

would be happy to add to the list any colleges, public bodies or official personages in any of the Provinces or foreign countries, to whom they might deem it useful to send them.

Several members then indicated institutions and high officials, to whom they thought it expedient to send the documents.

The report was then adopted.

#### POSTAL BILL.

Pursuant to order the House went again into Committee of the Whole on the Bill for the regulation of the Postal Service.

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** said he was glad to have the opportunity of acknowledging some unintentional errors into which he had fallen, in the course of the remarks he had made when the bill was before the House for a second reading. He had said then that there were no payments for railway mail service in the Lower Provinces, but he had since found that he was wrong, for in one of them the charge was the small payment of \$20 per mile, and in the other, he believed about \$24. The reason of his misapprehension was probably that the payments in question were not charged very distinctly, but with other items, to sundry parties. But it had been alleged that the Department was in the receipt of a large sum from the ocean mail postage, which exceeded what he had stated, viz.: \$60,000, and the public accounts had been referred to in proof. Now, the statement he had made was substantially correct, and the sum named in the public accounts was only an estimate, for the receipts from that source had never been kept separate, and it was therefore impossible to say with exact precision what it was, but as nearly as could be ascertained, it was the sum he had named. Then it had further been alleged that the Department received a large sum, something like \$70,000 or \$80,000 from the American Government for the letters carried by the Canadian ocean mail steamers. Well, this was not correct; the Department did not receive that money, whatever it might be, but it was paid over to the general revenue of the Province. An hon. member had also taken exception to the number of letters he (Mr. Campbell) had said passed through the Nova Scotia mails, 1,725,000 he believed, and had placed the amount at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  millions, or something like that. It had struck him while that hon. member was speaking that there must be some great mistake somewhere in that calculation, for if the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  millions of letters paid 5 cents apiece, which was about the average

rate, the amount of postage collected would hence have been from that source alone \$225,000, whereas it was only about \$50,000. But allowing the average rate to be as low as 3 cents it would have yielded \$135,000, and at 1 cent \$15,000. No letter he believed passed for less than 2 cents, which was equal upon  $4\frac{1}{2}$  millions to \$20,000, or nearly twice the revenue collected, so there must have been of necessity some error in the hon. member's calculations. Now as to the principle of compulsory prepayment, proposed by the bill, it would, no doubt, have its inconveniences, but the same objection could be raised against any scheme which might be projected. The relative advantages should be considered. Now, this system would be marked by simplicity, certainty of payment, facility and quick despatch. Even where it is not legally enforced, as in France, it was almost complete, for 90 per cent. of the letters were prepaid, and in England the proportion was yet larger. In England it had become as it were a matter of honor to prepay, and it came to be regarded as shabby to cause the recipient, by neglecting it, to pay double the rate, but in this country that feeling had not yet been developed. It might perhaps be created in course of time. In the correspondence with cities as between Quebec and Montreal the unpaid letters were only from 8 to 10 per cent, but on other lines, say some 30 miles inland, they increased to 32 or 34 per cent. Now, if the number of unpaid letters was large, the consequent expense was likewise largely increased, and the results were almost as bad as if there were no prepayment at all. In England the fine which doubled the rate had evidently operated to cause almost universal prepayment, but it not yet had that effect in this country, and hence there was increased labor and delay. The fact was that the system of fines from non-prepayment seemed in itself unjust, for the penalty fell upon the party who was not to blame, instead of upon the negligent writers. The experience of Canada was largely in favor of prepayment, for immense numbers of unpaid letters were poured into the Dead Letter Office, the postage upon which was an absolute loss. After being opened there, if found to contain any value, they were sent back to the writers, but of course the number of such letters was small. If all the dead letters were sent back, no doubt most of them would be refused. The estimate of a gentleman in the Department, conversant with the question, was that compulsory prepayment would be attended with a saving of between \$10,000 and \$15,000. In the United States the

system suggested by some hon. members of 3 cents prepaid and 5 cents unpaid had been tried from 1851 to 1854, and was found unsatisfactory. It was then changed to the present prevailing practice, that was to a three cent compulsory rate, and was found to work well. Now, the condition of society in that country, and the character of its business, were more analogous to our own than England's and in this respect afforded us some guidance. Some hon. member, however, had expressed doubts as to the state of the law in this respect in the United States, but he believed there was no room for such doubts. He held in his hand a semi-official organ of the Post Office Department of that country, the *United States Mail*, in which the law requiring prepayment by stamps or stamped envelopes was recapitulated. (Here the hon. Postmaster General read the clauses relating to the matter.) This he hoped would remove all doubts. He believed that if introduced into Canada after a little while the system would work well. At first there might be inconveniences, but inconveniences would attend almost any change of practice, however beneficial. With respect to its operation in the United States he thought he had a right to assume that it met general approval. If it did not he would soon hear of it, but hon. members with himself were in the constant habit of reading American newspapers where, if the system were unpopular, it would be sure to find expression, (for in that country popular discontent was not long in coming to the surface,) and they knew that there were no complaints about it. The results would soon be the same here if it were adopted.

**Hon. Mr. Odell:** How was prepayment enforced?

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** supposed, the letters were not sent forward.

**Hon. Mr. Macpherson** said he was in the United States some time ago, and had occasion to write some letters, which he mailed inadvertently without prepayment, and shortly afterwards they were returned to him through the Dead Letter Office.

**Hon. Mr. Campbell**—Dead Letter Offices might be established in the cities and large towns in Canada.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson**—Would it not be desirable that the Post Offices at which the letters were posted unpaid should have power to open them, and return them to the writers?

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** could hardly tell how that would work, but it was only a gradation of the principle. All this, however, could be done under this Act by regulations.

**Hon. Mr. Locke**—How about letters that came by ships not prepaid, would they be sent to the Dead Letter Office?

**Hon. Mr. Campbell**—The Act gives the Postmaster-General powers in respect of foreign letters, so he could make arrangements to meet such cases.

**Hon. Mr. Price**—What provision was there for poor settlers in the back settlements who have neither money nor stamps, and live thirty miles away from a Post Office?

**Hon. Mr. Campbell**—Why, the letters could not go by the mails until first brought to a Post Office, and there they could get stamps.

**Hon. Mr. Price**—But if they have no money?

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** said he could not meet the case of the man who had not three cents to pay for the carriage of his letter.

**Hon. Mr. Flint**—If the Crown Land Department did not prepay its letters, how would people get acknowledgments of the sums they had sent there? Yet it was now the case that that Department refused to pay the postage on its receipts, and people had to send their money to agents in Toronto, and pay for the simple service, in order to get receipts back. When the Hon. Postmaster-General was Commissioner of Crown Lands, he always sent their receipts forward, but since the Department had been turned over to the Local Governments, this piece of economy had been introduced, and it caused great inconvenience.

**Hon. Mr. Campbell**—The Department would find it could not carry on its business without prepaying its letters. In the United States it was always done.

**Hon. Mr. Skead** craved the indulgence of the House for a short time to say that the prepayment being insisted upon would certainly cause inconvenience to 12,000 or 15,000 persons annually employed in the backwoods lumbering. It would be a great grievance to the friends of these people to send letters 240 miles into the backwoods, and have them returned with a fine upon them. There was generally plenty of money among the shantymen, but a great difficulty of getting change, and sometimes when a messenger was despatched with letters he got drunk upon the

money, and if letters could not go to their destination without prepayment, under such circumstances, the shantymen would be considerable sufferers. He looked upon the bill as a good one, if the objectionable feature of compulsory prepayment were removed.

**Hon. Mr. Sanborn** did not think the House ought to pass the mere skeleton of a bill. The 19th clause contained the whole gist and principle of the matter, and he thought if adopted it would be exceedingly inconvenient. Why should not a local postmaster at once state to a party sending a letter that it must be prepaid, and if not prepaid hand it back to him instead of suffering it quietly to be forwarded and returned with costs through the medium of the Dead Letter Office? Of course letters dropped into the box would be an exception—the postmaster would then have no means of informing the sender of a letter of the inconveniences to result from not prepaying it. There were hundreds of people who would not know anything about the change in the law, and who would be yet subjected to all the inconveniences of such change. Under present arrangements there were only 161,000 unpaid letters received in the Dead Letter Offices, out of an annual average of 14,000,000 letters mailed. In his mind it was exceedingly questionable whether the P.O.D. should be self-sustaining. The Post Office was less a means of revenue than of public convenience; and it was a question, moreover, whether the postage on letters ought to be reduced at all or not. He would rather see newspapers sent free of postage through the mails, and the postal rate on letters remain as it is. The revenue from newspapers, under any circumstances, would be comparatively small, and the proposed postal rate on them, would without any doubt throw an obstacle in the way of disseminating knowledge. It was true that the city papers exercised a great weight in influencing public opinion; but there were opinions which country papers influenced, and the right of continuing the exercise of such opinions should not be hastily trampled upon. There was something invidious, too, in selecting certain newspapers for exceptional treatment in the way of postage. He was decidedly favourable to prepayment on both letters and newspapers being made optional.

**Hon. Mr. Dickey** stated he was obliged to the Postmaster-General for challenging the correctness of his (Mr. Dickey's) figures, as it gave him the opportunity of showing he was correct. He had referred him to the authorities

for his statement when he made it, and regretted he (the Postmaster-General) had not taken the trouble to examine them. In the Sessional papers of 1866, No. 3, (Postmaster-General Howland's Report) he (Mr. Dickey) read as follows: "The amount of postage due to Canada for the sea conveyance of mails between the United States and Europe was for the year to 30th June, 1865, \$74,479.31. The gross amount of sea postage derived from the Canadian Steam Packets was, it is estimated, \$73,000; the total gross postage earnings of the Canadian Mail Packets were, therefore, \$147,479.31". With reference to the letters passing through the Post Office in Nova Scotia, he read in the Journals of the Assembly of that Province as follows: "Number of letters taken at the Halifax Post Office of all kinds for the year ending 30th of September, 1866: the Halifax delivery was 848,484. Posted at Halifax, and there received from other places, and sent forward, 2,968,027, making a total of 3,816,511. The average number of letters which passed through the country Post Offices during the same period was 1,047,334, giving a grand total of 4,863,845. Of these a large proportion were delivered in the country at 2 cents, and a still larger number were free, from the Public Departments, Members of the Legislature, etc. The gross amount of postage collected in Nova Scotia was \$77,673, instead of \$50,000, as given by the Hon. Postmaster-General.

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** said, that the Government had through him presented to the House a scheme of postal service, which had seemed to them most advantageous to the country, and he doubted much whether it would be possible for the Department to reduce the postage on letters as contemplated without exacting prepayment, but as the House was evidently opposed to that part of the scheme he was bound to yield to their opinion for the present, and he would therefore prepare a clause which would give expression to their views. In that form the bill would pass through the Senate, but whilst deferring to the opinion of hon. members who would only consent to a fine for nonprepayment, he was unable to say how far the projected reduction of the letter rate could be carried out in the absence of the collateral advantages connecting themselves with the measure as originally prepared.

**Hon. Mr. Wark** expressed his dissatisfaction with the abandonment of the principle of compulsory prepayment, and after a few words from **Hon. Mr. Wilmot**,

**Hon. Mr. Bureau** objected to the discussion of the bill, clause by clause, **Mr. Campbell** having stated that it might be better to discuss the merits of a certain measure when in due course it turned up, and insisted upon his right to speak on the general principles of the bill.

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** admitted the right, but suggested the expediency of another course.

**Hon. Mr. Bureau** submitted, and sat down.

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell**—It is so rarely that my hon. friend speaks that I think he ought to be permitted to go on.

**Hon. Mr. Bureau** declined saying anything further.

**Hon. Mr. McClelan** said, he could not agree with the assumption of some hon. members, that, because, those few who had spoken so frequently on this question opposed the prepayment system, it was the general wish of the Committee to amend this clause. Several hon. members, who had not yet claimed the attention of the committee were favourable to the adoption of the compulsory prepayment, and he regretted that the Postmaster-General had so hastily yielded on this point. He considered it one of the best features of the bill, and with the present vast extension of postal facilities throughout the country, and with general notice given of its intended operation, the practical difficulties in the way of its successful enforcement were not to be compared with those attendant on the present optional system of payment. The explanations of the Hon. Postmaster-General had satisfied him on this point, and in his judgment the people of New Brunswick would be generally satisfied to accept this provision, particularly if the rate be reduced to three cents. The Postmaster-General of New Brunswick, in his report of 1866, strongly urged both the reduction and the prepayment, and showed that under the present system 80 per cent. of all letters were prepaid in that year, thereby indicating pretty conclusively that such a change could then be effected without difficulty or dissatisfaction. In fact, he believed, such would have been adopted there if the co-operation of Nova Scotia could have been secured, but an experiment of the kind there, seemed to work badly, because at that time the

public were not prepared to receive it, and sufficient notice had not been given. The reduction of three cents the people would of course accept as a boon, provided the state of the finances, not yet shown, justified it, and no new imposts were levied to make up for the deficiency of revenue, for in this sparsely settled country, where the income and expenditure of the poorer classes were not calculated with the same precision as in some older countries, there would undoubtedly be much revenue lost on account of this reduction. He (**Mr. McC.**) was quite willing to assume that the Government felt warranted in thus reducing the postal revenue, on account of the excellent financial position not yet explained. He hoped this clause would be retained, and with the additional restrictions, as to the power of the Head of the Department, as proposed. The bill would so far as proceeded with meet his approval. The other subsequent claims he would consider as they would be presented.

The 19th clause was then passed over, and **Hon. Mr. Reesor** objecting on same grounds to 20th clause, and **Hon. Mr. Bureau** to 22nd clause, these clauses were also allowed to stand over.

The subsequent clauses passed, *nemine contradicente*, when

**Hon. Mr. Dickey** took exception to 35th clause having reference to letter carriers, and contended that letters throughout the cities of the Dominion, ought to be carried free, as they were in Halifax, Nova Scotia and in England.

**Hon. Mr. Miller** could not help stating that whatever the measure now before the House might be considered in Canada proper, it would be looked upon as anything but a boon to Nova Scotia. The people there had been led to believe that Confederation would increase their taxes, and this first legislation of the Dominion Parliament would have the effect of realizing their worst fears on that score. He repeated that the reduction from five to three cents was no boon to Nova Scotia, and could not be where a postal rate of only 2 cents between county and county already existed, the five cent rate applying only generally. The boon consisted in a general tax of 3 cents, with a tax of 2 cents for delivery, instead of the legislatures by means of salaried, letter carriers, providing for free delivery. But the worst feature of all was the tax on newspapers. To have that tax reimposed after years of struggling to have it removed, would in Nova Scotia be considered a great grievance.

and would have the effect of throwing the whole press of that country against the Government.

It being now 6 o'clock, the Senate adjourned till 8.

### EVENING SITTING

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** proposed to substitute the following for clause 19:

On all letters transmitted by post for any distance within the Dominion of Canada, except in cases herein otherwise specially provided for, there shall be charged and paid one uniform rate of *three cents* per half ounce in weight, any fraction of a half ounce being chargeable as a half ounce, provided that such three cent postage rate be prepaid by postage stamp, or in current coin, at the time of posting such letters, and when such letters are posted without prepayment being made thereon, then and in such case it shall be lawful to charge upon letters so posted unpaid, a rate of *five cents* per half ounce.—Carried.

Objections were made by **Hon. Mr. Anderson** and **Hon. Mr. Steeves** to the carriers' charge of two cents, and the former member thought it inconsistent that when a letter was carried one thousand miles for three cents, two cents should be charged for carrying it half a mile, more or less, in a city or town.

**Hon. Mr. Macpherson** begged to remind hon. members that the measure had a financial side, as well as one of public convenience. The Department was not expected to yield a revenue, nor was it desirable, but it should, if possible, be self sustaining. The Hon. Postmaster-General had already made great concessions, and he should not be asked to forego everything, and he did not understand him to intend forcing the reception of letters everywhere from the hands of carriers. The reduction of the letter rate to three cents would entail a large loss, and in the present state of the finances of the country, hon. members should beware of throwing too heavy burdens upon the general revenue.

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** proposed to add a subsection to clause 38, which would appear as No. 7, in the following words:

Petitions and addresses might be sent to each of the Legislatures of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, during each session free of postage, under such regulations as the Postmaster-General might prescribe.

On the 42nd clause—**Hon. Mr. Tessier** said that it gave power to the Postmaster-General,

or to persons appointed by him, to open letters supposed to contain dutiable goods, &c. Now this was a very proper authority to give the Department, but it should be guarded, for in times of party excitement or for other reasons a Postmaster might pretend to have suspicions and proceed to the opening of letters. He thought that in cases of this kind the letters should be opened before a Justice of the Peace, or that the Postmaster should be required at least to make an affidavit, setting forth his reasons for such a course.

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** said the power would be exercised with the greatest care and under the regulations of the Department.

On the 43rd clause relating to Ferries—

**Hon. Mr. Cauchon** said that it might happen as it did at Quebec, that in obeying the injunctions of the department the mail carrier would expose himself to prosecution under some municipal regulation. One such carrier had been sued before the Recorder for passing in a canoe and breaking the newly formed ice on the river. The Recorder had dismissed the action, holding the man bound to obey the commands of the Postmaster-General, but that decision might have been questioned.

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** said a regulation might be made to meet that particular ferry.

On the 46th clause precluding Postmasters in cities from voting for members of Parliament.

**Hon. Mr. Christie**—Why city Postmasters more than other postmasters? Why not extend the prohibition to all?

**Hon. Mr. Campbell**—The city Postmasters were paid by salaries.

**Hon. Mr. Bourinot**—In Nova Scotia all Postmasters were salaried men.

**Hon. Mr. Christie**—The point was not so much that they were salaried, as that they were officers of the Government.

**Hon. Mr. Campbell**—To be strictly consistent they might all be classed together, but in a great many places in the country the office of Postmaster yielded hardly any emolument, and if this rule were followed the most eligible men as Postmaster would be lost to the service.

**Hon. Mr. Alkins** said he was satisfied that in his part of the country, if such a disqualification existed, they would be left without Postmasters.

**Hon. Mr. Letellier de St. Just**—Was it not the case that the sureties of Postmasters were disqualified from becoming candidates for Parliament, as being under bonds or obligations to the State? And how were they to be treated?

**Hon. Mr. Campbell**—They could withdraw their suretyship in such a case.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the Savings Bank clauses.

**Hon. Mr. Dickey** considered the scheme as only a new way of borrowing money, and asked if it were intended that the Post Office Department should be always in debt.

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** ran over the chief features of the Bill as it related to the Savings Bank, in explanation, after which

**Hon. Mr. Tessier** expressed his belief that the Post Office Savings Bank would have the effect of swallowing up all the other savings banks in the Dominion.

**Hon. Mr. Ferrier** thought it the best feature of the whole bill. It was an institution that would exist in reference to our property in the people themselves, who would be lenders to the Government, voluntarily, of such sums as they had to spare on the best of all possible securities, the faith of their own Government. The interest would be paid to our own people, as the money would be lent by our own people. On a smaller scale it would resemble the debt of England, which was all owing to Englishmen, and created no inconvenience, but obviated the necessity for loans of foreign capital. As regards the \$500,000 consols he looked upon the laying past of that sum as absolutely necessary, because if a run were made upon the bank, the bank ought to be in a position to pay.

The Savings Bank clauses were then carried, as were all the subsequent clauses affecting post office government, the Hon. Postmaster General having remarked that the postal law had been made to assimilate with the existing laws of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and that the punishment for stealing a mailed letter had been ameliorated from a life imprisonment to a penalty of not less than five years' imprisonment for such offence.

The clauses relating to postage on newspapers, which had been reserved, were then taken up.

**Hon. Mr. Locke** said, the newspapers had been so long free in the Lower Provinces that he was sure the re-imposition of a tax would

be regarded by the people there as almost unbearable. He thought newspapers should be carried free in every country.

**Hon. Mr. Ferrier** objected to calling the postage a tax, it was payment, and small payment, for an important service. The fact was the mails were carried at a less price over the railways than merchandize, and when the present contracts had expired he doubted whether they would be renewed except at a large advance. (Hear, hear.)

**Hon. Mr. Wark** said that on the subject of newspaper postage, he sympathized fully with the remarks of the hon. member from Nova Scotia (Mr. Miller), and believed it was at the present time most impolitic to impose such a tax. In New Brunswick, printing presses and printing material, were admitted free of duty, and for a long period, no postage had been demanded on newspapers. It had been the policy to encourage in every possible way the dissemination of newspaper literature, and in no way could the Government more cheaply or advantageously promote the educational advancement of the people. The weekly newspaper was a most welcome visitor to many a poor family, throughout the Dominion, and the imposing of such a tax, though considered insignificant by hon. senators, was considerable for such people to pay, and might have the effect of depriving some of this profitable luxury altogether. The fact of the prepayment being made optional, did not materially affect the question. The Hon. Postmaster-General has alluded to the resolutions of editors at St. John, but he had evidently failed to answer their arguments very satisfactorily. The amount proposed to be raised from this source was not very considerable, and he would inform the Government how an equal amount could be saved in a way far more satisfactorily to the people. By referring to the public accounts of 1866, he noticed that when the late Legislative Council of Canada was composed of 64 members, whose sessional pay, besides contingencies, amounted to \$38,400, there were employed 56 subordinate officers and servants, including 4 pages, 9 females, 4 watchmen, house-keeper and assistant, costing over \$42,000, or about \$4,000 more than the members' pay at \$600 each. For similar services subordinate to the Legislative Assembly, the sum of \$104,397 was paid. The duties of this Parliament were now considerably restricted, yet he believed the same system of unjustifiable extravagance prevailed, and perhaps to a more aggravated extent.

**Hon. Mr. Allan**—I rise to enquire if the subject of contingencies is now under discussion.

**Hon. Mr. Wark** said that he was endeavoring to show the Hon. Postmaster-General how he could raise the required revenue, or rather how he could *save* it, because "A penny saved is as good as a penny earned;" and how by adopting at the opportune period a system of economy and retrenchment in the expenditure of this Parliament, more money will be retained than will accrue by placing postage on newspapers. He (Mr. Wark) was opposed to the amendment already made, but he would support the present one.

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** was quite willing that the present law with regard to postage upon newspapers as it existed in Canada, proper, should be applied to the Dominion, the prepayment of the rate being left optional. There was a necessity for postage on newspapers, more pressing even than on letters, for a reduction of the postage on letters would have the effect of increasing the number of letters written, and so, as it were, reproduce itself; any present loss would be compensated for in time, while the bulk of newspapers to be carried would yearly become greater, while contributing nothing whatever to the revenue. The different Provinces of the Confederation, in the matter of newspaper postage, must be placed upon a footing of equality.

**Hon. Mr. Bourinot** grieved for the bad effect likely to be produced by the imposition of a tax on newspapers in Nova Scotia. He did not look upon the tax so much as a matter of dollars, but as interfering with a privilege which the people of Nova Scotia had long had, and valued.

He would move in amendment, that all newspapers throughout the Dominion of Canada should pass through the mails free of postage.

**Hon. Mr. Dickey** seconded the motion. The Postmaster-General insisted that the tax upon newspapers was absolutely necessary, while he contended it was very far from being the case, unless it was designed to effect an equilibrium merely in making the revenue of the Post Office Department fully meet the expenditure. Yet the whole newspaper postage was

only a tenth of the whole assets—in Canada \$90,000—in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick \$40,000—equal to \$130,000. He put the question distinctly to the House, if the proposed postage on newspapers was desirable? With a peculiarly Post Office view of the matter, the Postmaster-General calls the circulation of newspapers free of postage, one of the evils of disseminating knowledge. If a revenue was the only thing wanted, why not keep the present rate on letters, no one having asked for a change. He thought a judicious economy in salaries, and in railway charges, would obviate all necessity of the proposed tax on newspapers.

**Hon. Mr. Anderson** did not agree with his hon. friend. He thought the reduction of \$60,000, which the reduced letter rate would afford to the people of Nova Scotia, was a boon, and ought to compensate for the imposition of a newspaper postage.

**Hon. Mr. Wier** did not agree with the amendment. The Hon. Postmaster-General had shown good feeling in the discussion of the details of this bill, and had very gracefully yielded some points which he might not have yielded if he chose. For his part he thought barrels of flour would be more acceptable in the backwoods than newspapers, and the same argument might be applied for the transmission of flour through the mails free, for newspapers to be so carried. There was such a thing as newspaper license.

The amendment was then put and declared lost.

On the 11th subsection to the 9th clause, **Hon. Mr. Aikins** asked why the maximum rate of registration was not stated, and after some conversation it was fixed at six cents.

With regard to the power proposed to be conferred upon the Postmaster-General to compel the registration of letters containing money or other valuables,

**Hon. Mr. Flint** asked how a Postmaster could know the contents of said letters, so as to be justified in registering them, whether the sender desired it or not.

**Hon. Mr. Campbell**—The handling of the letters would in most cases be a sufficient guide, but if subsequently proved not to have

been letters containing valuables, the fee would be returned.

This did not satisfy the objectors, and the clause was modified in such a manner as to withdraw the power.

**Hon. Mr. Reesor** begged to ask why the certificates of deposits were not transferable?

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** said that the subject had been carefully considered by the Financial or Treasury Board, composed of Ministers most experienced in such questions, and they had decided that it would be inexpedient.

The Committee then rose and reported the Bill as amended. The amendments were con-

curred in, and it was ordered for a third reading on Monday.

#### COMMERCIAL BANK

**Hon. Mr. Campbell** moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Charter of the Commercial Bank of Canada, and stated the particular objects it contemplated.

The Bill was then read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Banking, Commerce and Railways.

The House then adjourned, at 11 o'clock.