

Inclosing let-
ters, &c., in
Newspapers or
parcels to be a
misdemeanor.

8. To inclose a letter or letters, or any writing intended to serve the purpose of a letter, in a Parcel posted for the Parcel Post, shall be a misdemeanor; and to inclose a letter, or any writing, or to make any written marks to serve the purpose of a letter, or to inclose any other thing, in a newspaper posted to pass as a newspaper, at the rate of postage applicable to newspapers, (except in the case of the accounts and receipts of newspaper publishers, which are permitted to pass folded within the newspapers sent by them to their subscribers,) shall be a misdemeanor.

Money order
system may
be extended to
order and
from the
United King-
dom.

9. In order to carry into effect an arrangement which has been made between the Imperial Government and the Government of this Province, the Governor in Council may, by regulations to be from time to time made, extend the Money Order system, so as to include the granting of Money Orders on Post Masters in the United Kingdom, and the payment of Money Orders drawn by such Post Masters on Post Masters in this Province, on such terms and conditions as he may deem expedient.

Foreign News-
papers, &c.,
to be brought
only through
the Post
Office.

10. It shall not be lawful to bring any Foreign Newspaper, or any Foreign printed publication not liable to a duty of Customs, into this Province in any other way than through the Provincial Post Office; And any such Newspaper or publication brought into this Province otherwise than through the Post Office, shall be forfeited and may be seized and forthwith destroyed by any officer of the Customs or of the Post Office as prohibited goods, and the person bringing in the same shall be liable to the like penalty as a person bringing in goods prohibited by the Customs laws, and recoverable in like manner;--But this prohibition shall not apply to one copy of any such Newspaper or publication brought into the Province *bonâ fide* by any Traveller for his own use.