PAYING POSTAL REFORMS.

HOW TO SWELL THE REVENUE OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Increase in [the Number of New Offices Since Confederation-Registration Fee is Too High-The Carriage of Parcels in the British Post-Office-The British Postal Order is a Great Convenience-So is the Telegraph Money Order System.

The operations of the Dominion postoffice for 1893 resulted in a dead loss of \$647,696. In 1868, the first year of Confederation, it only amounted to \$28,859. Though the revenue has steadily increased, rom \$1,024,710 in 1868, to \$3,696,062 in 1893, the expenditure has also steadily increased in a still greater ratio, writes a Montreal correspondent. Applying the increase of both to population, we find that while the revenue has only increased from thirty to seventy-four cents per head, the expenditure has increased from thirtyone to eighty-eight cents per head. To the loss must be added a portion, at least, o the subsidies paid to mail steamships, \$413,839

This is a heavy drain upon the resources of a young country, and suggests the enquiry whether anything can be done to augment the revenue, for there is little hope that the expenditure can be seriously diminished, owing to the incessant demand for new offices, and more frequent mails. The increase in the number of new offices since confederation has been very large, viz., from 3,638 to 8,477, while the number | They are limited to ten pounds (50), and of letters has increased in a much greater ratio, say from eighteen to 106 millions, and post-cards from four millions, in 1876 to twenty-two millions in 1893. This is very satisfactory, for nothing affords a more convincing proof of

THE PROGRESS OF A NATION

than the number of letters and post-cards passing through its post-office.

While the number passing through the Canadian post-office is larger per head than in France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Russia, Austria, Hungary, Norway, Italy, Spain and Portugal, it is yet less than one-half the number, per head, carried in Great Britain, the United States and most of the Australian colonies, and less than in Sweden and Switzerland, Ontario towns, from two to four. For an extra fee last twenty years. It's altogether likely however, ranking far above Quebec. No of four cents, paid to a railway company, that before the clock strikes 12 you'll be a complaint can be made on the score of letter postage, considering the enormous distances travelled, and the sparse population; the person to whom it is addressed, at their want to stay behind and marry a second but the registration fee of five cents is too station, or post it at the nearest letter-box. wife and take sich comfort as you kin, I'm high; a lower charge would probably produce more revenue, especially if a small compensation in case of loss were allowed, as in Great Britain.

Insome other respects, however, the Domin- dollars (£723,000) paid to the mail steam- you marry a widder or a young gal, Samion post-office is behind the age, and far be- ships as subsidies. In 1841, the first year | uel?" hind the Imperial post-office. In the matter of Rowland Hill's penny postage, the pro- Mr. Gallup worked the toes of his left of parcels this is especially the case. To great | fit was only two and a half million dollars | foot till they cracked, but there was no distributing centres like Montresl and To- (£500,789). It will thus be seen that there doubt of his being so deeply interested in ronto this is a matter of the greatest im- is ample room for improvement in the hogs and hog cholera that he was oblivious to portance. Large houses that might be Canadian postal system, and it may be Mrs. Gallup's very existence on the face of mentioned must send many thousands of hoped that the government will do its this earth. She had a "cryin' spell" lasting parcels to country districts in the course utmost to afford the public every conveni- about three minutes, and when her sobs of a year, and though the express companies | ence, in doing which it will surely add to | died away she said :will deliver parcels at moderate rates in the revenue. towns and villages where there is a railway The franking system, too, may well be to me whether it's a widder or a gal, as I bility. The simplicity of the device is the d station, there is a vast number of villages abolished. It is said to be much abused; shall be playin' on a parlor melodeon in where there is a post-office but no railway it was in England. If members of Parliastation, or only one which is several miles ment must be indulged, let them be paid a from the village. It is in these latter especi- fixed sum for postage in addition to their ally that the post-office regulations as to mileage, and then insist on parcels are found to be so oppressive.

IN THE BRITISH POST-OFFICE

the carriage of parcels has assumed enormous dimensions. In 1887 the number carried was a little over thirty-two millions; in 1890 it had increased to over fortytwo millions, and in 1894 to fifty-four millions! You can send a closed parcel weighing one pound from any post-office in the United Kingdom to any other, a maximum distance of about six hundred miles for six cents; a two pound parcel for nine cents: or a three pound parcel for twelve centa; but in Canada the charge is twenty-four cents, forty-eight cents, and seventy-two cents respectively. You can send a one pound parcel from England to China for twenty cents: but for a similar parcel for a distance of only fitty-seven miles, our post-office charges twenty-four cents! It is true that such a parcel, if "open to inspection" is only charged sixteen cents, but people will not send valuables by post "open to inspection," nor should the post-office encourage such a system, for it needlessly tempts their employees.

This is not all. In cities and large towns the British post-office will send a van, free of charge, to collect parcels from any store supplying not less than ten at a time, or fifty in a week, and will deliver them at your own door; should the consignee reside at a distance from a post-office they will deliver them by a special messenger at only 6 cents per mile, or by a cab it specially paid for. Then in case of loss or damage the post-office will pay up to \$10; for a fee of four cents the compensation is increased to \$25, and so on to the maximum line of these new forts, which are far goin' to worry about it. You are old 'nuff of \$250 for a fee of twenty-two cents.

THE PARCEL POST

No wonder that with all those attrac-

only twenty-five cents and thus they get actually upon the spot would be required made up a lot of mince meat for the winter, notches serving to hold it at any desired the cream of the business, and, as is well to undertake any serious operations for the but if I'm called to go I can't ask the Lord elevation. known, make large profits out of it. The | reduction by siege of the French capital. result is that whereas in 1887 the Canadian In practice no fewer than 1,000,000 else. You'd better change your socks post-office carried 820,000 parcels, in 1893 would be necessary. And fortified Paris, before the funeral, Samuel, as you it carried only 343,000, a diminution of fifty- although so much more extensive than it eight percent, and, of course, a propor- was in 1870, can, nevertheless, be defentionate loss of revenue. Its parcel postage sively held at present by 350,000 men, indeed seems to be a relic of the past, when | while, if 700,000, or even more, were called the mails were carried by stage, or on horse- for, they could, without detriment to the of, except that Mrs. Jones has one of back, or by hand, and weight was a matter field armies, be provided out of the 3,700, my flatirons, Mrs. Gilbert owes me a cup of as "a domesticated carnivorous quadruped increased circulation in the part treated, of importance. Now the post-office pays | 000 trained soldiers whom France now has | coffee, Mrs. Winchell hasn't brought back of the family Felide and genus F. domestiover two million dollars a year for the at her disposal.

carriage of mails, chiefly to the great railway companies, and they should carry any number of parcels without inconvenience or extra charge. If the obnoxious condition requiring parcels to be open to inspection were abolished, and the present rate of one cent per pound levied on small parcels with a maximum charge of ten up to one pound and five cents for every extra pound, and the rate "well advertised," there is little doubt that the post-office parcel business would soon run up to the millions, especially if the \$10 compensation, and the special delivery were added; and that the revenue in a short time would be increased by at least \$50,000 a year. But parcels must be delivered as promptly as letters and not detained twenty-four hours as they often are now. The department must run the risk of a few letters being placed in parcels by dishonorable persons, as the British office does.

The state of the s

Then the British post-office has in recent years in augurated another great convenience,

THE POSTAL ORDER. Such orders are issued at any post-office in the Kingdom, payable at any other postoffice at a very small charge, but limited to twenty shillings (\$5) each. They are issued for one shilling (25 cents), at a charge of one cent; up to ten shillings and sixpence at a charge of two cents, and up to twenty shillings at a charge of three cents. Practically, any odd sum can be remitted: The name of the payee may be inserted by the sender, but it appears that this is often left blank, and thus they pass from hand to hand as remittances, like small bank notes. They are found to be exceedingly useful, not only in making small remittances but to travellers. They must, however, be presented for payment within three months be adopted in Canada?

Then, in the money order department another great convenience has been established. "Telegraph money orders," are issued between all head and branch offices, authorized to transact money order business. the commission is double the ordinary rates and in addition, a charge of ninepence (1 cents) is made for telegraphic advice and its repetition. The sender may also send telegram for twelve cents.

A concession, too, is made in the charge for letter rates, when they exceed one ounce in weight. Under one ounce, the charge is two cents; under two ounces, however, it is only three cents; under four ounces, four cents; and so on, one cent increase for every two ounces. Of course the population is very dense, and the distances comparatively short, but the great aim is to meet in every possible way.

THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC. are twelve free deliveries daily; in other her feelings to say :districts within three miles of the postoffice, eleven deliveries, and in the suburbs | uel. I think so because I'm the fittest to six deliveries; and in all other cities and | go and because I've bin ready to go these a letter may be sent by any train, and by | widower and I'll be an angel. Some wives an arrangement between the post-office and | would insist on their husbands dyin' at the the company, the latter will deliver it to same time, but that hain't my way. If you The result is that the British post-office in | not goin' to quarrel about it. I've never 1893.4 made a clear profit of over eighteen | flung out and been spiteful to you, Samuel. million dollars, (£3,749,000 sterling). From | Even when you disputed me and said it was this, however, must be deducted part or David who was cast to the lions, I didn't the whole, of about three and a half million | stand out and declar' it was Daniel. Will

EVERYTHING BRING STAMPED.

Post-office officials, however, are not always the best judges in such matters. When Rowland Hill first proposed "penny postage," the then Postmaster-General, Lord Lichfield, said of it in the House of Lords:-"Of all the wild, visionary schemes which I have ever heard of this is the most extravagant." By other officials it was denounced "ruinous." and even in 1843, when it had been in operation three years. Colonel Moberley, the Chief Secretary, told a Parliamentary committee :- "This plan, we know, will fail it must fail," and Mr. Goulburn, the Chancellor of th Exchequer, thought so too. The experience of Great | the pigs some sulphur in the mornin', and Britain shows that high rates and slow de- that sore spot on the cow's back orter be liveries result in a low revenue; but that greased with mutton taller. One of the cheap uniform rates, and rapid delivery hinges is off the gate, and the front door will produce large revenue. Since 1839 sticks so you cant open it. I can't cum down the inland letter rate has been reduced from Heaven to see to these things, and so from a maximum of forty cents to a uni- you'll hev to yourself. Let's see! To-night form rate of two cents, and the colonial is Thursday night. If the summons cum and foreign letter rate, from a maximum fur me at midnight, you'd better hold the rate of eighty-four cents to a uniform rate | funeral on Sunday. Hev you figgered on of five cents; with the very great advan- how you'll act, Samuel? You'd better cry tage of enclosures up to one ounce in the a leetle, both at the house and the church, former, and half an ounce in the latter, whether you feel like it or not. If you without extra charge, and with the result | don't, there'll be talk about it. Hev you that the net revenue has increased from any last words to say to me?" two and a half to tourteen and a half mil lion dellars a year !

Fortified Paris.

To-day, Paris, regarded as a fortified centre, is an intrenched camp, upon the margin of which are numerous new permanent forts. The circle formed by the on hard cider and becum tuff, but I hain't outside the forts of 1870, is about 85 miles to know right from wrong, and if you go to in circumference, and it contains about the bad, no one will blame me. When 580 square miles, not more than oneseventh of that area being built over. It git that tub of soft soap down cellar, and if

MRS. GALLUP'S WOES.

"Samuel," said Mrs. Gallup the other evening as she finished clearing up the supper table and he had got comfortably got up and fastened the doors, put the settled in the rocking chair with his newspaper, "I guess I'll run over to Mrs. Trowbridge's for a few minits. Her baby almost had croup last night, and I want to tell her that pork fat and roasted onions is a sure cure. I also owe her a drawin' of tea and a cup of white sugar, and I'll return the darnin' needle I borrowed last week.'

Mr. Gallup heard her words, but made no reply, and five minutes later she departed. Fifteen minutes after she burst into the house with a wail on her lips, and as Mr. Gallup looked up in an inquiring way she sank down on a chair with her hands over her face and gasped ort:-

"Samuel Gallup, we are a doomed family You'd better put up that paper and git down the Bible, fur the chances are that both of us will be dead afore midnight !"

Mr. Gallup had been reading about the Czar of Russia on page 1 of his paper. He turned over to page 4 and began reading a remedy for the cure of hog cholera.

"I had scarcely got into the house and told Mrs. Trowbridge what to do fur croup," continued Mrs. Gallup as her emotions eased down, "when she told me what she saw last night. She was up with the baby at midnight, and she jest happened to dancin' around, was a red light-what they pulled the curtain down and dasn't look no more. Samuel-Sam"-

Her sobs choked her. On the table beside her was one of Mr. Gallup's woolen socks, which she had been darning. She reached for it and used it to wipe away her tears, but it was a full minute before she could go on :-

"Samuel, you know what a 'death's eye' means when seen at midnight! If it hovers over a house, then some one in that house has got to die. They seen one hoverin' over Mr. Tyler's house before he was kicked to death by a hoss, and they seen one creepin' along the roof of Mr. Sheperd's house afore his twin gals fell into the well and got drowned. Do you think it means both of us, Samuel, or only one?"

Mr. Gallup might have ventured an opinion if she had given him time, but before he In the city of London, that is, the eastern got around to it she had cleared her eyes central district, or heart, of London, there | with the toe of the tock and choked back

"I think I'm the one who is called, Sam-

Heaven, but a gal wouldn't be as sot in her ways as a widder. If I'd bin a widder when you married me I'd never hev got up and built the fire and let you lay and snore. I think Thompson's oldest gal, Mary, would marry you, as she's bin disapp'inted four different times and orter be willin' to take up with most anythin' now, but if you want to look further I shan't object. Samuel. will you git new dishes fur your second

Mr. Gallup seemed about to say something in reply, but it was a false alarm. He simply folded his paper and began to read the political news on page two. Mrs. Gallup waited awhile, and wiped her nose

as she waited, and then said :-"There are just a few things I want to speak of afore I go, Samuel. You orter gin

Mr. Gallup scratched the calf of his left looked up from his paper. He hadn't any last words, however, and Mrs. Gallup crawled over to the lounge, laid herself down, and after a few wipes at her nose with her elbow,

she went or :-"I expect you'll run out nights, git drunk you git home from the funeral, you'd better to wait fur mince meat or anythin'

are troubled with cold feet. You'll find 'em in the top bureau drawer, and mind's talk about advanced woman and sore finger. That's about all I can think cat as any other old maid. my quilt frames, Mrs. White owes me as ca. "

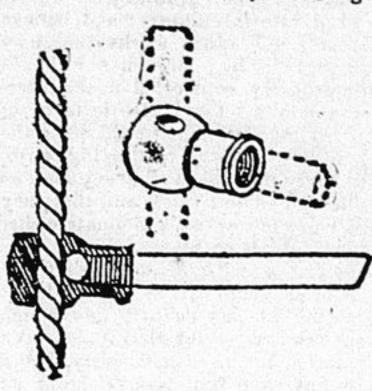
much as a pound of light brown sugar, and our best umbrella was left at prayer meetin' last week. Samuel !"

Mr. Gallup waited for her to go on, but she didn't finish. She had fallen asleep. He read for another ten minutes, and then clock through the usual performance, and went off to bed, leaving her to sweetly slumber with the woolen sock held ready in her hands to mop her eyes or wipe her nose, as the case might be.

SOME RECENT INVENTIONS

That Somebody Will Find Use For in Everyday Life.

In the construction of the rope ladder shown in the annexed cut, advantage is



taken of the ball-bearing principle now largely employed in mechanics. The rung of their issue. Why should not the system glance over this way. Right above our tip has the usual passage for the rope, and house, and glidin' back and forth and in addition a movable ball, arranged to telephone, and the leg came off. receive the pressure of the rope and hold in call a 'death's eye.' She watched it fur five the rung firmly in any desired position. minits and then becum so sceert that she This arrangement of the party enables the ladder when not in use to be packed in small space.

A SIMPLE FORM OF PIN TICKET.

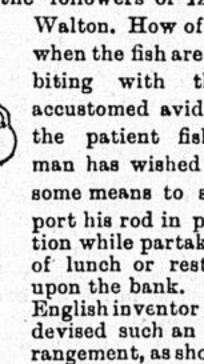
There appears to be no limit to the uses to which fine wire may be put, the latest novelty of this char-

acter being shown in the accompanyir cut. It is intended as a pin ticket, the on its face. In this a lamp, and rings a bell. way there is formed a cross-stay on the face of the card, and a double thickness of

wire on the bottom and top surface of greater strength and firmness.

AN AID TO FISHERMEN.

Here is another article made from wire which appeals to the followers of Izaak



when the fish are not biting with their man has wished for is Prof. Huxley. some means to support his rod in position while partaking of lunch or resting upon the bank. An English inventor has devised such an arrangement, as shown FISHING POLESUPPORT. in the annexed en-

graving. The board to which the wire is attached is pointed so that it can be driven into the ground, "It don't make no pertickler difference | while hinges contribute to its greater portagreatest recommendation.

BOTH FUNNEL AND MEASURE.

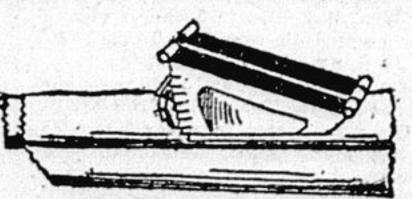
Among the recent household novelties i the combination funnel and measuring in Parliament, and was for several years vessel here illustrated. A valve controls editor of the Rivista Militare. the outlet orifice, and is connected with a



of the vessel. Hinged legs are adapted to extend below the lower end of the vessel. their surfaces being dished to fold against and conform to the circumference of body of the funnel when not in use.

ADJUSTABLE SIGHT FOR SMALL ARMS.

With an experience gained from a long service in the use of small arms, a member of the active force of the United States leg with the heel of his right foot, and almost Navy has devised the rear sight for these weapons shown in the accompanying illus-



is a region nearly as large as Monmouth- you are not too overcum you might look at tration. It consists of a slight leaf pivoted the shoulder or a leg up to the middle of has become so popular. In Canada it is shire England, with a population of 3,000, that quince sass down there, and see if it has to the gun, and provided with a sight the thigh; it stands on an iron frame, and very different; for a parcel for which the | 000. The smallest possible circuit to be soured. I shan't want any quince sass in notch and a bright strip, in the same verti- is heated by gas burners placed underpost-office charges forty-eight or seventy- formed around it by an investing army is Heaven, Samuel, but you'll need it on airth. | cal plane with the line of sight. Means are neath, so that the temperature can be two cents, the express companies charge 100 miles, so that at least 500,000 men I did sort of recon on living' till I had provided for raising and lowering the leaf, raised to 300 or 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

A Long Step Forward.

Mr. Binks-In spite of all Miss Finethere's a clean rag there to do up your higher education, she is just as fond of a the cylinder and letting the moisture eva-

Miss Binks-Yes, but she speaks of it

British and Foreign.

In six months 75,000 copies of Hall Caine's "The Manxman" have been sold, one-third of them in the United States.

Forage made up in the form of bricks is being tried by the French war office. The bricks are made of hay, oats, and bran in cakes as hard as a board, and can be handled

A handsome football challenge shield has been presented by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for competition in India by teams of native boys. They play the Association

Marshal Canrobert's death revives the fact that it was he who commented on the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava by saying: "C'est magnifique; mais ce n'est pas la guerre."

France has compulsory elementary education, yet out of 348,000 young men called out for military service 20,000 could neither read nor write and 55,000 more could only sign their names. Alluvial and reef gold has been discover-

ed in Madagascar at Antinahaka, north of

Antananarivo. A thousand ounces were taken by native workers from a strip of ground twenty feet by three. Slatin Bey, who was Governor of Darfour when Gordon was killed, and ever since has been a captive among the Mahdists, is reported to have escaped and almost to

have reached the Italians at Kassala. A Vienna specialist was recently summoned to Temesvar to decide whether the Bishop's leg should be amputated or not. The train was stalled in the snow, but he consulted with the Temesvar doctors by

A miniature Gospel of St. John has been issued to the Japanese troops measuring 23 by 17 inches. It was specially prepared on very thin paper by the three Bible societies. at work in Japan-the British and Foreign,

the American, and the Scottish. Herr Treitl, a Vienna hardware me chant, who died recently at 91, left 800,000 florins of his fortune to the Vienna Academy of Sciences for the promotion of scientific research. He left a quarter of a million florins beside to charitable institu-

At the yachting exhibition in London is shown a "combined ship's buoy." It is prongs of the staple carried on deck, and when the ship sinks it being passed through floats and records at once the hour and the card and bent minute of the disaster. It then automatiover to form a loop | cally fires rockets, burns blue lights, shows

> In Asolo, northwest of Treviso, opposite the house where Robert Browning wrote "Asolando," Mr. Barrett Browning has established, in memory of his father, a lace school, where young girls are taught to weave the old patterns of Venetian lace. He has also revived the older industry of the place of weaving linen by hand looms.

London University, after limiting itself for nearly sixty years to conferring degrees Walton. How often, upon examination, now proposes to take up instruction. The University Convocation has adopted the report of the Gresham Commission to that effect, and Lord Roseaccustomed avidity, bery has expressed himself in favor of the the patient fisher- scheme. One of the leaders in the movement

It is said that the weaving of threads of aluminium in textile fabrics results in a practically non-oxidizable, inexpensive material that is free from chemical action, and can be washed without fear of injury. It can be applied to the finest and heaviest fabrics, as the thread can be drawn to any degree of thinness, and may be made round or flat, or in any shape convenient for wearing.

Gen. Barattieri, the Italian commander in Abyssinia, who recently took Kassala and routed Ras Mangascia, comes from the denta, still in Aurstrian hands. He is 54 years old, and when a boy of 19 was one of Garibaldi's Thousand in the march through Sicily, after which he joined the regular army as a Captain. He has been a Deputy

Jacobites still exist in England. On the spring-retracted rod, extending to the top | 30th of January, the anniversary of the execution of King Charles I., they held a memorial service and decorated his statue at Charing Cross with flowers. On a card was the inscription: "Remember, O King and Martyr, we have not forgotten. God save Queen Mary." "Queen Mary" is the niece of the last Duke of Modena, who is the oldest lineal descendant of King Charles

> At the recent sale of the library of Edmund Yates the writing desk used by Charles Dickens when he died, and presented to Yates by the family, was sold for \$525. The original letters of Dickens to Yates brought \$430, and Yates' collection of autographs \$325. The books which included first editions of Dickens and of Thackeray, brought only fair prices, though a presentation copy of the first edition of "A Tale of Two Cities" was sold for \$57.

> A lot of shire horses bred by the Prince of Wales was sold recently at Wolferton, and this is how it was done. A big tent was set up, in which free lunch was served, over 1,000 people coming to it by special trains from London. The Prince himself presided, and proposed the health of the Queen; with him were his two daughters, the Duke and Duchess of York. Prince Christian, and a sprinkling of the nobility. After luncheon the bidding began, and fifty horses were sold for \$27,500. At St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London,

an ingenious hot-air bath is now in use for the treatment of sprains, inflamed joints due to gout or rheumatism, and similar affections. It consists of a copper cylinder about three feet long and eighteen inches in diameter, which will hold an arm up to-The patient is placed in a arm chair at one end of the cylinder, the limb is introduced, and the joint made air tight by a rub. ber band. No discomfort is felt up to 250 degrees, until perspiration sets in, when the moisture has a scalding effect, which is relieved by opening the further end of porate. A sitting usually lasts forty minutes. The immediate effect is a greatly profuse local perspiration, and relief from