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London: Postal Exhibitions

[Collection of large number of postal cards
sent to me by the London Postal Exhibitions
Committee in 1897]

Presented to me by the London Postal Exhibitions Committee
London Corporation of the City of London
I am, Sir, your obedient servant

Crawford 1191

Jubilee of the Penny Post

As to this, and Mr Raikes' part and motives, see an "archaic" narrative - most remarkable in

Collections & Recollections pp 351 et seq;

by one who has kept a diary.

London. 1898. Smith, Elder, & Co.

31.12.09,
"I SHALL, although with great reluctance, vote for this Bill, and I earnestly recommend your Lordships to do likewise. It is a measure which has been most anxiously looked for by the country; at the same time it is one on which there has been much doubt and on which it must be confessed there is increasing doubt." Such was the characteristic peroration of the speech delivered in the House of Lords by the great Duke of WELLINGTON on the 5th of August, 1839, on the second reading of the Penny Postage Bill moved by the Prime Minister, Lord MELBOURNE. The victor of Waterloo did not see his way to the advantages of cheap postage any more than he had foreseen the benefits of Parliamentary Reform or of Catholic Emancipation; but in the first, as in the last-named, case his practical wisdom led him to yield to the force of circumstances, and to submit to the inevitable. In 1829 he had asked "how the King's Government was to be carried on" unless concessions were made to the Catholics; in 1839 he had tacitly to ask how the QUEEN'S Government was to be carried on when he admitted that if the Peers rejected the Cheap Postage Bill the Ministry, supported by the House of Commons, would have the power to destroy the whole revenue of the Post Office, so that the evil which he thought the Bill might do if it became law might still be practically effected if it were never passed at all. As it fortunately happened, the Bill did pass. It received the Royal assent at the end of the Session, and on the 10th of January, 1840, the most important social measure of the nineteenth century came into operation. It is altogether fitting that the Jubilee of Postal Reform, which occurs on the 10th of next month, should be appropriately celebrated, and we are glad to learn that the anniversary is to be solemnised by a grand banquet, at which the Postmaster-General will preside, and to which all the living past Postmasters-General will be invited. The dinner will take place on the 15th proximo, and will be followed at a later date by a public function to commemorate the auspicious event. Of the nature of this function the public is for the nonce necessarily uninformed; but we are entitled to hope and expect that some

steps will be taken to mark the occasion in a manner both generous and dignified by bestowing some substantial reward of a more durable nature than mere beef and pudding on the hard-working subordinate officials and letter-carriers of the General Post Office.

Ingratitude is an immemorial sin, and it followed in the history of mankind close on the heels of disobedience. Are we sufficiently grateful for the immense benefits which civilisation has derived from the Penny Post? The young, and even the middle-aged, may fail, perhaps, to grasp the real dimensions of the boon conferred fifty years ago on the British people by ROWLAND HILL and his fellow-workers; but the elderly must preserve as acute a remembrance of the times when there was no cheap postage as of the days when there were no lucifer matches, no photographs, no steel pens, no electric telegraph, few steamboats, and fewer railroads. Every-

body knew when the new postage law came into force in 1840 that the reformed system must be worked for some considerable period at a loss; but few, even to the most sanguine, among the financial prophets could form the remotest idea of the cubic ratio of increase which would take place in the delivery of letters. In the last year of costly postage, 1839, some eighty-two millions of letters were distributed, including about six millions and a half of "franks." In 1840 the distribution rose to a hundred and sixty-nine millions, and in 1851 to nearly six hundred and seventy millions. Let this progressive and prodigious increase in the national correspondence be contrasted with an almost pathetic passage in the Report of the Committee on Postage presented to Parliament at the beginning of 1839. The Committee held that the then existing high rates of postage were extremely injurious to all classes both in their individual and social capacity, interfering, as they did, with their progress in moral and intellectual improvement, and in some degree with their physical welfare. These high rates, it was considered, by restricting the transmission of letters of advice, invoices, and orders, were productive of a most serious injury to commerce; they tended greatly to restrain the advancement of the nation in art and science; and by circumscribing the operations of the different societies instituted for the spread of religion, the dissemination of morality, and the promotion of charitable objects, they had a deleterious effect on the character of the poorer classes. Independently of their more direct influence in checking the diffusion of knowledge, they tended also, by the obstacles which they opposed to the writing and publication of books, to limit and to deteriorate education. Moreover they operated to the prejudice of health by preventing the transmission of medical advice and of lymph for vaccination. Again, by occasioning increased expense or delay they interfered to a serious extent with professional legal correspondence. Further, they either acted as a grievous tax on the poor, causing them to sacrifice their little earnings to the pleasure or advantage of corresponding with their distant friends, or compelled them to forego such intercourse altogether, thus subtracting from the small amount of their enjoyments, and obstructing the growth and maintenance of their best affections. Finally, the Committee thought that high postal rates led to the most extensive violations and evasions of the statutes for the protection of the Post Office revenue, and thus impaired that habitual respect for the law which it should be one of the first aims of an enlightened Legislature to secure. There can be little doubt that, were language similar to the foregoing used in the Report of a Parliamentary Committee appointed to take evidence on some burning social question, there would be found a considerable number of critics stupid enough or ignorant enough to sneer at the conclusions arrived at as being dictated by a "gushing" spirit or couched in "high-falutin" terms. It is certain that in 1839 the schoolmaster was really abroad, and that a large number of earnest men—such as BROUGHAM, BIRKBECK, BOWRING, and ROWLAND HILL—were enthusiastically anxious for the moral and material well-being of their poorer fellow-citizens, whose cause they advocated in words which to the present somewhat cold-

blooded age may appear, to say the least, effusive. Still, calmly and impartially considered, the Report of the Committee of 1839 scarcely comprises a single grievance which had not then its foundation in fact; and every one of those grievances has been redressed by continuous postal reform.

For a few months prior to the definitive introduction of penny postage the experiment of a fourpenny rate was tried. The Government received no fewer than two thousand proposals for a remodelled postage system, and among the opponents of the uniform penny stamp was the Secretary of the General Post Office himself, who maintained that under the cheap system the revenue could not recover itself in less than half a century; that, as regards prepayment, the public would object to it, however low the rate might be; and, finally, that the poor would not be tempted, even by the bribe of a largely reduced rate, to write letters. To be sure, the worthy official had thus much in favour for his concluding argument in the fact that in 1839 a very large proportion of the poorer classes in England were unable to read or to write at all. They have since learned both arts, and the penny postage stamp has to an immense extent gone hand in hand with the penny newspaper. The unit of four farthings for a letter weighing one ounce is, of course, still the most conspicuous and, it may be said, the most important factor in modern postal economy; but the colossal administration of St. Martin's-le-Grand have never adopted the doctrine that a time would come when the community would be content to adopt Earl RUSSELL'S memorable advice to political reformers "to rest and be thankful." It is a notable feature in Post Office history that, although the penny stamp was a reform long and passionately agitated, vehemently demanded by the majority of the nation, but bitterly opposed by an influential minority, the greater number of postal facilities granted to the public since 1840 have been initiated within the walls of St. Martin's-le-Grand itself, and have been promulgated much less in compliance with the reiterated demands on the part of the public than as purely administrative measures, originating with, and developed and perfected by, the Postmaster-General and his advisers. It was the opinion of CHARLES DICKENS that the Circumlocution Office only excelled "in how not to do it." Such a reproach cannot assuredly be levelled at the General Post Office, since the aim and end of every successive Postmaster-General, whatever political principles he professed, have always been the strengthening of the general efficiency of the department and the development of its capacity and its resources in aid of the requirements of the community. The newspaper, the book, the sample, and the parcel posts; the registration of newspapers and letters, the money and postal order system, post-cards, postal insurances and annuities, postal investments in the funds, post-office savings-banks, postal telegraphs, and the transmission of money by the same—all these distinct and welcome boons have come about spontaneously from the great department of State, the last of the monopolies of the Crown, and the only one that for half a century has been actively and continuously beneficial to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

This day fifty years ago the public of the United Kingdom entered upon the enjoyment of the Penny Post. So much has the present system become a matter of course that it costs an effort to realize the former state of things, and there is a tendency to forget the debt we owe to the remarkable man whose genius and persistence brought about the change. We of this generation who have never suffered from the inconvenience of high and differential rates find it, perhaps, a little difficult to understand the enthusiasm evoked by Sir Rowland Hill's proposal, and the excitement attendant upon its adoption; still less can we understand the vigour with which the scheme was opposed by the department which now vaunts its results, or the scepticism with which it was received by statesmen and politicians. Let us consider for a moment what was involved in Post-Office Reform when Sir Rowland Hill urged it upon the public, the officials, and the Ministers of the early years of the present reign.

Postal rates before Sir Rowland Hill's innovation were regulated by the distance a letter travelled from the post-office at which it was posted, by the number of sheets of paper used for the purposes of the letter, and by weight, the latter consideration entering but slightly into the question. The great roads were all carefully surveyed by officers of the Post Office—the title of surveyor has come down to the present day, though the officer now surveys post-offices, not roads—and tables of distances were kept for the calculation of rates. Over and above the normal distance-rates, there were exceptional charges, such as packet-rates, 1d. for crossing the Menai-bridge and ½d. for conveyance in Scotland on a mail carriage of more than two wheels. Indeed, one wonders how letters ever reached their destination at all, the time and labour involved in justly charging them with postage must, one would think, have been so great. The public, however, were concerned with the practical results of the system, and a few examples will show what these were. The lowest rate for a letter sent from London to Birmingham was 9d.; if it contained a second sheet of paper, or, as it was called in days when one sheet served for both letter and envelope, an enclosure, the charge was immediately doubled. From London to Edinburgh the lowest rate was 1s. 1½d., and from London to Dublin, where two toll-bridges and the sea had to be crossed, 1s. 4d. It may well be imagined that with such rates no one hesitated to send his letters by other agencies than the Post Office, or that, in spite of stringent penalties, infringements of the State monopoly were innumerable. Indeed, the Post Office was used to defeat its own exactions. Franking was allowed on a prodigious scale, the weight of franked letters in an ordinary mail far exceeding that of paying letters; and ingenious devices were resorted to by which the postman was used to convey intelligence gratuitously. Newspapers, which might, it is said, be franked by the use of the name of any peer or member of Parliament without his consent, were employed to convey personal intelligence by means of preconcerted marks or catch-words. Carlyle and Sir Rowland Hill himself tell of their resort to this expedient. Blank letters were sent in order to be refused, the addressee being thus assured of the welfare of the sender. Letters were sent by carriers, friends took correspondence for one another, and tradesmen enclosed private letters in their trade parcels and allowed their shops to be used as receiving houses. It was estimated by no less an authority than Mr. Cobden that five-sixths of the letters from Manchester to London did not pass through the Post Office; while in some towns the post was scarcely used at all. By such means serious inroads were made on the Post Office revenue, so that, despite the increasing population, there was an actual decrease both in the gross and net receipts between 1815 and 1835. Such a result was alone sufficient to condemn the system as a form of taxation. But the stagnation of the Post Office revenue was amongst the least of the evils of high and varying postal rates. Correspondence amongst the poor was rendered impossible: as Daniel O'Connell told Lord Melbourne, to write a single letter to a relative in England would have cost an Irish peasant a fifth of his week's wages. A peculiarly cruel incident of the system in the case of the poor was that letters arriving (as was the rule) unpaid, were often withheld for days, or even weeks, because the money to pay the postage was not forthcoming. Imagine the distress of a mother, aware that a letter from a distant son or daughter, perhaps containing an appeal for instant succour, was lying at the post-office, but unable to redeem it and thus learn its contents! Amongst those in easy circumstances high postal rates had much the same effect as deafness has on conversation; they restricted letter-writing to really important communications. In social life the expense prevented anything like chatting on paper, and in business it impeded the interchange of commodities between place and place, and tended to maintain many markets of varying prices.

There are no doubt moments with all of us when we wish the penny post had not been invented; and it may be true that the ease with which frequent notes may be exchanged has killed letter-writing; but it would be intolerably irksome—how irksome no one brought up under the penny post can tell—to be forced to count the cost of every message to a friend or business correspondent. It has often been said, and probably with truth, that there is no more powerful agent in promoting civilization, orderly and kindly fellowship between man and man, than facility of intercourse; and intercourse by pen and paper ranks second only to intercourse by word of mouth. It was in the belief that the Post Office might be made a potent force in promoting the moral and intellectual progress of the nation that Sir Rowland Hill advocated his scheme, and few will be found to dispute that the results have justified his hopes.

The sore need of easier and less vexatious means of communication by letter is, perhaps, best proved by the enthusiasm evoked from all classes by Sir Rowland Hill's proposal. His celebrated pamphlet, "Post Office Reform," was only published in 1837, and on the 16th of March, 1839, *The Times* was able to write on the subject in the following terms:—

Such is the degree of conviction which is carried to all who have bestowed any thought upon it that the only question is—and it is asked universally—will these Ministers have the honesty and courage to try it? On a review of the public feeling which it has called forth from men of all parties, sects, and conditions of life, it may well be termed the cause of the whole people of the United Kingdom against the small coterie of place-holders in St. Martin's-le-Grand and its dependencies.

This testimony was justified by the facts. A deputation, comprising 150 members of Parliament, waited upon Lord Melbourne to urge the introduction of the penny post; and the presentation of petitions in its favour led to a remarkable scene in the House of Commons. Only officials and Ministers were slow to embrace the idea. The then Secretary to the Post Office considered the plan a preposterous one, and foretold a ruinous loss of revenue; and every leading official, with the honourable exception of Mr. Peacock, the solicitor, followed suit. The Postmaster-General of the day in no way lagged behind in condemning the scheme, and Miss Martineau has left on record an amusing account of the contempt with which it was received in the first instance by the Whig leaders. Subsequently, indeed, Lord Melbourne was converted, probably more by the strong demand for the scheme than by any liking on his own part, and he and his colleagues made themselves the champions of the project in Parliament. But Sir Robert Peel, notwithstanding his reputation as an economist and financier, opposed the Ministerial proposal both by speech and vote. Amongst Ministers and expectant Ministers the certainty of an immediate loss of revenue and doubts of its speedy recovery were probably the most potent reasons against so bold an innovation. Had not the country spoken clearly and decisively, it would have been long before any Chancellor of the Exchequer would have been found to throw away a million of income merely for the benefit of the country.

The resolution affirming the expediency of "an uniform rate of a penny postage" was passed on

July 5, 1839, and the Act empowering the Treasury to fix rates of postage in accordance with this principle was passed on the 17th of August in the same year. Some temporary reductions in the direction of simplicity and uniformity were made on the 5th of December, and, as we have said, on the 10th of January, 1840, the penny post became an accomplished fact. It is said that the first letter posted at the new rate was handed in by an old schoolmaster of Sir Rowland's at the Birmingham post-office as the clock struck 12 on the night of the 9th. The change had been well advertised, and the General Post Office was naturally besieged on the evening of the 10th. Over 100,000 letters—the ordinary number now is about ten times as great—or more than three times the usual number, were handed in, and the old hall, now filled with sorting tables, but then open to the public, was thronged with persons struggling to pay their postage, but not too much engrossed to give three cheers for the man who had so pluckily fought the battle of the public. The number of chargeable letters passing through the Post Office at once sprang up from not quite 76,000,000 in 1839 to nearly 169,000,000 in 1840. In the course of seven years this number was again doubled, and in 1855, when the first annual report of the Postmaster-General was issued, it had reached a total of 443,000,000. In 1839 each person in the United Kingdom wrote on the average three letters in the course of the year. In 1854 the average number had risen to 16, England standing at the head with 19, and Ireland only accounting for seven. At the present day the number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom has increased to 1,568 millions, more than three times the number of 1854, more than eight times that of 1840, and more than 20 times the circulation in the last year of varying rates. The number of letters written per head of the population has increased to 42, England now giving an average of 46, Scotland of 34, and Ireland of 20. Great, therefore, as has been the increase of population, the spread of education and the constant improvement of the postal machinery have caused the practice of letter-writing to grow twice as fast. Such has been the effect of Sir Rowland Hill's reform upon the primary business of the Post Office—the carriage of letters.

Before the introduction of the penny post the Postmaster-General also carried newspapers, and official money orders were a year or two old. When these branches of business have been mentioned, the whole of the services rendered by the Post Office to the public have been told. There is no published record of the number of newspapers carried before the introduction of the penny post, or prior to 1854. In that year it is estimated that 53,000,000 passed through the Post Office; the number at the present day is just three times as many, although the competition of the railways has now arrested the growth of this branch of work. In the year ending January 5, 1840, 189,000 money orders were issued and paid in the United Kingdom; in the year ending March 31, 1889, the number exceeded 9,000,000, although in the meantime banking facilities have been indefinitely extended, and a more convenient mode of transmitting small sums by post has been given to the public.

Let us now turn to new fields of labour. In 1848 the carriage of books and printed matter at exceptional rates was first sanctioned. The original idea was to provide a post for manuscripts and books of some bulk, and the lowest rate was 6d., which franked a pound. In 1854, the first year for which statistics were published, 375,000 book-packets passed through the Post Office. Gradually rates were lowered and the scope of the post enlarged, until, in 1870, the initial rate of ½d. was introduced. From that time there has, in fact, been a halfpenny circular post, although that term is not recognized by the Post Office. Such a post is used to an enormous extent, a single firm often posting on one evening thousands of circulars at the General Post Office. The total number of book-packets and circulars passing through the Post Office in the year ending the 31st of March, 1889, was 412,000,000. The establishment of the halfpenny circular post was accompanied by the introduction of postcards, or open letters, also transmissible for a halfpenny. The total number of postcards now carried by the Postmaster-General exceeds 201,000,000. But by far the most important addition to the carrying work of the Post Office is the conveyance of light parcels. In August, 1883, in response to the repeated demands of Chambers of Commerce and other representatives of the trade of the country and in consequence of the unremitting exertions of the late Mr. Fawcett, the parcel post was inaugurated. At first the *maximum* weight admissible was seven pounds, and the rates rose from 3d. for the first pound by an additional 3d. for every two pounds. But before very long the scale was improved by substituting gradations of single pounds, and the *maximum* weight was raised to 11 pounds. Parcels are now carried by the Postmaster-General at the rate of 3d. for the first pound and three halfpence for every subsequent pound up to 11 pounds; and at these rates about 40,000,000 of parcels now pass through the post in the course of the year. With a vast carrying agency such as the railway companies already in existence it is surprising that the Post Office should have been called upon to undertake the carriage of goods in any form. But the utter failure of the companies to give the public a certain and cheap service for small parcels, and the penetrating nature of the machinery of distribution possessed by the Post Office, brought about this remarkable extension of State-work, and the extent to which the post is used amply justifies the innovation. Nor is the benefit to the public to be measured by the direct services of the parcel post alone. The competition of the State led to a revision of railway rates and the improvement of the railway service. To traders the companies can give some facilities and advantages hardly within the powers of the Post Office; and it is probable that instead of losing traffic they carry more parcels now than ever they did. To sum up the comparison between the postal work proper of the day when Sir Rowland Hill first attacked differential rates and that of the present day—while in 1839 each person in the United Kingdom sent on the average but three letters and a newspaper or two, at the present time each of her Majesty's subjects in Great Britain and Ireland sends in the course of the year 42 letters, five post-cards, ten book-packets and circulars, four newspapers, and one parcel.

But the good done by the Penny Post is not to be measured solely by the increased correspondence of this country. Other countries gradually and more or less thoroughly followed the example of Great Britain. Uniformity of rates became familiar to the statesmen and administrators of European States, and at length the idea was conceived of applying the same principle to the intercourse of the civilized world. In 1874 representatives of the several Post Offices of Europe met at Berne, and it was resolved that the countries thus represented should form "a single postal territory." A Postal Parliament meeting at frequent intervals was constituted, laws for the regulation of postal affairs within the countries of the Postal Union were then and at subsequent meetings promulgated, and one rate of 2½d. for the interchange of ordinary correspondence (apart from long sea voyages and other exceptional conditions) was established. Not only was the international post thus put on a rational and simple footing, but a most salutary influence has been exercised upon the internal posts of each country. The international parcel post played no unimportant part in bringing about the parcel post of Great Britain, and many special advantages enjoyed by one country have been communicated to others.

Indeed, at the present day it is the gravamen of the charges brought against the British Post Office by postal reformers that it has suffered itself to be outrun by other countries, and that in some instances the conditions of the international post are more advantageous to the public than those of the home post. Such complaints could never have been made had not the Postal Union been created, and the Postal Union would in all probability never have existed but for the uniform Penny Post.

The carriage of letters and other missives is now, however, only one branch of the work of the Post Office. We have already alluded to the transmission of money by means of orders issued at one post-office and payable at another—a system in its infancy in Sir Rowland Hill's day. Within the last ten years a great extension of this system has been effected by the introduction of a more simple form of order. The older species of money order is payable only at a particular post-

office, and various formalities are necessary to obtain payment. The postal order, which came into use on January 1, 1881, may be cashed at any of the 9,000 post-offices of the United Kingdom where pecuniary business is transacted. It may be obtained for so small a sum as 1s. and at a minimum payment of a halfpenny, and its use is made as simple as possible. Such a method of transmitting small sums is naturally very popular; more than forty millions of postal orders are now issued annually, and the amount thus sent through the post exceeds £16,000,000. This, however, is not the only manner in which the Post Office acts as the banker of the public. The ubiquity of the Postmaster-General's agents suggested nearly 30 years ago the possibility of using post-offices as savings banks. Mr. Charles William Sikes, the originator of the plan, received the ready support of Sir Rowland Hill and of Mr. Gladstone, then Chancellor of the Exchequer. The late Mr. Chetwynd and Mr. Scudamore threw themselves with characteristic energy and ability into the difficult work of adjusting details; and in 1861 the Postmaster-General was authorized to receive money on deposit within certain limits and to pay a moderate rate of interest upon it. The great convenience of depositing in one place and withdrawing money in another, the sense of security afforded by banking with the State, and the confidence that the affairs of a customer of the Post Office would not, as might probably be the case in a trustee savings bank, become known to his neighbours, combined to render the Post Office Savings Bank a signal success. At the end of 1888 its depositors numbered four millions and a half, and it held on their behalf £54,000,000. Indeed, so successful has it been, that its very success has created alarm, and Chancellors of the Exchequer have been heard to deprecate the holding of so large an amount liable to withdrawal at a few days' notice. A catastrophe which affected the credit of the Post Office Savings Bank must, however, be one which threatened the very existence of the nation, and it is impossible to contemplate or provide for such a contingency. That the Post Office renders a most valuable service to the thrifty of small means is proved by the fact that the average amount of its customers' accounts is under £14, while one in seven of the whole population of England and Wales is on its books. The use of the Post Office as a savings bank has also been imitated by many of the colonies and Continental nations. Italy, one is glad to learn, has a million and a half of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank. In this country of recent years depositors have further been encouraged to become fund-holders. The purchase of Government stock through the medium of the Post Office Savings Bank was only sanctioned in 1880, and there are now £4,000,000 thus invested, the average amount of stock held for each depositor being under £100.

Less than ten years after post-offices were opened for the receipt of savings, another still more striking innovation was made by the Department. It having become clear that communication by electric telegraph was both practicable and highly convenient, the Post Office was called upon to undertake this method of correspondence, as it already undertook that by letter. The principle of uniformity of charge was seen to be applicable as well to the new as to the old mode of communication; the Postmaster-General was endowed with a monopoly of the right to transmit telegrams, and was required to send messages throughout the United Kingdom at the fixed charge of 1s. for 20 words. The result was a rapid development of telegraphic business. The number of telegrams despatched doubled in five years, and in the year 1885 exceeded 32,000,000. At that time the minimum charge was reduced to 6d., and the number of telegrams now despatched every year is about 53,000,000. Mere numbers do not, however, give an adequate conception of the work done. In addition to the ordinary telegram of a few words the Post Office carries to the newspapers a great part of the intelligence they disseminate amongst their readers. Press telegrams of thousands of words are flashed over the wires during the evening and the early morning hours, when other people have ceased to telegraph. Important papers have wires entirely at their command, by which they can communicate directly with correspondents at foreign capitals, and can keep up a conversation during the small hours of the night. A great speech is in the hands of the printer at the other end of the kingdom almost before the echoes of the speaker's voice have died away.

Compared with such achievements, the modest work of supplying telegraphic wires and apparatus for domestic purposes is hardly worth mentioning, but the Post Office maintains 17,000 miles of such wires.

To carry on the gigantic business which has thus developed since the introduction of the Penny Post, it may be assumed that a vast increase in buildings and staff has been necessitated. On the establishment of the Penny Post in 1840 there were only 4,028 post-offices; there are now nearly 18,000, besides an equal number of letter-boxes. Many years ago the General Post Office overflowed from the single building in St. Martin's-le-Grand into a second, and space has recently been cleared for the erection of a third, the area occupied being thus more than doubled; while a site of nine acres has just been secured at Coldbath-fields to supplement central deficiencies. In large provincial towns there have been proportionate developments. So late as 1854 the whole staff of the Post Office numbered less than 22,000 men. At the present time there are 58,000 permanent servants of the Post Office, and about 50,000 persons engaged in assisting local postmasters and otherwise in carrying on the work of the Department, though not counted as on its establishment.

The receipts and expenditure of the Department have naturally increased in a manner equally remarkable. The introduction of the Penny Post did not at first lead to an increase of revenue; on the contrary, there was an immediate loss of more than a million on the gross receipts. On this point only were Sir Rowland Hill's predictions somewhat too sanguine. Whereas he was of opinion that the gross revenue would recover in the course of a couple of years, it was not in fact until 1851, the twelfth year after the change, that the earlier figures were reached. For the year ending January 5, 1840, the gross revenue was £2,390,000, while the expenses were about £757,000, the net revenue being £1,633,000. For the financial year ending March 31, 1889, the gross revenue was £11,631,000, the expenditure £8,432,000, and the net return to the Chancellor of the Exchequer £3,199,000. Thus increased usefulness has not been purchased at the expense of those—if there be any such—who do not avail themselves of the services of the Post Office. The various transactions of the Post Office have been made to pay to an extent which even Sir Rowland Hill could not foresee. In the fifty years which have elapsed since the introduction of the Penny Post the letter correspondence of the country has multiplied fourteen-fold, exceptional facilities for the exchange of books, circulars, post-cards, and parcels by post have been granted, the Post Office has afforded additional facilities for the transmission of money, has become the banker and broker of the wage-earning classes, and has assumed the conduct of telegraphic communication. While undertaking the burden of these numerous and various duties, and thus becoming every year a more potent factor in the social and commercial life of the nation, it has doubled the amount which it contributes in relief of the taxation of the kingdom. Such a record of achievements speaks well, alike for the progress of the country and for the energy and intelligence with which the Post Office has been managed. But it would never have been possible but for the genius of Sir Rowland Hill, which divined the secret of postal success, and the dogged perseverance which led him and his friends to leave no stone unturned until they had secured that universal Penny Post, the jubilee of which we commemorate to-day.

At a meeting of the Balloon Society, held last night at St. James's-hall, Mr. Pearson Hill, son of Sir Rowland Hill, late of the Secretary's Department, General Post Office, delivered a lecture on "The Jubilee of the Penny Post." The chair was taken by Mr. W. H. Lefevre, who stated that Sir John Puleston, M.P., who was to have presided had an attack of influenza.

Mr. HILL, in his lecture, said that on January 10, 1840, there came into operation in the United Kingdom a measure of social reform which, for its widespread influence on the happiness of mankind, stood in modern times perhaps almost unrivalled. The reform—the uniform penny postage system—originated with the late Sir Rowland Hill, and in spite of strenuous official opposition was carried by him to completion. Up to and even for some considerable time after her Majesty's accession there had been no full and free epistolary intercourse except for those who, like members of Parliament, had the command of the franks. There were few

people who did not feel the cost of postage a heavy item in their expenditure. The lowest rate of letter-postage between any two post-towns in the United Kingdom was 4d., but that only sufficed for a distance not exceeding 15 miles. Beyond that radius the postal rates rapidly increased, letters from London to Liverpool or Manchester being subjected to a postage of 11d.; while those to the further parts of Scotland and Ireland were charged 1s. 8d., and even those high charges were at once doubled or trebled if the letter, however light, contained one or more enclosures. Costliness was by no means the only fault to be found with the postal service of the country as it existed 50 years ago. It deserved almost equal condemnation on the ground of its slowness and inefficiency. Fraudulent evasions of the postal duties were matters of daily occurrence. Members of Parliament and a few other privileged persons, by writing their names on the outside of letters, could free them through the post, and people constantly forged such signatures, undeterred by the fact that in 1771 the Rev. Dr. Dodd was actually hanged at Tyburn for this offence. Many ingenious systems of fraud were adopted in commercial circles to evade the postal charges. In January, 1837, Rowland Hill published his scheme in a pamphlet which he privately submitted to the Govern-

ment, through Mr. Charles P. Villiers, hoping that the careful examination of his plan, supported as it was by an unanswerable array of facts, would suffice to insure its adoption. Every possible discouragement was showered upon Rowland Hill by the authorities of St. Martin's-le-Grand. A friendly hand was, however, held out to him by the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry, to whom he gave evidence. The Commissioners reported favourably of Hill's scheme, and it was eagerly taken up by the public. In Parliament Mr. Wallace, M.P., moved for and obtained a Select Committee, which in 1838 examined into and strongly supported the plan, but the Government were reluctant to adopt it. In 1839 Lord Melbourne was recalled to take office, and in the negotiations with the Radical members for future support to the Liberal Government the bargain was struck that such support should be given provided penny postage was conceded.

Mr. APPLETON moved the following resolution:—
"This meeting hails with satisfaction the jubilee of the great measure of penny postage, so honourably associated with the name and services of Sir Rowland Hill, and, in view of the great and beneficent advantages which have resulted thereby, earnestly recommends still further postal reform between Great Britain and foreign countries."
Having reviewed the history of the penny post movement, Mr. Appleton gave some interesting statistics of this great improvement. In 1839 the Post Office total delivery of letters was 76,000,000; in 1845 the delivery was 271,000,000; in 1855, 444,000,000; in 1865, 679,000,000; in 1875, 967,000,000; and last year, 1,588,000,000; and inclusive of postcards, circulars, newspapers, and book packets, the total delivery in the United Kingdom was 2,353,000,000. As regards the increased revenue of the Post Office, in 1835 the net revenue was £401,868; in 1865, £1,159,323; in 1875, £1,836,387; and in 1889 the total net revenue of the Post Office, including the profit on letters, telegraphs, savings bank, postal orders, &c., was £3,199,644.
The resolution was carried.

THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST.

Standard Post. 7. 1890 12
(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

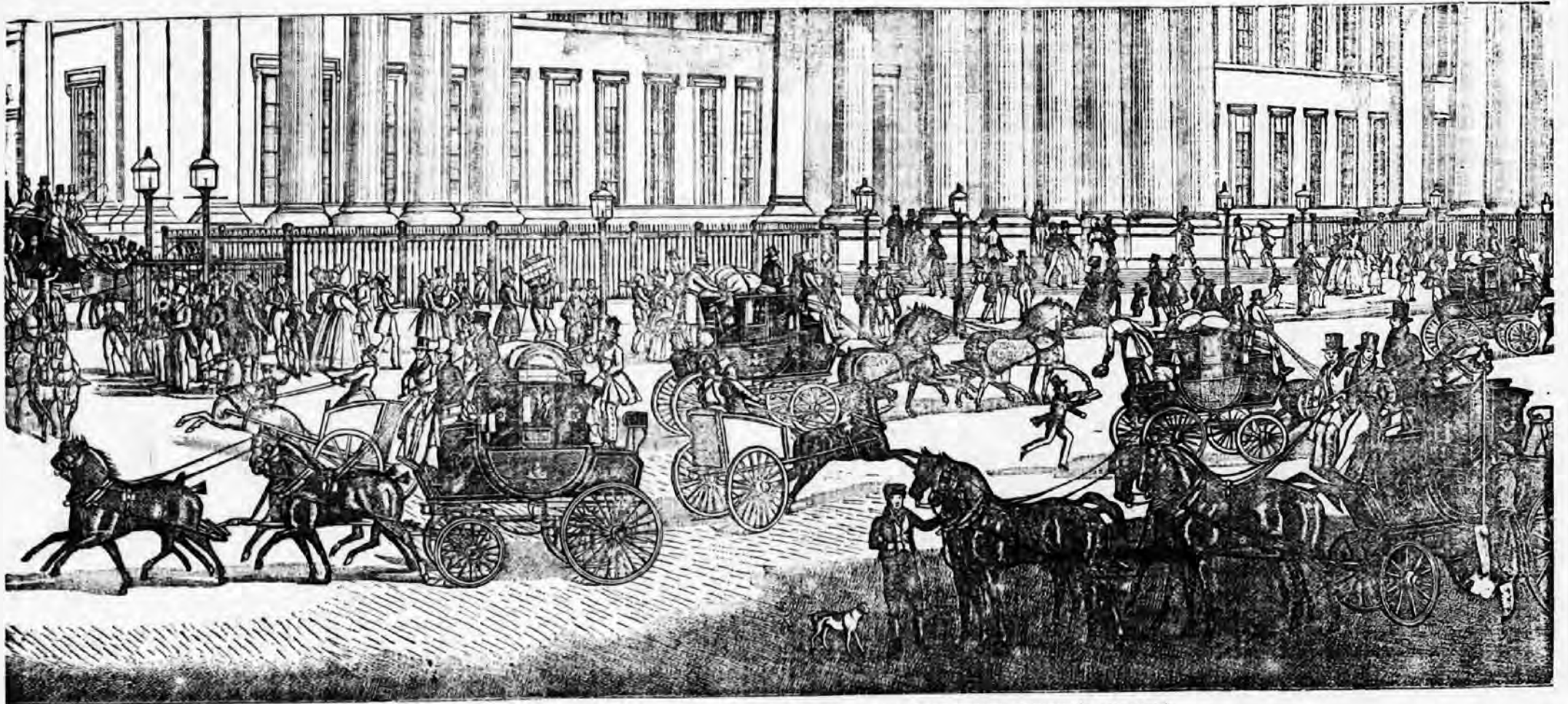
Fifty years ago to-morrow—namely, on Friday, 10th January, 1840—there came into operation in this country one of those great measures of social reform which may be said to constitute the landmarks of a nation's progress—the Uniform Penny Postage System. This measure, originating with a private individual, who, up to the age of thirty-seven, had been a schoolmaster, and who was wholly unconnected either with the Post Office or the Government, has, in the last half-century, revolutionised the Postal service of the world, and made the name of its author—the late Sir Rowland Hill—a household word in every civilized country.

To the present generation the old Postal system, which was swept away by Rowland Hill's reform, is now so much a matter of ancient history, and of history but little studied, that probably very few have any conception of the state of affairs which existed in this country at a date no further removed than the early years of her Majesty's reign.

Up to 1840 the Post Office, so far as the poor and the lower middle-class were concerned, may be said to have been almost non-existent. The rates charged on letters were in those days so exorbitant, especially when compared with the scanty wages then obtainable, that correspondence was a luxury far too costly for all but the well-to-do. Even in the upper middle classes the cost of postage was a heavy item of household expenditure, only to be incurred after much careful consideration; but the vast multitude of the lower orders were practically excluded from all use of the Post Office. When once their families parted off from home it was a separation almost like that of death. The hundreds of thousands of apprentices, of shopmen, of governesses, of domestic servants were cut off from family relations as if seas or deserts lay between them and home.

Except in the local town deliveries—technically known as "Penny Posts"—the lowest charge on any letter was 4d., but that only sufficed for a distance of fifteen miles; beyond that radius the rates of postage rapidly increased with the distance the letter had to be conveyed, till letters from London to Liverpool or Manchester were charged 11d., those to Edinburgh or Glasgow 1s. 4d., and to Cork or Londonderry 1s. 5d., and even these exorbitant rates were at once doubled or trebled if the letter, however light, contained one or more enclosures, or consisted of two or three pieces of paper. Thus a letter consisting of a sheet of paper and a cheque, with an envelope to enclose them, which now goes from London to Cork for one penny, would, prior to 1840, have been treated as a treble letter, and charged 4s. 3d., or more than fiftyfold the present rate.

Letters in those days were almost always sent unpaid, and were, in many cases, refused by the persons to whom they were addressed, especially by those of the poorer classes, so that the Post Office constantly over-shot its mark in its endeavour to make a great profit, and had to carry the letter from the writer to the addressee, and, after all, to lose the whole postage. The old high rates of postage simply killed all domestic or friendly correspondence, or drove it into illicit channels, and in proof of this Rowland Hill, in 1837, drew attention to the remarkable fact that in the twenty years ending with 1835 (during which period the trade and population of the United Kingdom had greatly increased), the revenue of the Post Office had remained stationary. As an instance of the extraordinary charges sometimes made under the old system, it is stated that in 1839 Sir John Burgoyne wrote to complain that for a packet of papers sent to him at Dublin, from some other part of Ireland, by mail coach, as a letter, instead of a parcel, he had been charged a postage of eleven pounds. That is to say, for a packet which he could easily have carried in his pocket, he was charged a sum for which he could have engaged the whole mail coach.



THE ROYAL MAILS FIFTY YEARS SINCE: DEPARTURE FROM THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON (J. POLLARD).

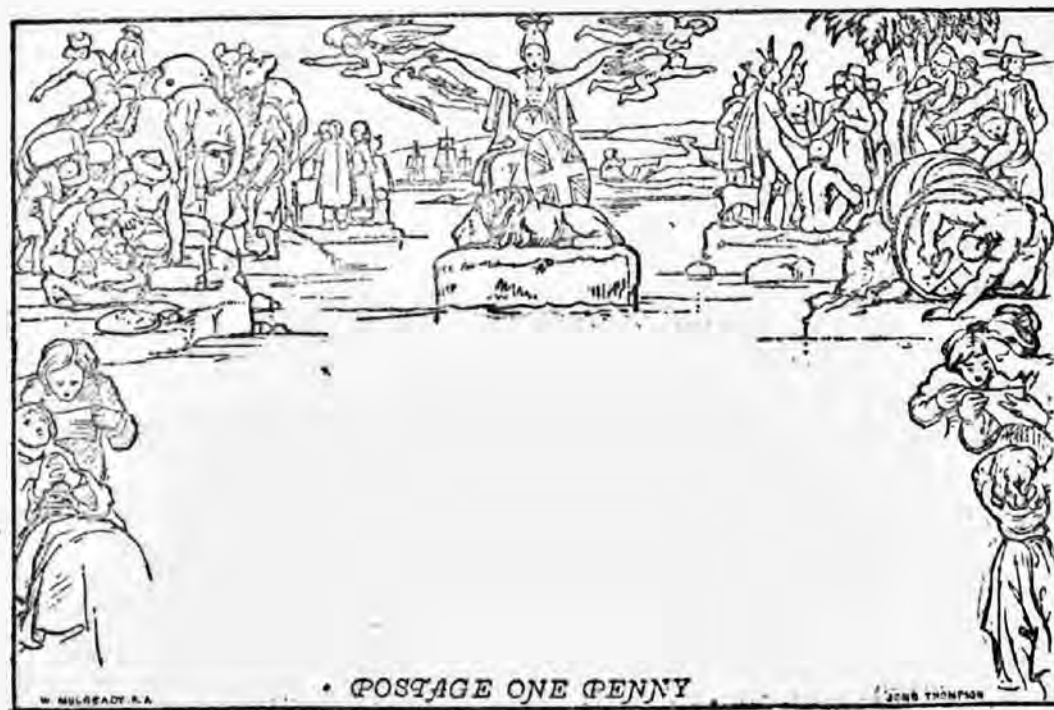
THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST.

It is fifty years ago to-day since the penny post was established throughout the United Kingdom. Post Office reform had been for years a burning question, and public excitement had reached a great height before the views of Mr. Rowland Hill gained the day. The penny post was not, of course, a complete innovation. It had existed locally for centuries. Early in the seventeenth century there was a licensed penny post, with two deliveries a day in the metropolis, and private enterprise had, in many districts, already supplied to some limited extent the demand for cheap communication. But still the general charge for the conveyance of letters from place to place had remained unchanged, if it had not actually increased in amount. So long ago as the time of Charles I., private posts were established to Ireland and the West of England, at 2d. per letter under 80 miles, 4d. under 100 miles, and 6d. over that distance; while to Scotland the postage was 8s. But fifty years ago the rates were more than double these. They were charged by distance, and since there were only six mail roads going out of London and few cross posts, it may be imagined what a heavy tax the charges were upon the community. The introduction of railroads seems at first to have increased the rates of postage, for, notwithstanding the *ex post facto* legislation, fixing the rate at which the mails were to be conveyed, the contracts were much higher than those paid the coaches. We can then understand what a tremendous revolution was effected by the introduction of a uniform penny rate for all half-ounce letters, irrespective of distance. It was the beginning of a cheap postage, not only throughout England, but throughout the world; for nearly all civilized countries, many of which had

hitherto been somewhat in advance in postal matters, hastened to copy Mr. Hill's scheme in most of its details.

But if the penny post was only an extension of a

system already in existence, the penny postage-stamp was a wholly novel idea. By common consent Mr. Rowland Hill is now admitted to have been its true inventor. There had, it is true, been innumerable attempts to devise an easy system of franking letters



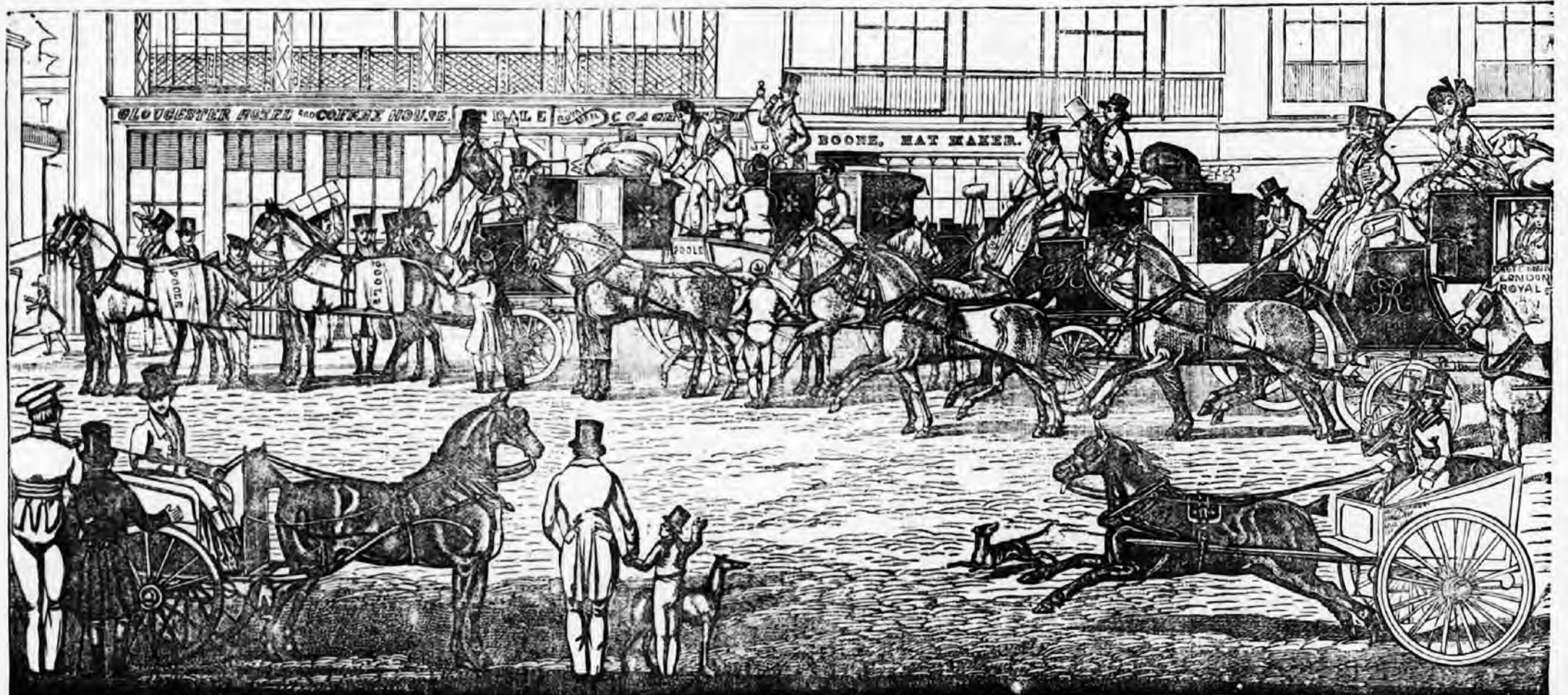
THE MULREADY ENVELOPE.

original for all its simplicity. The illustrations which we give of the old black penny postage stamp (which was soon afterwards, owing to the difficulties of obliteration, changed to brown), of the Mulready envelope and covers which were issued on the

same day, the 6th May, 1840, and were of two values, one penny black and twopence blue, and of the pink embossed head, which was not issued to the public until the following year, will recall the beginnings of cheap postage in this country. The Mulready envelope seems likely to remain immortal. The design has covered the name of the great artist with much ill-deserved ridicule, for there is some ground for believing that it was "done to order," and, if the current rumour of the time be true, to the order of no less a personage than the Prince Consort himself. It is certainly a peculiar conglomeration of allegories, and it is not to be wondered at that the caricaturists were not slow to seize upon its unintentionally humorous features. By the side of the finely engraved adhesives of the present day, it is singularly primitive in style, notwithstanding that it was engraved in relief on brass with the utmost care and delicacy by Thompson, who devoted the labour of twelve entire weeks to its execution. The envelopes and covers were printed from casts stereotyped, and on Dickenson paper, and were retailed at a farthing over the nominal value. Their withdrawal at the end of the year was, perhaps, mainly due to the ease with which they were reproduced, and the extent to which they were adapted to trade purposes, as well as to Leech's inimitable caricatures.

It is a far cry from the postal system of to-day, with its marvellous developments in capacity and speed, to the days of the old mail coaches. But time was when they in their turn were looked upon as an immense improvement upon their older predecessors. Only fifty years ago it was still customary to speak of them as "so rapid a mode of conveyance," and even Mr. Hill relied mainly upon them to prove that his plan was financially practicable. Our illustrations of the departure of the Royal Mails

Our illustrations of the departure of the Royal Mails



THE ROYAL MAILS FIFTY YEARS SINCE: THE START FROM PICCADILLY.

from the General Post-office, and of the West Country Mails from the Gloucester Coffee-house, Piccadilly, seem, at the present time, to belong to the Middle Ages. Yet, as we write, it is announced that the Post-office authorities are about to establish a system of mail-coaches to run between Liverpool and Manchester six nights in the week. They are to be not one, but three-horse affairs, and it seems they are intended to be subsidiary to the ordinary mail service. But, be this as it may, the plan seems to indicate an intention to return to old-fashioned ways. It is true that for some years a parcels mail has run between Brighton and London and on other roads; and if the system becomes developed, we may have a real return to the old coaching days. The four-in-hand and the coaching clubs will receive a new impetus if they can secure mail contracts, and many a famous old hostelry, which has degenerated into a little more than a "cyclists' rest," may look forward to returning fame and prosperity. There is much that is pleasing in the idea that, notwithstanding all the developments of locomotion, it should be feasible to return to the old systems, which, in these busy bustling days, seem to possess such great attractions. But the fact is mainly remarkable as illustrative of the freaks played by the whirligig of time. But the jubilee of the penny post, if it thus recalls "old-time idylls" of the road, reminds us mainly of the enormous developments of the last fifty years. We need not go into statistics in order to prove the work of the post-office to-day, or what a mighty factor it is in the progress of the world. Nor need we labour the advantages that cheap postage has been mainly instrumental in securing. Our postal systems are by no means perfect. Postal reform is still in the air, as it was fifty years ago; and it would not be safe to speculate as to its future. But for the benefits that we now enjoy we are, without doubt, indebted to the energy, originality, and foresight of Sir Rowland Hill, the pioneer of the penny post, and the author of the penny postage-stamp.



It is greatly to be hoped that a peaceable solution may eventually be found for the difficulties which are at present causing serious tension between Great Britain and Portugal. It would be humiliating for both parties, if circumstances were to drive us to seize the Azores, Madeira, the Cape Verde, Goa, Delagoa Bay, or Quillimane, or to bombard the forts at the mouth of the Tagus; for it would be, in some sort, unworthy of us to attack so weak a Power as Portugal. But we have wisely prepared for immediate action, should action be forced upon us. The Raleigh, Curagoa, and Brisk are by this time at Delagoa Bay; several vessels of the East Indies Squadron are within easy distance of Goa; the Benbow and Colossus are at Gibraltar; and the Channel Squadron, consisting of the Northumberland, Anson, Monarch, Iron Duke, and Curlew, is also there in a position to be able to strike with equal promptitude, either at Lisbon or among the Islands.

In the meantime, Portugal has been able to do very little by way of counter preparation. She has persuaded some German torpedo engineers to mine the mouth of the Tagus for her; but her strongest coast battery there, Fort Casias, is not yet fully armed, and most of the ten or twelve other works dominating the river are not exactly of the most modern construction. Mine-fields, unless protected by powerful batteries, form only a temporary obstruction in a channel, and our ships could easily get rid of them. As for the Lisbon forts, there is no question that we could blow them to dust, though no doubt we should suffer somewhat in the process.

A question that arises in many minds in connection with such considerations as the above is: How will our heavy breechloading guns behave, should they be tried in action? And it may be that it was with an eye to the contingency of that question receiving a practical answer that the Admiralty despatched the Benbow and the Colossus to Gibraltar. The Benbow carries the two heaviest breechloaders afloat in a commissioned ship—two 110-ton guns. The Colossus also carries heavy breechloaders in the shape of four 44-ton guns. One cannot avoid feeling anxious as to the behaviour of the heavier of these monstrous weapons. There are experts who, for months past, have been assuring us that the guns could not, with safety, be fired with full charges in half an hour; and if that assertion be true, the guns are, of course, no good for fighting purposes. The worst part of the matter is that the experts who make this ominous statement are men who, judged by their previous careers and performances, should know what they are talking about.

Upon her purely naval defences Portugal can place no reliance whatever. She has one very small and rather antique ironclad; she has four good torpedo-boats; and she has one small, but modern, cruiser. The rest of her navy consists either of vessels of which it can only be said that Noah's Ark was more ancient, or of gunboats, most of which are employed in her various colonies. It is difficult to realise that the Navy which is now represented by this miserable flotilla, was once the second in Europe.

The new torpedo gun vessels are, alas! not the only new war ships of which it may be said that their souls are too big for their bodies. In our anxiety, of late, to possess ourselves of fast craft, we have adopted the bad habit of cramming the largest and most powerful machinery into the smallest and lightest possible hulls; and the consequence is that when the machinery is set to work the hull begins to slowly shake itself to pieces. It is feared best, unless steps be taken to prevent it, this may be the fate of the hull of the great torpedo depot ship Vulcan. Her framework, therefore, is to be strengthened by means of "chocks and angles."

The composite corvettes of the "Gem" class—a class which includes the Emerald, Garnet, Opal, Tourmaline, Turquoise, and Ruby—date back only as far as the year 1875; yet it is already understood that not one of these vessels is to be again commissioned. The ships are too slow, and their armament is out of date. Few, if any of them, can now steam at a greater speed than 10 knots an hour; and it is felt that cruisers intended for such work as the "Gems" have hitherto been employed upon, should henceforth have an effective speed of at least 14 knots. It is probable, therefore, that the "Gems" will gradually give place to the sheathed and coppered ships of the "M" and "P" classes—the Melponenes and the Philomels.

The Admiralty contains one of the best naval libraries in the world; yet that library has been most scurvily treated by successive Boards. Some of it is in one room, some of it is in another; yet more of it is in the First Lord's house or private office, and yet more is stored away in certain crowded attics. Then there is no proper catalogue of the collection, and the result is that not even the librarian knows exactly what is and what is not under his charge. This should be remedied for the sake of the treasures which the library contains. A suite of rooms should be set aside to serve as a library, and no books belonging to the library should be kept in other parts of the build-

to be expended upon each ship. We have now no fewer than eighteen brand-new ships which will have to undergo special strengthening ere they can fulfil the objects for which they were laid down; and there are horrid rumours abroad to the effect that the Blake will be found to suffer from similar weakness.

Several important alterations in the armament of the belted cruiser Undaunted, have been suggested by Captain Lord Charles Beresford, and have been cordially approved by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. Commander Robert S. Lowry, who is to be Lord Charles Beresford's chief executive officer, and who joined the Undaunted at Devonport, on Tuesday, has greatly distinguished himself as a gunnery expert; and, although he has not had the good fortune to see war service, wears the Royal Humane Society's bronze medal for having, in 1873, jumped overboard at sea from the Invincible, and saved the life of a boy. Commander Lowry was recently first and gunnery lieutenant of the unfortunate Sultan.

MR. BARNUM AS A STORY-TELLER.

With a view to raising funds to assist poor Irish peasant workers and distressed Irish ladies, Mr. Barnum has agreed to occupy an hour or two on the afternoon of Thursday, 30th January, in relating the chief incidents of his life and adventures, and to tell many amusing and new anecdotes. Mr. Barnum is an exceptionally entertaining story-teller, and as it will be the first and only time that the old man will be seen in a London drawing-room in such a character, the limited number of seats available in the mansion at Grosvenor Square, which has been most kindly lent by the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, are likely to be applied for several times over. Mrs. Shaw, the American Lady Whistler, will also give her services on this occasion. Mr. J. S. Wood, of 2, Prince's Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W., is organising the event.

Gardons, in Kennington. Much has been written, of late, regarding this range, the working of which will be a matter of great importance, if the results of the shooting prove satisfactory. The War Office has granted Colonel Hadden permission to pass his men through their "third class" at this underground range, provided that they afterwards fire twenty rounds on their "second class" at Wormwood Scrubs open air range. The targets used are made of pasteboard fixed on canvas, with the bull's eye one inch in diameter. Every care has been taken, and it is expected that the range will become very popular. The men of the corps previously have had to journey down to Milton, beyond Gravesend, at a considerable cost in valuable time and money.

The success of the range will be greatly furthered by the target (invented by Dr. Stevenson, of Woolwich), a sectional sketch of which is given. The arrangement and mechanism are alike ingenious. The target is so constructed that a bullet fired from a Martini rifle with full service charge, at any range, passes through the canvas target and glints along the sloped iron plate behind, until checked by the catcher plate moving on a hinge, which finally deflects it into a box of sawdust, where it can be afterwards discovered flattened out. There is no dangerous splashing from the bullet possible.

VOLUNTEER OFFICERS AT SCHOOL.

The Volunteer Course of Instruction in Musketry at the Hythe School is now closed. The school is made up of 70 officers from all parts of England and Scotland, and it is acknowledged on all sides that the practical musketry instruction is a most valuable experience. The officer students, during the term that has just closed, have been exercised with machine guns of every type—Maxim, Nordenfeldt, and Gardner—and ought to have their heads well stocked with the latest scientific information regarding the repeating rifle. A very sociable time has been spent this season, especially by the forty officers who have to live in barracks—the remainder being billeted in the town.

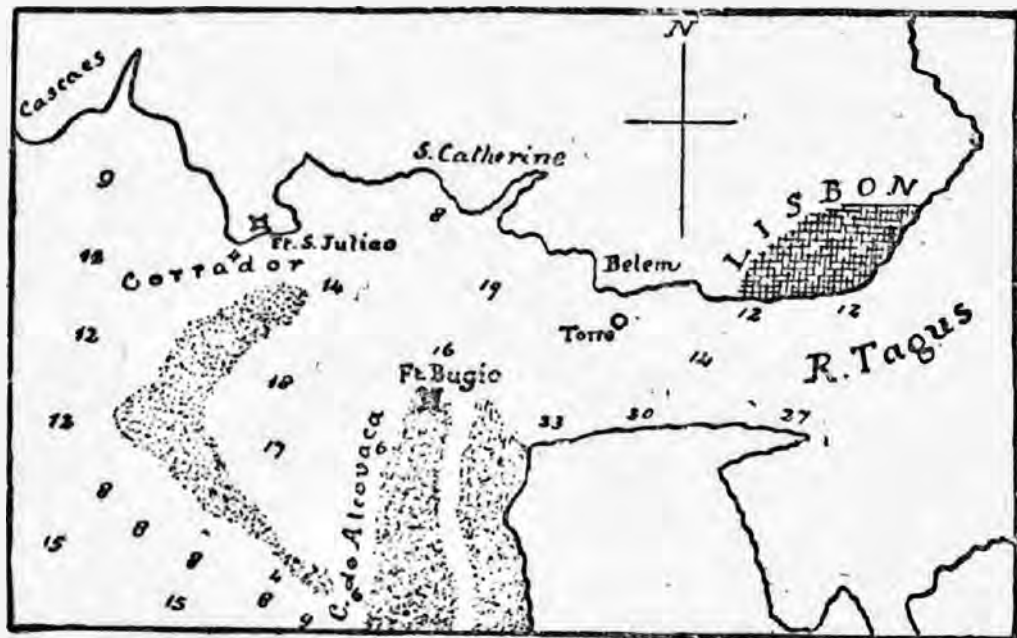
A LOVING CUP FOR THE STAFF.

A most favourable impression has been created among the Volunteer officers at Hythe, by the friendliness of the permanent staff off duty. On Monday evening a massive silver loving cup was presented to the staff mess by the Volunteer officers, in acknowledgment of having sacrificed the winter's leave for their benefit, and as a return for the valuable instruction received, and in commemoration of the auspicious close of the first proper Volunteer Hythe Musketry Course. The cup was after a design by Flaxman. It weighs 85 ounces, and stands 18 inches high, the top being 10 inches across.

DISTRIBUTION OF BIBLES.

Yesterday took place, at the Church of St. Sepulchre, Holborn Viaduct, what is probably the final distribution of bibles under the wills of Sir John Fenner, Rd. Adams, and Jas. Shaw, who died in the seven teenth century, leaving bequests for that purpose. Under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners the property from which the funds were derived is henceforth to be devoted to other objects. There were twenty-seven candidates for the twenty bibles, each of whom read a passage from Isaiah to the vicar, the Rev. J. Jackson, and the churchwardens, and the vicar afterwards delivered an address.

RENT REDUCTIONS IN WALES.—The Duke of Westminster has granted an abatement of 25 per cent. to his Welsh agricultural tenants. Lord Mostyn, the Earl of Denbigh, and Sir George Cayley, Bart., have granted their title payers a reduction of 10 per cent.



THE PORT OF LISBON.

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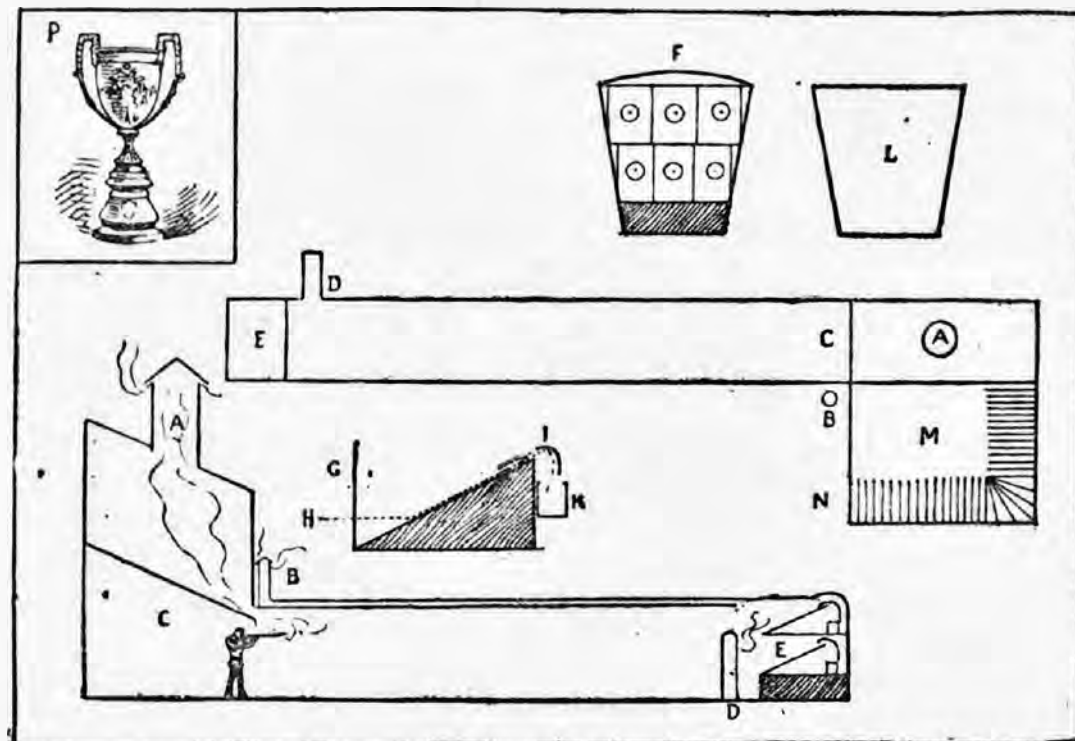
Until recently the Channel Squadron has been entirely composed of obsolete battleships. Last year one modern battleship, the Anson, was added; and this year the Camperdown, as soon as she can be spared from the Mediterranean, will take the place of the Northumberland as first flag-ship. According to the Army and Navy Gazette, the rejuvenation of the Squadron is eventually to be completed by the substitution for the Iron Duke and Monarch of the Rodney and the Howe; and to this fleet of four fine "Admirals" are to be added a couple of belted, and two or three protected, cruisers. When these reforms shall have been effected, our Channel Squadron will be more nearly what it ought to be than it has been at any time during the past twenty years.

There now seems to be little doubt that no more 110-ton guns will be built for mounting in British men-of-war; and there is even a possibility that no gun larger than the 12-inch 45-ton breechloader will be supplied to the eight first-class battleships which are being constructed under the terms of the Naval Defence Act; for there are signs that the Admiralty is at length inclining to the conclusion that all guns carried in men-of-war should, in case of need, be workable by hand-power alone. In connection with this subject it is interesting to note what are the weights of the heaviest breechloading guns carried in the fleets of the chief maritime Powers. These are as follows:—Great Britain, 110 tons; France, 75 tons; Russia, 52 tons; Germany, 37 tons; United States, 46 tons; Italy, 106 tons; Austria, 48 tons; Spain, 21 tons. A striking example of the haste and lack of foresight with which some of our newest cruisers have been designed and constructed may be found in the fact that the Barrosa, Barracouta, Blanche, and Blonde, which are now nearly ready for commissioning, have, at the last moment, been discovered to be structurally so weak that their main deck guns cannot be fired without actually destroying the fabric of the vessels. To remedy this rather important defect, a sum of about £3,000 over and above the original estimate will have

THE VOLUNTEERS.

AN UNDERGROUND VOLUNTEER RIFLE RANGE.

The underground rifle range, invented by Colonel Hadden, of the 4th Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, is rapidly approaching completion. It is being constructed in a corner of the capacious parade ground of this corps, part of the site of the Old Surrey



- A Ventilating shaft at firing point.
- B Ventilating shaft at target.
- C Firing point.
- D Marker's refuge, a niche in the wall.
- E Targets.
- F Target end of tunnel.
- G Canvas target.
- H Dotted line, showing track of bullet.
- I "Catcher" on its hinge.
- K Bag of sand and sawdust.
- L Shape of tunnel as seen from the firing point.
- M Gas engine room (for ventilating purposes).
- N Main entrance from the parade ground.
- O The loving cup presented to the Staff mess.

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In the meantime, Portugal has been able to do very little by way of counter preparation. She has persuaded some German torpedo engineers to mine the mouth of the Tagus for her; but her strongest coast battery there, Fort Caxias, is not yet fully armed, and most of the ten or twelve other works dominating the river are not exactly of the most modern construction. Mine-fields, unless protected by powerful batteries, form only a temporary obstruction in a channel, and our ships could easily get rid of them. As for the Lisbon forts, there is no question that we could blow them to dust, though no doubt we should suffer somewhat in the process.

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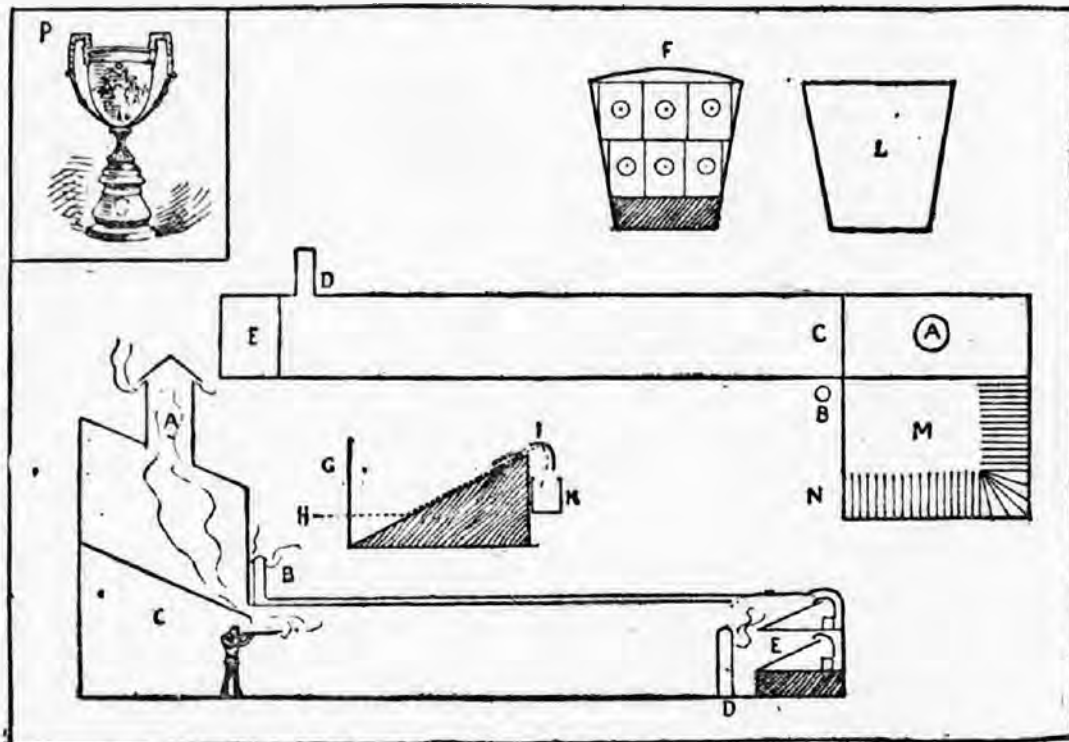
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The underground rifle range, invented by Colonel Hadden, of the 4th Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, is rapidly approaching completion. It is being constructed in a corner of the capacious parade ground of this corps, part of the site of the Old Surrey

DISTRIBUTION OF BIBLES.

Yesterday took place, at the Church of St. Sepulchre, Holborn Viaduct, what is probably the final distribution of bibles under the wills of Sir John Fenner, Rd. Adams, and Jas. Shaw, who died in the seven teenth century, leaving bequests for that purpose. Under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners the property from which the funds were derived is henceforth to be devoted to other objects. There were twenty-seven candidates for the twenty bibles, each of whom read a passage from Isaiah to the vicar, the Rev. J. Jackson, and the churchwardens, and the vicar afterwards delivered an address.

RENT REDUCTIONS IN WALES.—The Duke of Westminster has granted an abatement of 25 per cent. to his Welsh agricultural tenants. Lord Mostyn, the Earl of Denbigh, and Sir George Cayley, Bart., have granted their tithe payers a reduction of 10 per cent.



- A Ventilating shaft at firing point.
- B Ventilating shaft at target.
- C Firing point.
- D Marker's refuge, a niche in the wall.
- E Targets.
- F Target end of tunnel.
- G Canvas target.

- H Dotted line, showing track of bullet.
- I "Catcher" on its hinge.
- K Bag of sand and sawdust.
- L Shape of tunnel as seen from the firing point.
- M Gas engine room (for ventilating purposes).
- N Main entrance from the parade ground.
- P The loving cup presented to the Staff mess.

THE PENNY POST JUBILEE.

When an institution has survived the wind and the rain of fifty years, and is more prosperous than it was in the hopes of its inventors, the honours of a jubilee may be well accorded to it. Everybody who opens a letter this morning should glance gratefully at the Queen's head, and, remembering the isolation of their forefathers, pay it the compliment of remembering how much it has done for the solidarity of the race. In another column the history of the little "adhesive" is traced for the benefit of the appreciative. What has it not done for us? Everything which is recognised as the peculiar glory of the Victorian epoch is associated with its use. It is the symbol, if not the cause, of advanced locomotion, increased industry, the growth of education, the diffusion of knowledge, the expansion of the sympathy of families and communities. Like the telegraphic wire, it has made the world a smaller place to live in; it has robbed us, through information, of some of the imaginative wonder which was the privilege of generations who did not know its use. But, take it all in all, it is one of the best institutions which the nineteenth century has invented.

Early in "the thirties," however, the attention of the authorities of St. Martin's-le-Grand had been somewhat persistently called to the evils of the then-existing high rates of postage by the late Mr. Robert Wallace, M.P. for Greenock, who compelled the Post Office to make some trifling concessions to public demands, but, like many other free lances, Mr. Wallace was far more skilful in attacking what was defective than in devising any satisfactory system to take its place, and though, as judged by the experience of later years, the old Postal system stood grievously in need of thorough amendment, nothing like a practicable or even well-thought-out scheme of Postal reform was forthcoming, till Rowland Hill's celebrated pamphlet (which was published early in 1837) fell like a bomb-shell amongst the sleepy occupants of St. Martin's-le-Grand.

Rowland Hill had never been in any way connected with the Post Office, but during such moments of relaxation as he could afford himself in the course of an exceedingly busy life, he had, among other questions of economic science, frequently turned his attention to the possibility of cheapening and extending the Postal and other means of communication. He had long come to the conclusion that the old rates of postage were far too high, even if revenue, and not public convenience, were the primary object of the Postal Service; but until 1836 the time for attempting to carry his views into effect had not arrived, for the Government had always set its face firmly against any proposal that might jeopardise any large portion of the revenue it was then receiving from the Post Office.

But in the financial year ending 31st March, 1836, there was, fortunately, a considerable excess in the gross revenue of the country generally over the expenditure, and the public, of course, looked to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to grant some important relief in taxation. Many suggestions were freely put forward, such as the abolition of the tax on windows, bricks, paper, and other articles, but it seemed to Rowland Hill that no method of employing the surplus would be so beneficial as in reducing the heavy tax levied on all commercial and domestic correspondence by the then high Postal charges.

With a view of ascertaining what reduction in the Postal rates might be possible, Rowland Hill set himself to study systematically the real working of the then Postal system, and in the course of that investigation he arrived at the all-important but hitherto unsuspected fact, that the main cost to the Post Office in respect of each letter was in what may be called the terminal services of collection and delivery, while the cost of conveyance from one Post town to another, instead of being, as had hitherto been supposed, the principal item of expenditure (the sole ground upon which rates rapidly increasing by distance could be justified), was so infinitesimal—only the ninth part of a farthing per letter even for so long a distance as from London to Edinburgh—that it was absolutely fairer as regards inland letters to disregard distance altogether in fixing their postage, and to adopt a uniform rate of postage for letters throughout the United Kingdom.

To Rowland Hill himself this discovery was so astounding that it was not until he had over and over again tested his facts and calculations that he could believe in its accuracy; but every test confirmed his conclusion, and he thus obtained the talisman that opened to his view a prospect of Postal reform far exceeding anything he had before supposed to be possible, for he at once saw that if a uniform rate of postage were established in place of the complicated scale then in force, the Postal system would be so wonderfully simplified and cheapened that the rate might be a very low one without unduly lowering the net revenue of the Department.

Ultimately he saw his way to fix the unit of charge as low as one penny, provided the public could be induced to change its long-established custom of sending its letters unpaid, and strange to say this change of habit—one so which no one nowadays dreams of objecting—was by many persons (indeed, by almost every person but Rowland Hill himself) supposed to be a rock upon which the scheme would probably be wrecked.

As one method of securing easy prepayment of postage, Rowland Hill availed himself of an excellent suggestion of his friend Mr. Charles Knight, the well-known publisher, that stamped covers or wrappers should be employed, and while giving his first evidence on 13th February, 1837, before the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry (see their Ninth Report, pp. 32-33), Rowland Hill hit upon and at once proposed the happy modification of Charles Knight's idea which consisted of making the stamp adhesive "by using a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash, which . . . by applying a little moisture" could be attached to the letter. This was the origin of the adhesive postage stamp, now almost universally employed in every civilised part of the world.

It would far exceed the limits of this notice to give an account of the endless difficulties Rowland Hill had to overcome before he could carry his plan to completion. The Post-Office authorities of the day encountered him with the most determined hostility, Lord Litchfield, the Postmaster General, declaring, as regards his plan, that "of all the wild and visionary schemes he had ever heard or read of, it was the most extraordinary." Lord Melbourne's Government was lukewarm, but the public took up the question with the greatest earnestness, and, after a long struggle in and out of Parliament, it was carried against the most strenuous official opposition.

To give any one an idea of the magnitude of the results which Rowland Hill's great reform has produced, we would suggest to him to consider what would be the condition of his own household if the present postal facilities were withdrawn; if, however great might be his anxiety as regards sick or dying members of his family, separated from him, say, no farther than Liverpool or Glasgow is from London, he could not afford to receive letters from them except, perhaps, at long and weary intervals; if mothers were still driven, as they often were in 1837, through their longing for news from sons or daughters far away, to pawn their clothes in order to pay the postage on their children's letters; and if, year by year, thousands of youths seeking the means of subsistence away from their parents' roof came, through the long enforced silence, gradually estranged from all the best influences of home.

The benefits which the Reformed Postal System conferred upon commerce, science, art, education, &c., have been of almost incalculable value; but even if these advantages were left out of consideration, its effect upon the domestic happiness of the world would, in our opinion, entitle the uniform Penny Postage System to stand pre-eminent amongst the many beneficent measures for which her Majesty's Reign will be gratefully remembered.

Standard 9.1.90

To-morrow will be the Fiftieth Anniversary of the introduction of the Uniform Penny Postage System. The Institution has become so much a fact of everyday life that, except Departmentally, it runs some risk of losing the express honour of a Jubilee celebration. The morning post—with its budget of messages from far and near—is a phenomenon which we have come to regard as no less natural in its recurrence than the rising of the sun. Yet there are multitudes of people still living who can recall the time when the arrival of a letter was an event of rare concern. It requires an effort of imagination, as well as of memory, to realise that that there was a period when, save for the wealthy, the circle of interest meant practically the surroundings of home and of one's immediate friends and acquaintances. Those, however, who desire to do sentimental justice to the services rendered to humanity by Sir ROWLAND HILL and his associates in the good work, must throw their thoughts back to the dark ages before the postman's knock was one of the most familiar of household signs. We are apt, as things are, to take our privileges for granted. When a mother has to say good-bye to her son, half the bitterness is taken out of the parting by the feeling that she will hear from day to day how he is getting on at school or college. There is parting, but there is no isolation. Families may be scattered over the face of the United Kingdom, or even over the whole world, but the members may remain, if they choose, faithful and sympathetic confidants in each others' joys and sorrows. All this, we say, is so well understood that it is hard to believe it was ever otherwise. Yet half a century ago, for ordinary people, a break in the family circle meant, in the majority of cases, a harsh rupture of all the old relations. It was possible to send letters, no doubt, but the cost was all but prohibitive. There was an end to that daily interchange of gossip and ideas which makes up the main interest of domestic life. No doubt, the letter when it came to be written was, with cultured correspondents, a work of art. The extinction of the art of correspondence is the price which has to be paid for the annihilation of distance. But, pleasant as it is in these days to read the quaint chronicles which our grandmothers (when they had the gift) were wont to prepare of all things great and small that came within their observation, to the generation which had to do without the Penny Post it was the long intervals of silence that formed the serious feature of the dispensation under which their lot was cast. Those who could pay a shilling or tenpence for each packet could keep in touch with absent friends; but for those to whom a shilling represented an appreciable part of a day's income, out of sight meant out of hearing.

Hard as it was for the middle classes to bear the expense of correspondence, letters were a luxury almost absolutely beyond the reach of the poor. The labourer's son who came up to town to better himself was, unless fortune chose to smile upon him at the outset of his career, as good as lost to his friends and kinsfolk. In mediæval England, when population was comparatively sparse and the means of communication were wholly unorganised, it was possible for the adventurer to send now and again a message to his native village by some returning acquaintance. Men lived in narrower circles then, and were able to keep a fairly firm grip upon old comrades. But on the eve of the Penny Post, English society had become sufficiently large and complex to make personal connections rare and difficult. Already the individual was lost in a crowd. The young fellow in town had either to send news of his doings to the old folks at home by mail or not to send it at all; and, needless to say, the inexorable shilling stood, for most of the absentees, fatally in the way. Sickness might come; but there was no way of telling the homekeeping sister that she was wanted to nurse her brother. Absence was, in many cases, extinction. For, of course, the habit and instinct of correspondence had no chance of being developed under a system which made communication the monopoly of the well-to-do. When it was impossible to keep up a knowledge of the course of events by the village fire-side, affection gradually died away, and if, by some happy turn of fortune, the long-parted kinsmen met again, there was between them the gulf of the long period during which

each had had to keep his separate path, and form new friendships and dwell amid strange scenes. How serious an impediment this placed in the way of the healthy expansion and distribution of the working-class population need hardly be pointed out. The families in which the virtues of filial devotion and of parental affection were strongest—in other words, the element which, of all others, it was desirable to introduce into the growing masses of the towns—were placed under the greatest disabilities. Every one is aware of the reluctance of the self-respecting poor, in our own days, to go into the Workhouse. They dread—and who does not sympathise keenly with their fear—the breaking up of the household, and the blow to the dearest associations of their modest lives. It was with some such feelings that in the Twenties and the Thirties the head of a family looked at the parting from his children. To a Devonshire peasant Manchester was then almost as remote (in point of postal space) as Australia is to-day; while it would be impossible to find in the present sphere of International Postage operations any analogy to places like Belfast or Dundee. Those who live in those exceptional spots where portage has to be paid for telegrams can appreciate the expense of ordinary correspondence fifty years ago. There was no more common or more pathetic incident than the tender to some poor old woman of a letter which she knew to be from her long-absent boy, and yet was forced, for lack of money, to hand back unopened to the messenger. If this cruel tariff limited the opportunities of the poor, it no less gravely interfered with the comforts of the middle classes and the luxuries of the affluent. The Penny Post has not directly created the existing network of trade and industry; but it would be impossible to conceive how the system could have grown up without it. Think of the vast ramifications of commerce, of the shoals of letters received and despatched from every establishment, office, or place of business, and then imagine how all this work could be carried on with a system of dear postage. Like other blessings, that of cheap communication involves abuses. The ease with which letters can be despatched has multiplied letters beyond all reasonable limits of necessity. But the excess is no set-off to the enormous benefit which society has reaped.

It will be ungenerous to dissociate from the commemoration of the Institution the name of the ingenious and indefatigable reformer who forced it on the acceptance of the authorities, and who made it successful in practice. There are some who challenge the claim of Sir ROWLAND HILL to priority in the invention of the device of the adhesive stamp. We are quite content to accept on this delicate matter the deliberate and unanimous judgment of his contemporaries. Probably there never has been any improvement which has not been thought of by more heads than one. The credit is given, and is rightly given, to the man who has not only had the idea, but has successfully carried it out in practice. Judged by this test, Sir ROWLAND HILL has an indefeasible title to the honour and gratitude of posterity. The extraordinary development of cheap postage is due, of course, to the concurrent progress in other fields of art and organisation. It is the extension of railways and other forms of steam locomotion that has brought the boon within the reach of all classes, and rescued every hamlet in the United Kingdom from its pristine isolation. But it was Sir ROWLAND HILL who, in spite of the sneers of those who pretended to insight, laid deep and firm the foundations of the fabric which has grown with the growth of the nation. The introduction of the "Queen's Head" is the starting point of nearly everything that is distinctive in the civilisation of the Victorian Age. The Newspaper Post, the Book Post, the Parcels Post, have all been conclusions to which the rudimentary system worked naturally out. That the Post Office not only confers inestimable benefits on society, but, from the point of view of State finance, is a paying concern, testifies to the economy of effort which can be secured by organisation on a sufficiently large scale, and by centralised control. But efficiency and profit would have been out of the question if some simple expedient had not been devised by which the public could prepay the postage. Very likely, if Sir ROWLAND HILL had not triumphantly fought the battle of the uniform penny charge and of the adhesive label, some other champion would have arisen later. The plan appears so obvious—now that it has been justified in use—that one almost wonders why nobody thought of it before the days of Sir ROWLAND HILL.

Much the same reflection would apply to every advance in the appliances of civilisation. Mankind, fortunately, is content to pay its homage to the benefactor when he appears, without vexing itself with the inquiry why he came on the scene so late, or what would have happened if he had not appeared when he did. Among all the worthies whose title to regard Englishmen recognise as unequivocal, Sir ROWLAND HILL holds a foremost place. 24

To-day is the Jubilee Anniversary of an event which deserves celebration, not only, and hardly even more, in the country of its occurrence than throughout the entire civilised world. On Friday, January 10, 1840, amid many prognostications of failure from the very highest authorities, the uniform penny-postage system was ushered into existence in England, the offspring of the patient inquiry and far-reaching foresight of a projector who had had no special or professional training in the subject which he had thus mastered, and who, up to the age of thirty-seven, had been engaged in other and highly-absorbing duties of his own. What has been the fate of this child of ROWLAND HILL's brain the whole universe of civilisation is witness. So far from realising the gloomy vaticination of its parent's adversaries, it thrives exceedingly and from its birth, even in this country alone; and, so far from confining its successes within the limits of his supporters' most enthusiastic expectations, it has revolutionised the whole system of communication among men, and has virtually made the tour of the educated globe. We need not recount anew the history of this great achievement. It is a subject of familiarity as it is a source of legitimate pride to the majority of intelligent and decently informed Englishmen; and the contrast between the condition of the poorer and even a large portion of the middle classes before and after the great reform, is one on which they dwell with just satisfaction. No one man, perhaps, has ever at a single stroke conferred such a marvellous addition of individual power upon his fellow-men. Electric communication, with all its vast accomplishments and vaster possibilities, is, after all, but an extension of facilities which ROWLAND HILL was the first to create. It answers, as it were, to the acquisition of a language new, more compendious, and capable of more easy articulation; whereas the invention of the penny post was as the gift of speech to the dumb. It gave voice to mute longings innumerable, and brought the whisper of hope and consolation to millions of solitary and yearning hearts. Separation for the first time ceased to be like death, and space was shorn of half its estranging power. The Greeks of the mythopœic age would have made a god of the man who could have done this for them, and his name would have come down to us encircled by a halo of immortal legend. TIMOTHEUS himself,

who "taught to rule, as life directs the limbs, The tempest-winged chariots of the Ocean, And the Celt knew the Indian," was scarcely a greater worker of wonders than the homely English schoolmaster who first bridged distances for the mass of mankind with written speech. He may fairly be called the bestower of a new faculty on the "dim common populations" of men; for "correspondence," their second form of articulation—a form as familiar now to them as speech itself—can hardly be said to have existed for the human race at large before the invention of the penny post. 25

That ROWLAND HILL's reform should have encountered vehement resistance from Post Office officials of high influence and well-deserved authority is not surprising. Much should be allowed for natural prejudice, for the inevitable tendency of the expert to distrust the "amateur" as ROWLAND HILL, in effect, was, and for the mere human unwillingness to admit that possibilities which had escaped detection by the study of a lifetime could really reveal themselves to untrained eyes. We of these days, who sit complacently contemplating the broken and balanced egg of COLUMBUS, may with much propriety refrain from the assumption of any excessive airs of superiority. Even in the full consciousness of our wisdom after the event, we should most of us do well not to be too confident that we should have been on the side of the enthusiastic projector from 1837 to 1840, and not on that of the sceptical official. After all, the truth which lay at the basis of the reform is not by any means a self-evident one; to the contemporaries of the discoverer it had rather the appearance of a paradox. As a general proposition, no doubt, there might have been no very great difficulty in believing that the main cost to the Post Office in respect of each letter was incurred under

the head of terminal charges—that is to say collection and delivery—and that the expense of conveyance from one post town to another was of altogether inferior importance. But to accept the assurance that this latter charge was an absolutely infinitesimal fraction of the former—that, for instance, in the transmission of a letter from London to Edinburgh, at a postage of one shilling and fourpence halfpenny, the actual cost of carriage was represented by no more than one-ninth of a farthing—was by no means so easy a feat of the intelligence. ROWLAND HILL, indeed, did not find it so himself. On the contrary, so surprising did the discovery seem to him that it was not until he had over and over again tested his facts and calculations that he could believe in its accuracy. No wonder, then, that Officialdom found it a hard saying, and that they resisted an experiment which could not but result, as it seemed to them, in a serious loss to the Revenue. "Inventors," so-called, have abounded in all ages. There has probably never been a time when some heaven-born genius or other was not besieging Governments and Departments with his infallible scheme for quadrupling the Revenue, paying off the National Debt, or revolutionising the methods of one or other of the public services to the common and immense benefit alike of the State and the citizen. There is another side to the famous picture left us by DICKENS of DANIEL DOYCE and the Circumlocution Office. Nine times out of ten the inventor is of the "pseudo" variety—a feather-head or a crack-brain—and Officialdom does well to turn a deaf ear to him; but the tenth time he is an inquirer who has lighted on a real discovery, and then the Minister unfortunate enough to be in office at the moment, and to declare of that discovery—as did Lord LICHFIELD, the Postmaster-General, of ROWLAND HILL's project—that, "of all the wild and visionary schemes he had ever heard or read of, it was the most extraordinary." Of course "damns himself to everlasting fame." In honouring the inventor let us spare a word of pity for the bad luck of his official opponent.

We have, however, the advantage of the men of fifty years ago, in that we have been taught prudence in the matter of pronouncing anything impossible. A whole line of scientific magicians, from the fathers of steam and telegraphy down to their latest and most astonishing descendant, Mr. EDISON, have been continually administering that lesson to the world, until now the danger is lest man should be too credulous of the sorceries of science, and believe it capable of doing more for the advancement and elevation of the human race than anything but that human spirit itself can ever do. The mental attitude of average humanity differs, in short, as widely as possible from that which ROWLAND HILL found so discouragingly general even among his best-informed countrymen. Scepticism—so far, at least, as the actual or promised miracles of the physicist are concerned—is the very lust of our characteristics; and contentment with our conquests over Nature is the last but one. Most of those Englishmen who are "praising famous men" to-day, and reviewing with satisfaction and, let us hope, with gratitude the blessings which have resulted to the world from improved facilities of communication, are not in the least disposed to remain satisfied with them. To rest and be thankful is not in the modern nature. We may think ourselves fortunate if we succeed in fulfilling the latter half of the commandment. "Be thankful—yes!" exclaimed an impassioned Countess the other day from a political platform; "but rest?—never!" Much as the improved postal service has done for human prosperity, enlightenment, and happiness, we shall not rest until we have brought men into closer and quicker communication still. The penny post itself is, perhaps, only capable of a limited amount of further development. An ocean penny postage we must sooner or later have, and the day cannot, we hope, be far distant when communication on these terms will be brought within reach of every subject of her Majesty, whatever spaces of her world-wide Empire may divide one correspondent from the other. Beyond this, however, the expansion of the postal system would seem to be difficult. We cannot much cheapen or greatly quicken a transit which already approaches, if it has not already reached, the maximum of despatch and the minimum of cost. The written letter cannot travel much faster or at much lighter charges, or be distributed with greater frequency and regularity than is the case at present; and for reasons of celerity of communication we must look our mighty but still youthful and growing servant, Electricity, to the capacities of that magical envoy—the wicker and the despair of the "light-foot IRIS" if the gods—no one nowadays would venture to set bounds.

Penny Postage 10.1.90
THE POST OFFICE AS SOCIALIST.
THE Post Office, whose praises are in all the papers to-day, is one great argument which can be adduced from experience in favour of State Socialism. Many readers will remember the destructive criticism which Mr. HERBERT SPENCER applied in one of his earlier essays to the departments of State Officialism, he said, was sluggish and muddling and wasteful, even when it was not also corrupt and given over to jobbery. In every instance but one, it must be admitted that the private-enterprise men can make out a good case against the State. The administration of justice, its chief concern, is even now a disgrace to civilization. The law is uncertain; it is costly; it is capricious; and it is tedious. As for the Acts of the Legislature, they are generally self-contradictory, and always obscure. "Muddle and Waste" is the motto of the War Office; and the best that any one claims for the management of the Navy is that it is not so bad now as it used to be. But the Post Office is a shining exception. It has created, organized, and controlled a gigantic business with as much enterprise and success as if it had been a private venture. Fifty years ago its revenue was under 2½ millions. Last year it was nearly 11¼ millions. All the newspaper articles have been full of the great social benefits which the extension of Post Office facilities has conferred on the people at large. These benefits are very great; but they have been twofold, for besides promoting social well-being, the Post Office contributes also to the Exchequer. If it were not for the indirect revenue raised by Post Office profits, we should need nearly ½d. added to the Income Tax. The business which by able and economical management relieves us of so much direct taxation is one of continually increasing ramifications. The State, through its Postmaster-General, is not merely Letter-carrier, but is also Banker, Stockbroker, Telegraphist, Thrift-promoter, and Parcels deliverer. Of course, we all grumble now and again over Post Office grievances; but we know all the time that on the whole the Post Office is well managed, or at the very worst that it is not very grossly ill-managed. "I do not understand," said Mr. GLADSTONE yesterday in his defence of private ownership as against land nationalization, "in what way the State is to be made a good and capable landlord." No; but we must admit that in the success of the Post Office the State-Socialists have, at any rate, one crumb of experimental comfort. Of course, it does not prove everything for them. But at least it is enough to negative any sweeping proposition made against them. The success of the Post Office proves that State-control may be both "good and capable."

The extension of State-control which is most often argued for on the strength of the Post Office is the case of the railways. If the State can make so good a thing for the public out of carrying letters and parcels, why (people ask) should it not be trusted to make a good thing also out of carrying persons and luggage? Of course the analogy is not a good one, for many reasons into which we need not enter. And of course, too, the railways are an immensely bigger concern than the Post Office. The railway receipts for 1888 were close upon 70 millions, or nearly seven times as much as the Post Office receipts. The Post Office employs 60,000 permanent hands, and 50,000 supernumeraries. The railways employ nearly three times that number of servants. Still the difference, it may well be argued, is only one of degree; and if the State can in one Department alone employ 110,000 servants to earn a profit of three millions, without the least suspicion of jobbery, why should it not be trusted to employ 300,000 servants, to earn a profit of thirty millions? We need not pursue either the argument for State-control of the railways or the answer to it here. But what will occur forcibly to many minds in connection with the Jubilee of the Penny Post is the question whether the time has not come for the railways to apply to their business the secret of the Post Office. In other words, has not the time come for some uniformity of Railway Rates as applied to passengers? There was an enthusiast in this matter who once expounded to us his vision of a time when a passenger would merely have to stick a penny stamp on his hat in order to get carried by railroad from any one point in the country to any other point. Letters and parcels and goods, being inert matter, have, he pointed out, to be carted—

at great expense—both into a train and out of it. Passengers pay these expenses for themselves out of their stock of vital energy. Hence, he argued, they ought to be the cheapest of all forms of weight to carry. This scheme, we fear, is only a court of distant perfection. But is it not time that some system of railway zones with uniform fares, such as has recently been revised on the Austro-Hungarian lines, came within the range of practical railway politics?

Some of the Anomalies that Led to the Establishment of a Universal Postage.

The 10th of January is the fiftieth anniversary of the day when the barbarous old postal system was discarded to make way for penny postage. That the Post Office, over 50 years ago, needed reorganisation is shown by many facts. The postal revenue, notwithstanding an increase in the population of 30 per cent., for 20 years stood still; while that of France, where rates were lighter, in 14 years swelled 54 per cent. "Letter-smuggling," spite of heavy penalties, had assumed vast proportions. Every kind of fraud was practised on the Office; and the verdict of public opinion invariably seemed to be—serve it right!—Districts in England and Wales larger than Middlesex were entirely without postal facilities; while in Scotland and Ireland things were even worse. In Ireland each person received on an average

A LETTER ONCE A YEAR.

In Sabden, a place of 12,000 inhabitants, near Manchester, where Cobden had his works, no sort of postoffice existed. The money order system was in force, but was little used. Ten years after 1840, its business had grown twentyfold. As there were no postage-stamps, it being considered an insult to the receiver for the sender to pay postage on a letter—the postman's round was protracted to wearisomeness. At each house that he delivered a letter he waited to receive the postage in money, and many a man whose round lay along lonely ways was marked out for attack. It took 15 hours to send a letter from one part of the smaller London of those days to another part, and 25 hours to reach the suburbs. Where it was a cross post, as that between Uxbridge and Gravesend, a letter required two days for the 40 miles journey.

If to the rich the postman's knock was not a sound of dread it was because so many of the classes sent their letters free—that is, of course, at the

EXPENSE OF THE TAXPAYERS.

Members of Parliament, then nearly always wealthy, and the peers of the realm, enjoyed this monstrous "privilege," and often dispensed it right and left to people who could as well afford to do without "franks" as their donors. So comprehensive did the privilege become that such things as a greatcoat, a parcel of baby linen, a piano, a feather-bed, several couples of hounds, a pair of carriage-horses, and even maid-servants have travelled as free letters.

It was to the ears of the masses that the postman's knock struck terror. Heartrending are the stories told by official and other witnesses examined before the Select Committee on Postage of 1837 of the burden the postal tax imposed upon the poor. There are, however, two bright spots in the record: the extreme kindness shown by many postmasters (themselves often not rich) in the way of trusting the poor with unpaid letters when their delivery was urgently desired, or when they had lain waiting at the local office for weeks; and the

SCRUPULOUS HONESTY,

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—To those of us who have not fallen down and worshipped the golden image which the British public has set up, this Post Office jubilation appears inexpressibly comic. I have not yet learned whether they are celebrating the disastrous and ignominious defeat of 1840, when, as you have pointed out, ever, man from top to bottom (except one solicitor) fought by the old régime, or whether they are raising paeans of self-praise over the fact that they have maintained the postage rate at the same price for half a century. If the first of these suppositions be correct, the celebration would resemble a meeting of the French princes to do glory to the centenary of 1789; if, on the other hand, they are rejoicing over 50 years of penny postage, I should have thought that the demonstration should rather be one of penitence for an incapacity for business unequalled in the annals of our country.

The public, I know, regard this institution as something almost sacred in its efficacy and virtue, but I should like to ask whether there is one other institution or thing connected with communications, education, and the progress of the people which has succeeded in maintaining as complacent an attitude of stagnation as her Majesty's Post Office. Of course, I am aware of their extension of the reply post-cards system to Celebes, or parcels post to Seychelles, or inauguration of special coach services to Brighton (there being no railway to that place, at present, I believe), for these and other feats have been chronicled by others as well as myself in your columns. But the question is not so much what remarkable and quite useless things have been done as what useful and sensible things have been left undone.

The public have never grasped the question of the Post Office; they are dazzled by the enormity of the figures; they clap their hands over the millions of newspapers, and if Mr. Haikes were to announce that he had delivered 1,000,000,000 letters last year I have no doubt they would insist on making him a duke. But, Sir, the Post Office does not write the letters, and the only real cause for astonishment is that the profit balance at the end of the year is not ten times as heavy as it is.

It would take up too much of your space to go into details of the mismanagement by which alone our Post Office profits are kept within measurable compass; but let any business man contemplate the loss involved in such proceedings as the following:—

(a) Borrowing money at 6 per cent. for offices in nearly every town in England, instead of obtaining a Treasury loan at something under 3 per cent.

(b) Maintaining the antiquated mail contract for over-sea letters.

(c) Maintaining mail-cart contracts and driving letters away from main line stations 2 or 20 miles, winter and summer, to little poky old towns, which were postal centres at the beginning of the century, and so delivering the letters at St. Martin's at 5 or 6 in the morning instead of shortly before midnight.

And, finally, let some consideration be given to over-sea postal rates generally, which, I believe, will live in grotesque imbecility with anything that Rowland Hill was able to expose during his magnificent campaign.

The increase of letters during the next ten years will, there can be no question, vastly exceed all expectation or precedent. We are manufacturing in our education mills letter-writers at the rate of thousands a week, and if our Government ever becomes sufficiently enlightened to cease taxing education by seizing a profit from the Post Office, and if our party politicians are some day peremptorily forbidden from pushing Postmaster-Generals in and out as their wire-pullers direct, there is no reason why even the Post Office should not reform, and, marching with the times, lower their prices as business increases, and before long carry all letters, large or small, at a farthing apiece.

14-1-90

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Sir,—There are tens of thousands of professional men, doctors, lawyers, clergy, &c., and hundreds of thousands of other people compelled to live in rural villages, who have but scant cause for feeling jubilant on the occasion of the Penny Post jubilee.

1. Will it be believed that in this postal district, which is within five miles of Yeovil, and therefore of two main railways, we can only communicate with London once a day, although there is a second despatch from the post-office at Ilchester so timed as just to make it useless for London letters?

2. Will it further be believed that the second delivery of letters is so arranged as to make it impossible for outsiders sending for them to receive them in time to answer by the same day's despatch?

3. Still worse, letters from Dorset—from places on the railway not more than 30 miles distance—take 36 to 40 hours to reach this place!

Now that England is covered with such a network of railways it ought to be possible for every post-office to have at least two communications a day with London, and for letters posted anywhere to-day to be delivered everywhere in England to-morrow. Where is the new Rowland Hill who will bring this about?

Yours, &c.,

HENRY ROE.

Yeovilton Rectory, Ilchester, Jan. 8. 90

P.S.—The daily London papers are in Yeovil at 10 a.m. They are delivered here the next morning at about 9.

THE POST OFFICE AND THE PRESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Several years since—thanks mainly to a letter which you were good enough to insert for me—the two journals published by me at this office, and consequently, I believe, many other weekly papers, were rescued from the high-handed and unwarrantable interference on the part of the Post Office authorities which is now being renewed, and which I think is as uncalled for as it is injudicious.

I am sure if I can once more enlist your most valuable assistance, and if, as the result, a properly organized opposition on the part of the publishers of weekly newspapers is arranged, we shall again succeed in compelling the Postmaster-General to cease from harassing us. If we fail, there is, so far as I can see, no act of high-handed and irresponsible authority the Postmaster-General may not commit.

The contention of the authorities at St. Martin's-le-Grand is that the definition of the Act of 1870, describing a newspaper as a publication consisting "wholly or in great part of news," means "wholly or in greater part of news," or at any rate that the Postmaster-General is at his pleasure so to be allowed to interpret it; and, secondly, that the matter of which papers like the *Building News* and the *English Mechanic* necessarily for the most part consist is not "news" in the meaning of the word intended by Parliament.

Our contention is—first, that our matter is as much "news" to the more limited and special circles of readers we cater for as intelligence respecting ordinary political and general matters is to the general newspaper-reading public; and, next, that the Act of Parliament does not say "in greater part," but in "great part" of news, and that if discretion is left to the Postmaster-General to interpret the will of Parliament it is only fair and reasonable that that discretion should be exercised with consideration. Surely, even if the Postmaster-General is to refuse at his sole pleasure to admit newly-started journals to the benefits of registration, it was never intended that he should be enabled autocratically to withdraw them from papers like ours, which have been in existence 34 years and 20 years respectively?

There are scores of weekly papers of high standing and old existence which are being threatened just now as we are, and unless common action is taken we shall be beaten one by one. We shall, of course, only suffer to a limited extent. The public generally will have to pay the higher postage, or they will lose special features we shall be obliged to omit. Is the Postmaster-General thus to be allowed to dictate to us what we shall publish and what we shall leave out?

If so, a censorship of the Press will have been established which may not improbably extend itself in unlooked for directions presently.

I am sure if we have your aid we shall once again avert this stupid piece of official interference, which is only another instance of the vexatious persistence with which St. Martin's-le-Grand has always harassed newspaper publishers during my 27 years' experience, instead of encouraging and facilitating our work as is the case in all other civilized countries.

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E. J. KIBBLEWHITE.

332, Strand, London, W.C.

Some of the Anomalies that Led to the Establishment of a Universal Postage.

The 10th of January is the fiftieth anniversary of the day when the barbarous old postal system was discarded to make way for penny postage. That the Post Office, over 50 years ago, needed reorganisation is shown by many facts. The postal revenue, notwithstanding an increase in the population of 30 per cent., for 20 years stood still; while that of France, where rates were lighter, in 14 years swelled 54 per cent. "Letter-smuggling," spite of heavy penalties, had assumed vast proportions. Every kind of fraud was practised on the Office; and the verdict of public opinion invariably seemed to be—serve it right!—Districts in England and Wales larger than Middlesex were entirely without postal facilities; while in Scotland and Ireland things were even worse. In Ireland each person received on an average

A LETTER ONCE A YEAR.

In Sabden, a place of 12,000 inhabitants, near Manchester, where Cobden had his works, no sort of postoffice existed. The money order system was in force, but was little used. Ten years after 1840, its business had grown twentyfold. As there were no postage-stamps, it being considered an insult to the receiver for the sender to pay postage on a letter—the postman's round was protracted to wearisomeness. At each house that he delivered a letter he waited to receive the postage in money, and many a man whose round lay along lonely ways was marked out for attack. It took 15 hours to send a letter from one part of the smaller London of those days to another part, and 25 hours to reach the suburbs. Where it was a cross post, as that between Uxbridge and Gravesend, a letter required two days for the 40 miles journey.

If to the rich the postman's knock was not a sound of dread it was because so many of the classes sent their letters free—that is, of course, at the

EXPENSE OF THE TAXPAYERS.

Members of Parliament, then nearly always wealthy, and the peers of the realm, enjoyed this monstrous "privilege," and often dispensed it right and left to people who could as well afford to do without "franks" as their donors. So comprehensive did the privilege become that such things as a greatcoat, a parcel of baby linen, a piano, a feather-bed, several couples of hounds, a pair of carriage-horses, and even maid-servants have travelled as free letters.

It was to the ears of the masses that the postman's knock struck terror. Heartrending are the stories told by official and other witnesses examined before the Select Committee on Postage of 1837 of the burden the postal tax imposed upon the poor. There are, however, two bright spots in the record: the extreme kindness shown by many postmasters (themselves often not rich) in the way of trusting the poor with unpaid letters when their delivery was urgently desired, or when they had lain waiting at the local office for weeks; and the

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I am, &c., E. J. KIBBLEWHITE.

332, Strand, London, W.C.

PENNY POSTAGE JUBILEE DINNER.

15 JANUARY, 1890.

AFTER THE HOLBORN RESTAURANT.

- Perring, R. M.
- Mulock, W. H.
- Compton, E.
- Rich, J. D.
- Godby, W. J.
- Cunynghame, A. M.
- Major Addison, R.E.
- Potter, William
- Preece, W. H., F.R.S.
- Baines, F. E., C.B.
- Hunter, R.
- Turnor, Algernon, C.B.
- Sir John Tilley, K.C.B.
- The Rt. Hon. Sir Lyon Playfair, K.C.B., F.R.S., M.P.

The Rt. Hon.
Henry Cecil Raikes,
M.P.

- The Rt. Hon. G. J. Shaw-Lefevre, M.P.
- Hill, Pearson,
- Phillbrick, F. A., Q.C.
- Hill, Alfred.
- De la Rue, T. A.
- Rea, E. H.
- Capt. Sir Thomas Bruce, R.N.
- Graves, E.
- Fischer, H. C.
- Teesdale, C. L.
- Milliken, E.
- Walliker, S.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G						
Green, H. J. Dropper, H. J. Lyster, W. G. Hammond, R. L. Maherly, F. H. Maherly, L.F.S. Caddy, J. Adams, E. S. Hill, F. Finch, E. Smith, E. Shaw, A. M. Brockhardt, E. C. Vaid, G. A.	Winch, E. V. Harboush, D. W. O. Esanson, W. A. D. Castle, W. M. Roshon, W. S. Hyde, J. C. Chadice, W. B. Cadlington, A. E. W. Roling, M. Berkeley, P. M. Ash, N. Roling, W. Sifton, T. E. Badcock, J. C.	Patrick, W. Oakley, H. R. Lake, F. C. Longland, R. M. Pitt, R. F. Whitley, J. Standwick, J. W. Gibson, J. K. Greer, J. Bell, T. W. Bray, F. Sanderson, E. A. Vinnell, A. J.	Paswell, R. Atterbury, A. G. James, T. Cooper, W. J. Pitt, B. Powell, A. H. Foster, H. Aldony, A. E. Sealy, Louis Barley, R. H. W. Hamilton, W. G. Midlerb, A. Forrest, A. R. Pennington, A.	Hodley, S. C. Howes, H. Colhard, W. A. Wilson, J. Ker, M. W. Halkovs, E. Duke, R. Viall, T. Milford, J. Laing, C. D. Pennington, J. Dewar, W. A. Forman, H. B. Radcliffe, T. R.	Chetwynd, E. W. Gouding, W. J. Woodward, A. C. Roe, W. J. Compson, R. W. Andie, H. S. Churchill, T. Jackson, F. R. Prall, H. Lawes, C. L. Pratt, W. E. Smith, G. R. Page, H. R. Lamb, J. C.	Langton, F. A. R. Hobart, R. H., C.B. <i>Party Areas</i> <i>Morning Post</i> <i>Graphic</i> Terry, W. H. Halliburton, W. W. Sayers, C. Holmes, J. Richards, H. C. Osborn, E. B. Hildwell, L. Joyce, H.	Dryhurst, F. J. Ogilvie, A. M. Gales, W. G. Udry, E. Hook, G. W. Heavside, A. W. Roberts, M. F. Jenkin, J. Hoodley, J. Winter, E. Benton, P. Chantre, A. E.	Eden, C. Bundy, C. H. Marshall, L. A. Clarkson, C. Farand, A. G. Osborne, H. B. Fleetwood, G. T. Gibson, James Edwards, J. R. Evans, F. E. Gray, J. Doblin, G. Bilson, A. P. Ansell, T.	Dhemann, W. Francis, E. Such, C. C. Balcher, A. Trinder, W. G. Bateman, A. H. Carlyle, H. E. Court, C. S. Parlor, E. B. Dickson, H. J. Carter, R. G. Swayze, F. T.	Porteous, J. D. Mann, G. M. Brooks, Louis H. Manson, J. Xops, E. Herbert, W. D. Bowen, E. I. Webb Sealy, L. J. Barnes, Leonard Richardson, E. G. King, G. A.	Fish, J. Phear, J. Holmes, I. Hodgson, J. B. Kerry, C. H. Bate, J. Harrow, G. Nash, W. Wilks, J. H. Daves, G. J. Dawson, W. Hodgson, Jno. Labeier, J. Staunfeld, F. D.	Hunter, T. Carter, E. R. Asher, J. Atkinson, J. E. Westley, T. M. Richards, G. Teare, R. Palmer, C. E. Callway, W. H. Franger, E. Gregson, J. W. Jr. Winter, W. H. Boys, C. W.

Sir Arthur Blackwood,
K.B.L.,
(Vice-Chair.)

J. A. Philbrick & Co.

32

* PENNY POSTAGE JUBILEE DINNER. *

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

9th December, 1889.

DEAR SIR,

It is proposed to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage by a Departmental Dinner, to be held at the Holborn Restaurant, on Wednesday the 15th January next.

The Right Hon. H. C. Raikes, M.P., has kindly consented to take the chair, and Sir Arthur Blackwood, K.C.B., the vice-chair, at the dinner.

As the occasion is one which calls for a representative gathering of the Department, it is hoped that you will allow your name to be included in the list of the General Committee, and that you will be present at the dinner.

If you will fill up and return the annexed form to Mr. W. G. Gates, who is acting as Honorary Secretary, a ticket and further particulars will be sent to you. The price of the Tickets will be 10/- exclusive of wine.

The number of covers is necessarily limited to about 250, by the size of the room, and therefore application should at once be made for tickets, which will be issued in the order they are applied for.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

F. E. BAINES,

Chairman of the Committee.

December, 1889.

DEAR SIR,

Be so good as to add my name to the list of the General Committee of the Celebration Dinner of the Jubilee of Penny Postage, and to forward to me a ticket, for which I enclose _____ value 10/-.

Yours faithfully,

Name

Address

TO W. G. GATES, ESQ.,

Secretary's Office,

General Post Office,

London.

NOTE.—Gentlemen wishing to form their own groups at the dinner should notify their wish to the Honorary Secretary.



COMMEMORATION
OF THE
JUBILEE OF UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE.

DEPARTMENTAL DINNER
VENETIAN CHAMBER, HOLBORN RESTAURANT.
WEDNESDAY, 15TH JANUARY, 1890.

Chairman—THE RIGHT HON. HENRY CECIL RAIKES, M.P.

Vice-Chairman—SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD, K.C.B.

Chairman of Dinner Committee—F. E. BAINES, Esq., C.B.

Mr. *F. A. Philbrick & Co.*

6.30 P.M. FOR 7 O'CLOCK PRECISELY.

W. G. GATES, Honorary Secretary.

No 224

PENNY POSTAGE JUBILEE DINNER.

15TH JANUARY, 1890

LIST OF TOASTS.

1. Toast "THE QUEEN."
To be proposed by THE CHAIRMAN.
2. Toast "THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AND THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY."
To be proposed by THE CHAIRMAN.
Proposed by MR. EDWARD BARNES, M.P., and MR. RICHARDSON, SEAVY, FARNES, and OTHERS.
3. Toast "THE POST OFFICE."
With a reference to the successful issue of the Jubilee Penny and the success of the Jubilee Postage Office.
Proposed by THE CHAIRMAN.
To be responded to by SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD, K.C.B. and MR. EDWARD BARNES, M.P.
Proposed by MR. EDWARD BARNES, M.P., and MR. RICHARDSON, SEAVY, FARNES, and OTHERS.
4. Toast "THE POST-MASTERS GENERAL."
To be proposed by MR. EDWARD BARNES, M.P.
To be responded to by MR. JOHN G. J. DEAN, M.P.
Proposed by THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN THORPE, K.C.B. and MR. EDWARD BARNES, M.P.
5. Toast "THE RETIRED OFFICERS OF THE POST OFFICE."
To be proposed by MR. F. E. BAINES, C.B.
To be responded to by SIR JOHN THORPE, K.C.B. and MR. EDWARD BARNES, M.P.
Proposed by MR. EDWARD BARNES, M.P., and MR. RICHARDSON, SEAVY, FARNES, and OTHERS.
6. Toast "THE CHAIRMAN."
To be proposed by SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD, K.C.B.



COMMEMORATION
OF THE
JUBILEE OF UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE.

DEPARTMENTAL DINNER
VENETIAN CHAMBER, HOLBORN RESTAURANT.
WEDNESDAY, 15TH JANUARY, 1890.

Chairman—THE RIGHT HON. HENRY CECIL RAIKES, M.P.

Vice-Chairman—SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD, K.C.B.

Chairman of Dinner Committee—F. E. BAINES, Esq., C.B.

Mr. *F. A. Philbrick &c.*

6.30 P.M. FOR 7 O'CLOCK PRECISELY.

No *227*

W. G. GATES, *Honorary Secretary.*

PENNY POSTAGE JUBILEE DINNER.

15TH JANUARY, 1890.

LIST OF TOASTS.

1.—Toast "THE QUEEN."
To be proposed by THE CHAIRMAN.

2.—Toast . { "THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AND THE REST
OF THE ROYAL FAMILY."
To be proposed by THE CHAIRMAN.

(QUARTETTE "Hail to the Chief" *Waltz*)
MESSRS. RICHARDSON, SEALY, BARNES, AND BECKLEY.

3.—Toast "THE POST OFFICE."
(With special reference to the establishment of Uniform Penny Postage, and
the services of the late SIR ROWLAND HILL, K.C.B.)
To be proposed by THE CHAIRMAN.

(SONG "I'll sing thee songs of Araby" *Clay*)
MR. ERNEST RICHARDSON.

To be responded to by { SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD, K.C.B.
MR. PEARSON HILL.

(QUARTETTE "Lovely Night" *Choral*)
MESSRS. RICHARDSON, SEALY, BARNES, AND BECKLEY.

4.—Toast "THE PAST POSTMASTERS-GENERAL."
To be proposed by MR. ALGERNON TUKSOR, C.B.

To be responded to by { THE RIGHT HON. G. J. SHAW-LEFEVRE, M.P.
THE RIGHT HON. SIR LYON PLAYFAIR, K.C.B., F.R.S., M.P.

(SONG "Hymnus the Cretan" *Elliott*)
MR. SYDNEY BECKLEY.

5.—Toast "THE RETIRED OFFICERS OF THE POST OFFICE."
To be proposed by MR. F. E. BAINES, C.B.

To be responded to by { SIR JOHN TILLEY, K.C.B.
MR. EDMUND YATES.

(QUARTETTE "The long day closes" *Sullivan*)
MESSRS. RICHARDSON, SEALY, BARNES, AND BECKLEY.

6.—Toast "THE CHAIRMAN."
To be proposed by SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD, K.C.B.

In the Chair.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY CECIL RAIKES, M.P., Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.

In the Vice-Chair.

SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD, K.C.B., Secretary of the Post Office.

PAST POSTMASTERS-GENERAL.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR LYON PLAYFAIR, K.C.B., F.R.S., M.P.

THE RIGHT HON. G. J. SHAW-LEFEVRE, M.P.

SIR JOHN TILLEY, K.C.B. (Secretary of the Post Office from 1864 to 1880).

+ PEARSON HILL, Esq. (Son of the late Sir ROWLAND HILL, K.C.B., and late of the Secretary's Office, General Post Office).

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

ALGERNON TURNOR, Esq., C.B. (Financial Secretary of the Post Office).

H. JOYCE, Esq. (Third Secretary of the Post Office).

F. E. BAINES, Esq., C.B. (Assistant-Secretary and Inspector-General of Mails. Chairman of the Dinner Committee).

E. H. REA, Esq.; J. C. LAMB, Esq. (Assistant-Secretaries).

A. M. CUNYNGHAME, Esq. (Surveyor-General for Scotland).

H. L. CRESWELL, Esq. (Secretary for Ireland).

FREDERIC HILL, Esq. (late Fourth Secretary); W. J. PAGE, Esq. (late Assistant-Secretary).

ROBERT HUNTER, Esq. (Solicitor to the Post Office).



COMMEMORATION
OF THE
JUBILEE OF UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE.

DEPARTMENTAL DINNER
VENETIAN CHAMBER, HOLBORN RESTAURANT.
WEDNESDAY, 15TH JANUARY, 1890.

Chairman—THE RIGHT HON. HENRY CECIL RAIKES, M.P.

Vice-Chairman—SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD, K.C.B.

Chairman of Dinner Committee—F. E. BAINES, Esq., C.B.

Mr. *F. A. Philbrick & Co.*

6.30 P.M. FOR 7 O'CLOCK PRECISELY.

W. G. GATES, *Honorary Secretary.*

No 227

GENERAL COMMITTEE—*continued.*

ADDISON, Major, R.E.	CHETWYND, E. W.	GERAHTY, C. E.
ADENEY, A. E.	CHETWYND, H. A. L.	GIBSON, J.
ANDRÉ, H. SHELLY.	CHURCHILL, THOMAS.	GIBSON, J. K.
†ANGELL, T. W.	CLARKSON, CHARLES.	GODBY, W. J.
†ARDRON, JOHN.	CODRINGTON, A. E. W.	GOULDING, W. J.
ARNALL, T.	COLLARD, W. A.	GRANGER, E.
ASH, NEVILLE.	COLLINGWOOD, L.	GRAVES, E.
ASHER, JOHN.	†COMPTON, E.	GREEN, H. J.
ATKINSON, J. E.	COMPTON, R. W.	GREER, J.
†BADCOCK, J. C.	COOPER, W. J.	GREGSON, J. W. P.
BARNES, LEONARD.	COURT, C. S.	GREY, W. H.
BATE, J.	CRAFER, R. G.	
BATEMAN, A. H.	CULLEY, W. R.	
BATLEY, R. H. W.		HALLIBURTON, W. W.
BECKLEY, SYDNEY.	DAVIS, G. J.	HAMILTON, W. G.
BELCHER, A.	DAWSON, W.	HAMMOND, R. LACON.
BELL, T. W.	DEWAR, W. A.	HARKNESS, D. W. O.
BENTON, PHILIP.	DEEDIN, CHARLES.	HEAVISIDE, A. W.
BERKELEY, P. M.	DICKINSON, H. J.	HEWORTH, W. D.
BIDWELL, LEONARD.	DRAPER, H. J.	HERBERT, GEORGE C.
BILSON, A. F.	DRENNAN, W.	HERBERT, W. D.
BLAKENEY, E.	DRYHURST, F. J.	HILL, F.
BOWEN, B. I. WEBB.	DUKE, ROGER.	†HILL, LEWIN.
BOWSER, E. B.		HODGSON, JOHN.
BOYS, CHARLES V.	EDEN, CHARLES.	HODGSON, J. B.
BRAY, F.	EDWARDS, J. R.	HOLMES, BAAC.
BRIDGER, LOWTHER.	EGERTON, R. A.	HOLMES, J.
BROOKS, LOUIS H.	EVANS, F. E.	HOOK, G. W.
BRUCE, Captain Sir T., R.N.	EVANSON, W. A. D.	HOOKER, J.
BUDD, S.		HOOLEY, S. C.
BURCKHARDT, E. C.	FERARD, A. G.	HOWES, HENRY.
BURROW, G.	FINCH, F.	HULBERT, THOMAS.
	FISCHER, H. G.	HUNTER, T.
	FLEETWOOD, C. T.	HUDE, J. C.
	FORMAN, H. BUNTON.	
	FORREST, A. R.	IRISH, J.
	FRANCIS, EDWARD.	
	FREELING, FRANCIS.	JACKSON, F. R.
		JAMES, L. T.
	GATIE, W. MONTAGU.	JENKIN, J.
	GAVEY, J.	JOHNSTON, R. W.

GENERAL COMMITTEE—*continued.*

KER, M. W.
KERRY, C. H.
KING, C. A.
KING, H. P.

LAISTER, J.
LANG, C. D.
LANGTON, F. A. R.
LEWES, C. L.
LONGLAND, R. M.
LUKE, F. C.
LYSTER, W. G.

MADERLY, F. H.
MADERLY, LIVESLEY F. S.
MANN, G. MONTAGUE.
MANSON, J.
MARSHALL, L. A.
MELLERSH, A.
MILLIKEN, ERNEST.
MITFORD, JOHN.
MULOCK, W. H.

NASH, WM.
NOPS, E.

OAKEY, H. R.
OGILVIE, A. M.
OSBORN, E. BRETON.

PAGE, H. R.
PALMER, C. E.

PAMPHILON, ALFRED.
PARLOUR, E. B.
PATRICK, W.
PENNINGTON, JAMES.
PERRING, R. M.
PITT, BRAHAM.
PITT, R. F.
PHILIPS, JOHN.
PORTLOUS, J. D.
POWELL, ALGERNON H.
PRALL, H.
PEATT, W. E.
PREECE, W. H., F.R.S.
PRIESTLEY, THOMAS M.
PRIOR, JOHN.

RICH, J. D.
RICHARDS, G.
RICHARDSON, E. G.
ROBERTS, M. F.
ROCHE, MARK.
ROCHE, WALTER.
ROE, W. J.
RUSHTON, W. S.

SANDERSON, EDWIN A.
SAYERS, CHRISTOPHER.
SEALY, I. J.
SEALY, LOUIS.
SHAW, A. M.
SIFTON, T. E.
SMITH, E.

SMITH, G. R.
SMYTH, G. W.
STANDERWICK, JOHN W.
STANFIELD, F. D.
SUTCH, C. C.
SWAYNE, F. T.

TEARE, ROBERT.
TEESDALE, C. L.
†TOMBS, R. C.
TRINDER, W. G.

UDNY, ERNEST.

VIALI, THOMAS.
VINALL, ARTHUR J.

WALLIKER, S.
WEAVER, H.
†WIGHT, J. F.
WILLS, JAMES H.
WILDEY, JOHN.
WILSON, J.
WINCH, B. V.
WINTER, EDWIN.
WINTER, W. H.
WOODWARD, A. C.
WROTTESELEY, Captain, R.F.

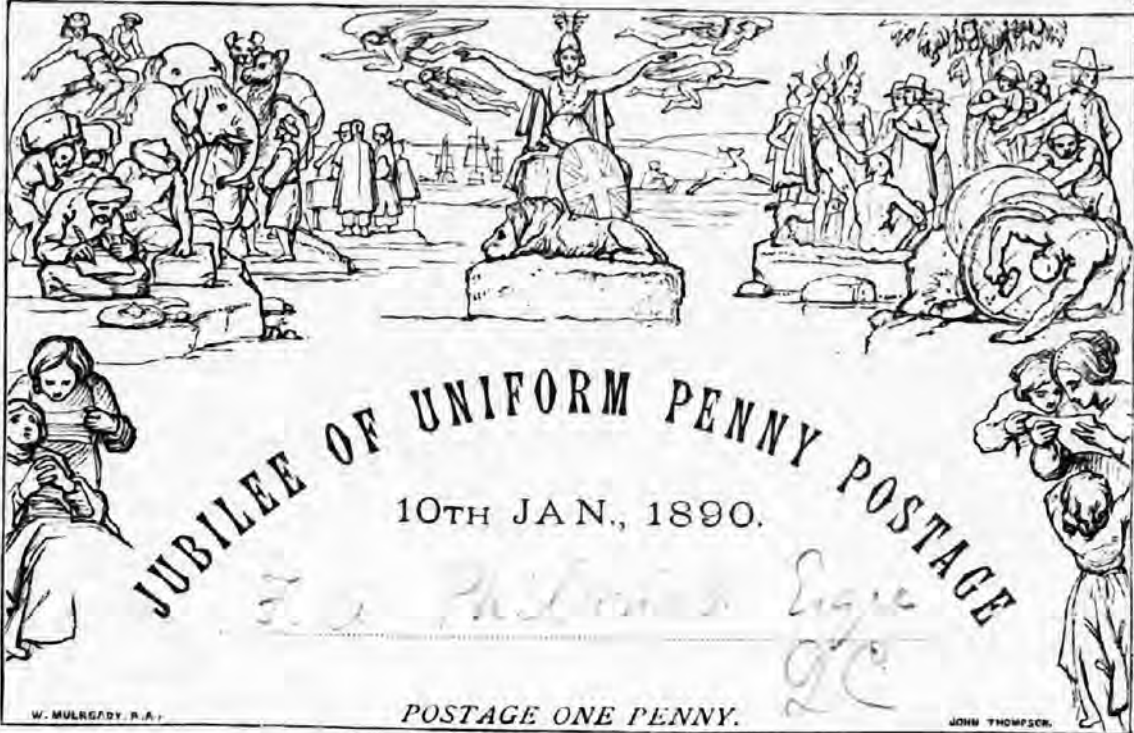
YATES, †MUND.
†YELD, EDWARD.
YELD, G. ANSON.

† Members of Dinner Committee.

† The Musical Programme has been arranged by Mr. SYDNEY BECKLEY.

W. G. GATES (Secretary's Office),
Honorary Secretary.

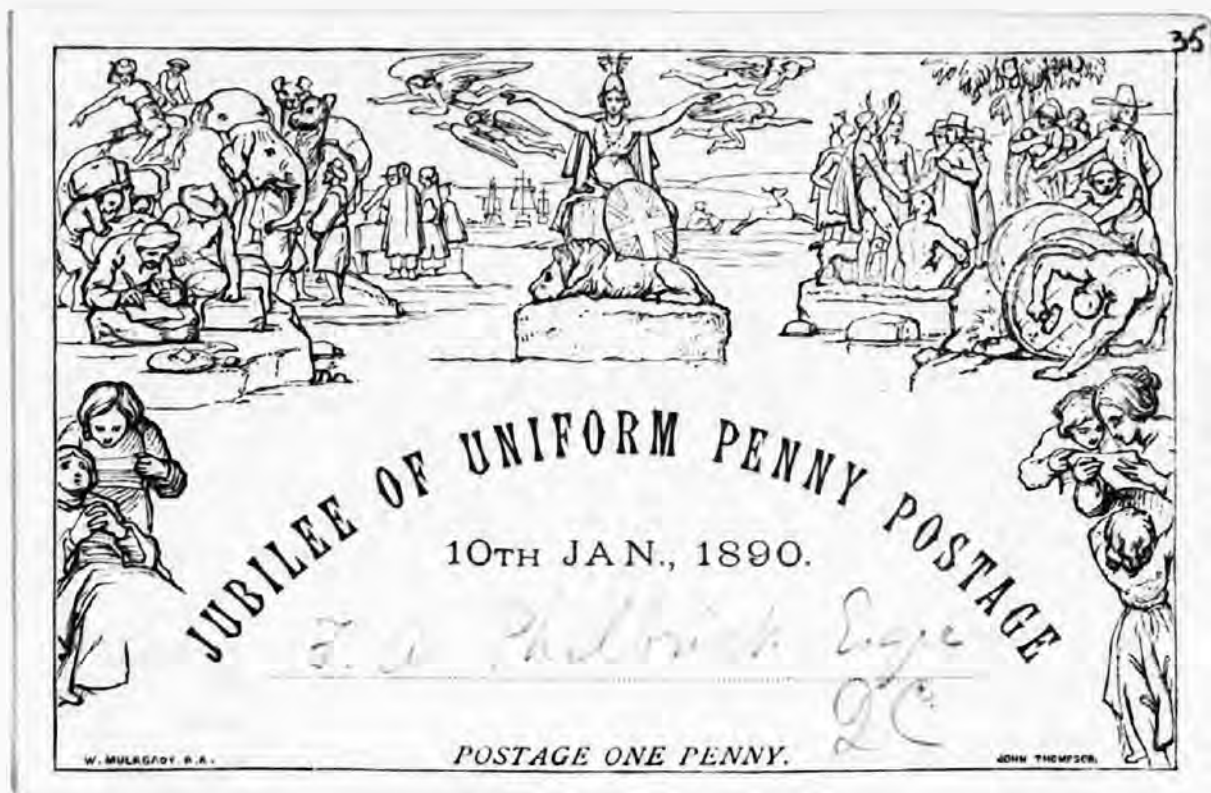




W. MURPHY, R.A.

JOHN THOMPSON.





Penny ✦ Postage ✦ Jubilee ✦ Dinner

AT
THE HOLBORN RESTAURANT,
Wednesday, 15th January, 1890.

THE RT. HON. HENRY CECIL RAIKES, M.P.,
Postmaster-General, In the Chair.

» MENU. «

OYSTERS.	
SOUPS.	
CLEAR AND THICK TURTLE.	
FISH.	
TURBOT AND MOUSSELINE SAUCE.	WHITBAIT.
ENTREES.	
LARKS IN CASES.	SWEETBREADS À LA JARDINIÈRE.
MAYONNAISE OF LOBSTER.	
REMOVES.	
SADDLE OF MUTTON À LA DUCHESSE.	
BOILED TURKEY AND CELERY SAUCE.	
BRAISED YORK HAM AND MADEIRA.	
ROAST.	
PHEASANT BARDÉ.	CHIPPED POTATOES.
SEAKALE.	
SWEETS.	
APRICOT MERINGUES.	CHARLOTTE À LA RUSSE.
CHARTREUSE OF ORANGES.	ICE PUDDING.
CHEESE.	CELERY.
DESSERT.	
CAFÉ NOIR.	

THE FOLLOWING SELECTION OF MUSIC

WILL BE PERFORMED DURING DINNER BY—

THE "EUFON ORCHESTRA"

Under the direction of Mr. J. POUCHER.

1. MARCH....." Serjevo Lager "*Rosenkranz*
2. VAISE..... " Jubilé ".....*Fahrbach*
3. SELECTION..." Yeomen of the Guard "..... *Sullivan*
4. GAVOTTE..... " Klänge vom Rhein ".....*Latam*
5. VAISE....." Eldorado "*Royle*
6. SELECTION..... " Welsh Airs ".....*F. Godfrey*
7. BARCAROLLE..... " Belle Nuit ".....*Offenbach*
8. CZARDAS....." Zsambeki ".....*Gungl*
9. VAISE....." Faust "*Gounod*
10. PASQUINADE.....*Gottschalk*

ROYAL VENETIAN CHAMBER.

THE

HOLBORN RESTAURANT, LONDON



ENTRANCES:

HIGH HOLBORN,

AND

LITTLE QUEEN STREET.

heartily for honouring us with your presence to-night.
(Great cheering.)

Mr. RAIKES, in responding, said,—I wish to thank you most sincerely for the extremely kind manner in which Sir Arthur has proposed my health and in which you have received it. I cannot deny that perhaps I have multiplied my duties at the Post Office, and so far deprived myself of any claim to sympathy. It is quite true the Postmaster-General has no repose ; pouches follow him with unerring accuracy. Entertaining the postmen at home at Christmas, I learned that the local postmaster believed the Postmaster-General had a sinecure until I took the office, and then he realized his mistake from simply counting the pouches which came from London. Some of my predecessors have done more distinguished service to the State, and if their terms of office had been as prolonged as mine they might have earned imperishable names. It is an easy and pleasant task to encounter criticism when you feel that you have the whole service with you, and as long as you are endeavouring to do your duty by every member of the service, so long you have a right to count upon their cordial and loyal assistance. I have enjoyed that privilege in a conspicuous degree, and I am quite satisfied that as long as the Department is united we shall always be able to meet an enemy in the gate and render increasingly valuable service to the country. Interesting as this occasion has been, it is only a departmental festival, and it is not to be regarded as a full and entire consummation of our wish to do honour to the jubilee of the penny post. I trust that in the course of the next few months there will be a public celebration in which we may be permitted to participate, and which will, I trust, assume a really national aspect ; and if it is carried out I hope it may not only redound to the honour of the illustrious name of Rowland Hill, but that it may also be made a means of improving the position of many of the poorer and unfortunate servants of the Department whose difficulties are now but imperfectly met by the fund which bears Rowland Hill's name. We have had a jubilee Sir Arthur did not refer to—that of the telegraphs, and I refer to it for the purpose of expressing my affectionate regard for that brilliant, capable, kind, considerate, and disinterested man, my late friend Mr. Patey (cheers), whose valuable assistance on many occasions I feel bound to recognize. Nothing will afford me greater pleasure than that in the course of the year a real national movement shall be set on foot, and that it shall be the means of improving the circumstances of the most necessitous and distressed members of the service. Once more thanking you, I can only wish that there may be present some who will attain even to the official term of service of Sir John Tilley and live to be present at the next jubilee.
(Laughter and cheers.)

The company then separated.

rent by a tremendous social explosion, and that the French, in their well-known rôle of "Friends of Humanity," are to step in—no doubt, with the applause of Mr. FREDERIC HARRISON and his sectaries—to pick up the pieces. There is just a scintilla of truth in this high-minded speculation. The German Government have a very serious problem to deal with in the labour question. It is altogether a different problem from that which has—hitherto, at least—presented itself to English statesmanship; for Germany is committed, on the one hand, to the policy of "State Socialism," and, on the other, to the fostering of native industries by fiscal measures of protection. The Imperial Message shows that these complications gravely preoccupy the EMPEROR and his advisers. How far it will be possible to carry out successfully, and in both its branches at the same time, the policy which PRINCE BISMARCK has devised and his Imperial master has adopted, it would be rash to predict; but it must be admitted that the EMPEROR is very resolute in adhering to it as a whole. He declares that the Government intend to maintain, and even to extend, the measures passed in recent years for the benefit of the working classes, but are, at the same time, determined to tolerate no attempts to disturb public order. The strikes, the EMPEROR says, have injuriously checked the revival of trade, but a hope is expressed that their renewal will be obviated by the judicious concessions of the employers and the moderation of the employed. The difficulty is that a large part of the industrial system in Germany is built upon the unstable foundations of Protectionism, and that, if employers are expected to yield to the increasing demands of workmen, they will look in turn for increased favours from the State. In the same way, the workmen have to pay dearly in the price of food for that protective system which, as the EMPEROR argues, has enabled the agricultural interest in Prussia to pull through the recent depression; but the more they have thus to

"preach a sermon on the advantages of British rule." In the face of this testimony of our late Vice-Consul at Old Calabar, the attempt of some of the champions of the chartered company system to represent Lagos as a "wasting colony" must be pronounced a failure. It is a pity that the Royal Niger Company should lend themselves to this attempt, which is, surely, not necessary to their case. Their case is that you cannot have an administration without revenue. To raise a revenue sufficient to furnish even the skeleton of government over the enormous area of the Niger Company's jurisdiction, it is absolutely necessary to resort to expedients with which a small Crown colony on the coast can dispense. The Company have foregone the profits which, if less conscientious, they might have derived from an unrestricted liquor traffic. So far from being unscrupulous monopolists, the Company, it is said, consent to their interest to encourage other firms to settle in their territory and contribute to the heavy expenses of administration. Their policy, they contend, has been so successful that, whereas at the time the Charter was granted they had the whole of the trade, they now have only fourteen-fifteenths of it. They themselves contribute in this proportion to the administrative expenditure. The Company treat themselves in all respects on the same footing as other traders. They duly debit their commercial accounts and credit their administrative accounts with the amount of their licence fees (one fee of £50 for the whole Company), and are not allowed by Government to make a shilling profit out of the revenue raised by taxation.

The denial that the Company is allowed to make a profit out of its administrative revenue seems to need some explanation, in the light of the statement of Sir J. FERGUSON in December, 1888, that the surplus administrative revenue went into the pockets of the Company. But we do not presume to pronounce any positive opinion upon the merits of the controversy. So remote is the scene of action, so conflicting are the statements, and so difficult is it to allow for the influence of any jealousy which may underlie them, that we must await the arrival of more authoritative evidence. Such evidence, however, will soon be available, in the shape of a report by MAJOR MACDONALD, the Commissioner appointed by the British Government to investigate, in company with HERR PUTTKAMER, the complaints made by the German Government against the Royal Niger Company. MAJOR MACDONALD's mission was not merely one of inquiry into the grievances of HERR HÖNIGSBERG. From him we shall no doubt learn the views of the natives, who are the only parties concerned whose voices have not made themselves heard. We shall learn whether the high licence fee has had the effect attributed to it, of shutting out the native huckster hailing from Lagos and other parts of the coast, who was once a regular visitor to the upper reaches of the Niger. We shall be in a better position to learn whether the blessings of the Company's rule have been purchased too dearly, and whether the Company's permanent achievements up to the present are such as to encourage us to extend their responsibilities. If the verdict is against the Company, it may be found advisable to erect into a new Crown colony, or to annex to Lagos, a strip of the Oil Rivers region immediately skirting the sea, and to retain the present Protectorate for the more uncivilized districts of the interior. But we do not regard the question of the particular form of government to be set up in the Oil Rivers as so important as the incidental question, upon which this inquiry promises shed light. On the whole, the policy of creating chartered companies upon its trial. Those who argue as though to commit the responsibilities of government to any chartered company at all were an evasion of national duty forget that, in remote parts of the world like the Niger region, the alternative lies between government in this guise and no government at all. But the complaints made against the Niger Company are certainly calculated to inspire doubts whether a chartered company can in all circumstances fill with advantage the dual capacity of traders and administrators.

A great number of officers and ex-officers of the General Post Office met last night at the Holborn Restaurant to dine together in honour of the jubilee of the penny post, and to exchange assur-

come some time without anything to explain why it happened at that particular moment. When people forget this, and make a great fuss about one of these occasional and inevitable failures in the human machinery, they lay themselves open to the usual Post Office retort, that the work is enormous, is done under great pressure, and is figured by a very small percentage of mistakes. Under cover of this sound answer to unreasonable complaints, the Post Office evades charges of a very different kind. What is really blameworthy is the admitted and glaring imperfection, not of execution, but of plan and system, which frequently goes on year after year without attempt at remedy. To charges of this kind the Post Office has no valid answer, and they can be made in great numbers. It is merely playing with the public to fling a sheaf of statistics at its head. We all know that the Post Office is a big concern, and that it would be a Herculean task to construct the organization *de novo* as it now stands. But the organization has grown, mainly, by repetition of similar parts, and there is nothing superhuman or even extraordinary in its direction. The addition of a hundred million letters to the number previously carried means nothing at all, except the engagement of a few more men, to be managed in exactly the same way and to do precisely the same work as the men there already. However big the business may become, it calls for nothing but ordinary business management, with adequate division and subdivision of labour. We entirely decline to be dazzled or astonished by big totals. Nobody goes into ecstasies over the London and North-Western Railway, which is a business of equal intricacy, and in some respects of much greater difficulty. These statistical apologies are no apologies at all, save for a certain percentage of unavoidable failures in simple execution of familiar tasks. They are no answer to complaints against the system such as some of our correspondents formulate. It is by its mode of dealing with such complaints as these that the Post Office must be judged; and, it is when so judged, there is a great deal in its management that calls for condemnation, inasmuch as it might be reformed, ought to be reformed, and remains unreformed only because, whatever may be said at a jubilee dinner, there is stupidity or obstructiveness somewhere.

SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD is evidently aware that there is considerable room for improvement, since even into his highly optimistic speech he slipped a few sentences of mild, but significant, criticism. He confesses that he would like to see the Post Office administered on "something like true commercial principles." He would like to see some portion of its large annual profit, which is even larger than it seems, because capital expenditure is paid out of revenue, utilized for developing and extending its work for the public benefit. He confesses to a feeling of humiliation when he compares our own much-vaunted achievements with those of other countries, which, starting far behind us, are now leaving us in the rear. All this from the SECRETARY of the POST OFFICE is a tolerably complete justification for that class of complaints which we have indicated as reasonable. It may be asked with much pertinency, why SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD does not remedy the defects he admits? He says, in effect, that the Post Office is not master of its own business. It is hampered and interfered with by the Treasury, which treats it merely as a revenue-collecting machine, and treats it badly even from that point of view. There is a net profit of over three millions, which grows every year. The Treasury will not imperil any portion, even of the annual increment, for the sake of improving the postal system. It would be interesting to know exactly how far this plea is sound. One can hardly suppose that the Treasury interferes with all the minute details of postal work. For example, when the mails are carried through a country town by a train to a distributing centre farther on and are afterwards sent back fifteen or twenty miles by a mail cart, is the Treasury to blame? Cannot the Post Office so much as set up a mail-catching apparatus at the side of the line without permission from the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER? If it cannot, then the sooner some public-spirited Postmaster-General goes on strike by way of protest the better will it be for the Post Office and the country. The Post Office surplus is very useful, and is one of the few bits of indirect taxation that pedantry has left us. If it were sacrificed, we should have twopenny put on the income-tax at once. But that is no reason why the development

PENNY POSTAGE JUBILEE DINNER.

Last evening a large party of officers and ex-officers of the General Post Office dined together at the Holborn Restaurant, to celebrate the jubilee of the penny postage. The chair was taken by the Right Hon. H. C. Raikes, M.P., the Postmaster-General, who was supported by two of his predecessors, the Right Hon. Sir Lyon Playfair, K.C.B., F.R.S., M.P., and the Right Hon. G. J. Shaw-Lefevre, M.P. The vice-chair was occupied by Sir Arthur Blackwood, K.C.B., secretary of the Post Office, and those present included Sir J. Tilley, K.C.B., secretary of the Post Office from 1864 to 1880, Mr. Pearson Hill, son of the late Sir Rowland Hill, K.C.B., and late of the secretary's office in the General Post Office; Mr. Algernon Turner, C.B., financial secretary of the Post Office; Mr. H. Joyce, third secretary; Mr. F. E. Baines, C.B., assistant secretary and inspector-general of mails; Messrs. E. H. Rea and J. C. Lamb, assistant secretaries; Mr. A. M. Cunynghame, surveyor-general for Scotland; Mr. H. L. Cresswell, secretary for Ireland; Mr. W. H. Preece, of the telegraphs; Mr. Philbrick, Q.C., Mr. R. Hunter, solicitor to the Post Office, and upwards of 250 more members and ex-members of the staff, including among the retired members Mr. Edmund Yates. The speaking was interspersed with quartets and songs, given by Messrs. E. Richardson, Sealey, Barnes, and S. Beckley. Mr. W. G. Gates, of the secretary's office, had acted as secretary of a large general Jubilee Committee.

The Marquis of Hartington had intended to be present, but was prevented by his illness. On the 12th inst., his secretary, Mr. H. A. Lascelles, wrote from Devonshire-house to Mr. F. E. Baines:—
"Lord Hartington has been suffering for some time past from a very severe cold, but he hoped to recover from it in time to allow him to come to London to attend the Post Office Jubilee dinner. I regret to say that the cold has turned into congestion of the lungs, which will of course make it impossible for him to come to the dinner. The last account of Lord Hartington is a very good one, and I trust the attack may not prove a very severe one."

Lord Emly wrote from Limerick expressing regret that it was impossible for him to be in London.

The following letters had been received from the Dukes of Argyll and Rutland:—

"Inveraray, Argyllshire, Dec. 19, 1889.
"Sir,—I am much flattered by the very kind invitation conveyed to me in your letter received to-day, and I very much regret that I am unable to take advantage of it. In recent years I have been compelled by my health to give up attending public dinners, and I shall be in Scotland at the time you refer to. I have a very pleasant recollection of my time, or rather times, at the General Post Office, and of my connexion with its officers. No public department is better served—perhaps, few so well, and certainly none with such almost unflinching success."

"Your obedient servant,"

"ARGYLL."

"3, Cambridge-gate, Regent's-park, Dec. 20, 1889.

"Dear Mr. Baines,—It is with very great regret that I find myself obliged to forego the pleasure of joining the departmental dinner by which it is proposed to celebrate the jubilee of the penny post. An engagement in the country, which I cannot evade or postpone, will not allow my attendance on January 15. I must, therefore, content myself with asking you to be good enough to convey to my kind friend the Postmaster-General, and to the officers of the department present, my cordial good wishes for their health and happiness throughout the new year, and the expression of my confidence, founded on pleasant experience, that in their hands the great organization, to which Sir Rowland Hill's invention has given so enormous a development, will in an increasing ratio continue to merit and receive the confidence and gratitude of the community."

"I remain, dear Mr. Baines, yours faithfully,"

"RUTLAND."

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing "The Health of the Queen," said,—Although the inception of the penny postage does not exactly synchronise with the beginning of her Majesty's reign, yet that half-century of progress which we are met to celebrate to-day coincides so nearly with the more than 60 years during which Queen Victoria has reigned over us as to establish something like a special connexion between this toast and the occasion which has brought us together. I cannot but believe that her Majesty the Queen has been no unmovable spectator of the progress of this great department, which indicates, perhaps, more than any other the wonderful march of the civilization under her reign; and we who are here to-night, being nearly all persons in her Majesty's service, should be, and are, the first to recognise the virtues, the wisdom, and the steadfastness which have endeared our Sovereign to her people. (Cheers.)

The toast was cordially drunk. The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the toast of "The Prince and Princess of Wales," said that some anxiety had been felt because of the announcement in that morning's papers as to the state of her Royal Highness's health. He was happy to be able to say, however, that the statements in the newspapers seemed to have been exaggerated. There was no reason to suppose that the Princess of Wales had gone out of her way to show sympathy with the Post Office by succumbing to the epidemic of influenza. (Laughter and cheers.)

The toast was warmly responded to.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the toast of "The Post Office," said—Before I venture to address myself to the toast which I have risen to propose I should like to read to you a short telegram received at the General Post Office this morning, which appears to me to be exceedingly interesting in connexion with the subject of our meeting here this evening. This is the telegram:—"On the occasion of the penny postage jubilee the Egyptian Administration, which is just adopting Rowland Hill's great reform, sends to the Department which initiated it half a century ago best congratulations and cordial greetings.—SABA PASHA, Postmaster-General, Egypt." I was meeting also that

to those who have sat for many years in the House of Commons that it was through one of its oldest and most respected members, the Right Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, that Sir Rowland Hill's scheme was first brought to the knowledge and pressed on the attention of the Government of the day. The scheme was adopted; the volume of postage instantly increased by leaps and bounds. The revenue, as was expected in the first instance, declined, but the country was quite prepared to meet the declining revenue in order to secure the great boon which this simple schoolmaster with no administrative experience, with no special advantages of fortune or position, had thought out for himself and had verified by a labour and an attention to detail which may even be commended to the reformers of any other day. From that time, as we know, the progress has been continually increasing, until at the present time the letters that are carried represent, I understand, 42 letters per annum for each head of the population, whereas at the time before the penny post was instituted it was only three. The actual volume of letters carried is 20 times what it was 50 years ago. I am speaking only of letters, because there are subsidiary services—the postcards, the circulars, book post, and parcel post would swell up the total from 1,500 millions to 2,365 millions of missives. I may mention to you, what is, I think, a very striking fact, that during the short time I have been connected with the postal administration of this country in the course of the last two years the increase in the number of letters annually despatched and received in the kingdom has been no less than 172 millions—that is to say, that in those two years the increase has been more than twice the whole number of letters which were posted in the year 1840. (Cheers.) I have not come here to-night to weary you with statistics and to give to you the marvellous details of the development of this great Department, but you may be interested if I remind you that at the present moment there are 18,000 post-offices in the United Kingdom, as well as 20,000 other receptacles for letters, and that the force which now carries on the postal service of the country consists of 88,000 established officers as well as 50,000 other persons employed in the service of the Post Office. (Cheers.) I think this will justify me in saying that it is probably to that happy thought, that patient research, that heroic persistency of Rowland Hill that this Department has become the most important administrative Department of the State. (Cheers.) Talk of armies! Why the numbers of officers I have just mentioned to you, and of whom I suppose I may say I am for the time being the commander-in-chief (cheers), are more numerous than any regular forces which the Secretary of State for War can show within the compass of her Majesty's dominions. The fleets over which the Postmaster-General exercises control are faster, better found, and more efficient than any which obey the bidding of the First Lord of the Admiralty. (Laughter and cheers.) Talk of the Foreign Office!—or the Colonial Office! Why half of the work of those Departments is what we make for them and in which we have to assist them. (Hear hear.) I believe in fact that the growth from this grain of mustard-seed, this little penny post which was invented by the Worcester-shire schoolmaster, has been such that we are approaching a period, if we have not reached it, when the Post Office will be regarded with eyes of envy and suspicion by every other Department in the State. Let me just recall the other steps of this great Department. After the penny post there comes, about 20 years later, the institution of the Post Office Savings Bank. The result of that institution, by which the Post Office became the banker of the poor, is that, at the present moment, the deposits amount to £62,000,000, and we have been able, in consequence of recent legislation, to act not only as the bankers, but also as the brokers for the labouring classes, and to invest no less than £4,000,000 of their money in the public funds of the country. (Cheers.) Ten years later came the Telegraphs, and that enormous new Department was added to the control of the Post Office. Do you suppose that the country would have been prepared to confide those new and vast fields of business to the Post Office of the day if they had not been thoroughly well satisfied that the spirit which had been initiated by Rowland Hill was still permeating, as it does to the present day, every branch of the Department? (Cheers.) When you see a few carping critics who find fault, in the columns of the daily papers, with the administration of this great Department, because they have had to pay a halfpenny surcharge or because their fish sent by Parcels Post arrived too late for dinner (laughter)—atoms of criticism which float in the sunshine of public opinion—be satisfied that they are the very rare exceptions, and it is because that confidence which Rowland Hill obtained for the Department has continued to subsist that the Post Office has continually had fresh fields of labour thrust upon it. Let me give you one fact as regards the Telegraphs, and I think it will please my right hon. friend on my left (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre), who took a great interest when he was Postmaster-General in the extension of our telegraphic system at the time the sixpenny telegram was introduced. I think you will be glad to know that the number of telegrams sent in the last financial year amounted to 57,000,000, and I think my right hon. friend may also be congratulated, because I know he was rather sanguine on the subject of the revenue—that the revenue, which, when I came into office in 1886 showed a deficit of £145,000, mainly in consequence of the adoption of the sixpenny telegrams, has shown in the last year a surplus of £85,000. (Cheers.) Those have been two great additional labours, the Savings Bank and the Telegraphs, but the Post Office has not been idle in other spheres. You have a great development of the money order system brought about by the institution of the postal orders. I have a figure here about postal orders which will show the enormous amount of use made of this mode of transmitting money by the poor. I think that last year no less a sum than £39,000,000 was transmitted by means of money orders of one class or another. Then you have the Parcels Post, of the enormous convenience of which we are all so sensible. We cannot all perhaps achieve the greatest triumphs, but I may point to things that have been done during my own tenure of office in the reduction of the price of postal cards and the establishment, as I believe, of a method of calculation with regard to them which would have satisfied the mathematical aptitude of Sir Rowland Hill himself. We used to pay 8d. per packet of 12 cards until a year ago. It occurred to me that people did not calculate money in eightpences or things in dozens. There are only two things that I know of in this country that are counted by dozens, and these are wine and silver articles; but by the arrangement then subsisting the duo-denary system of calculation was

of distinguished consideration. So far as can be judged from the outside, everything went off very comfortably and jubilantly. Everybody who has ever been a Postmaster-General was either present, or sent a letter to say how highly he thinks of the department. MR. RAIKES, the present Postmaster-General, was in the chair, and discharged his functions in a manner which, according to SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD, will send a thrill of pride through the whole organization, down to the smallest telegraph-boy. His own health was proposed by the SECRETARY in terms which must have sent a similar thrill through his own "Postmagisterial" bosom. He has astonished SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD by the rapidity with which he mastered the details of the Post Office system, and continues to astonish that competent critic by his extraordinary laboriousness. We learn with something like awe that, while others have their month or their fortnight of leisure in the year, the Postmaster-General never rests. "He is the official Flying Dutchman of modern times, for the wheel of the Post Office never stops." The compliment may seem perhaps a trifle misty, but jubilee enthusiasm is not to be too strictly fettered. Indeed, it is too beautiful a thing to be submitted to cold criticism. It is to be accepted and admired. There is a glow of mutual admiration and appreciation about the proceedings in that dining-room, which must enable the most churlish citizen to bear with equanimity any little mistakes that may occur in the delivery of his letters for some time to come. Who can have the heart to complain of the well-known, but unsatisfying, intimation that his case is receiving attention when he knows that a Postmaster-General who never rests is toiling to reach its consideration? Who can send indignant letters about local mistakes when he finds the overworked Secretary bemoaning with gentle dignity the hard fate that compels him to read these cruel aspersions? If to the outsider the Post Office appears less than perfect, he will surely place against his own miserably limited experience the assurance, breathing through last night's speeches, that all is really for the best in the best of offices manned by officers who command one another's reverent admiration.

It is very provoking to have a telegram delayed, or an address stupidly misread, or a parcel smashed and battered as if it had gone through a stone-breaking machine. But reasonable people do not, after all, lay very great stress upon these things. They know that no human energy or ability will exclude accidents. A man may perform his work with the precision of a chronometer for days or weeks together, and then, for no reason that can be discovered, and in some case of the most commonplace kind, he will go hopelessly wrong. It is like a billiard player making the spot stroke. When he has done it fifty times there is no visible reason why he should fail at the fifty-first; but fail he does at that or some other term in the series. So a man may sort a thousand letters, or a hundred thousand, or a million without a mistake: but the mistake will

of the Post Office and the growth of the surplus itself should be stopped by a niggardly and narrow-minded grasping at the last penny of possible profit. Some people who declaim against the blindness that opposed ROWLAND HILL'S ideas are perfectly content to repeat in practice the blunders of the obstructives of his day.

EXCITEMENT IN PORTUGAL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LISBON, JAN. 15.

Some allowance must be made for the difference between northern and southern blood when considering all that is passing here and in the provinces, and the displays of public and private hostility to England. Since the episode of the Charles et George nothing has equalled the irritation shown throughout Portugal even to the smallest village. My telegrams to *The Times* reflecting the state of public opinion foreshadowed these outbursts of anger, which, so far, have fortunately proved practically harmless, but which may become really dangerous unless checked with a firm hand.

Although I and a friend who was with me saw no disturbances last night after a walk through the length and breadth of the city, it appears that there were several demonstrations which we missed, and which were only put a stop to after the police had taken a large number of the rioters prisoners.

To-night there is greater excitement than ever in the streets, as the newspapers announce the arrival of a British fleet in the Tagus tomorrow and the immediate departure of Mr. Petre. As far as is known at the British Legation, whence I have just returned, there is no truth in either statement.

COURT CIRCULAR.

OSBORNE, JAN. 15.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Lady Waterpark, and Her Majesty went out this morning, attended by Miss McNeill.

General Gardiner arrived at Osborne yesterday from Berlin, where he attended the funeral of the late Empress Augusta, by the Queen's commands. Lord Churchill has left Osborne.

OBITUARY.

A news agency says:—Private intelligence received in Cork states that Lord Louth is dead. Randal Pilgrim Ralph Plunkett, Lord Louth, was the 14th Baron, and was born on September 24, 1868. He succeeded to the title in 1883, and was a lieutenant in the 3d Battalion Wilts Regiment. Until his recent death Captain T. O. Plunkett was heir to the title, which now passes to Captain Plunkett's son, Thomas Oliver, born in 1867.

THE PROPOSED LOCK AT RICHMOND.—The Heston and Isleworth Local Board and the Brentford Local Board decided yesterday to oppose the introduction of the Bill for the construction of a lock and footbridge on the Thames, in the neighbourhood of Richmond, on the ground that the scheme, if adopted, would be detrimental to the best interests of their districts.

among other congratulatory telegrams and messages which have been received, a most kind and cordial message was received on Friday last, the actual jubilee day, from our esteemed and respected friend Dr. von Stephan, the Postmaster-General of Germany. (Cheers.) I think we are all sensible that what has brought us here to-night is not an ordinary occasion. Congratulatory banquets, congratulatory celebrations have become so common in these days of advanced civilization that they seem to some to have almost lost their point and meaning. But in meeting here to-night we are celebrating what perhaps, although the subject of it seems in the first instance inconceivable, has really been one of the greatest peaceful revolutions of the century, and we who sit within the walls and under the roof of the establishment which has benefited so greatly by the foresight and the practical genius of the great man who initiated this reform would, indeed, be the most ungrateful of mankind if we did not assemble here to-night to congratulate each other upon the progress of his great idea and to do honour to his venerated name. (Cheers.) I have seen in one of the many notices with which the Press has teemed a touching anecdote—I am not prepared to vouch for its absolute accuracy, but it is one of those anecdotes which one wishes to believe to be accurate—that an old schoolmaster of Sir Rowland Hill's lingered outside the post-office of Birmingham on the night of the 9th of January, 1840, with a letter in his hand in order to be the first person when the clock had finished striking 12, to place it in the box and to send a letter under the system inaugurated by his pupil. (Cheers.) I am glad to be corroborated by the highest living authority on that subject, and I only wish to point out the interesting succession of ideas in the fact that it was an old master of Sir Rowland Hill's who was the first to do honour to his inventive genius on that occasion: so we, 50 years later, who sit here are proud to consider ourselves the pupils of that distinguished man. (Cheers.) You are all so familiar with the circumstances in which Sir Rowland Hill began his crusade for Post Office reform that it would be idle, and indeed almost impertinent, to dilate upon them to-night. Most of us who are present here to-night have probably seen that most interesting work published by Sir Rowland Hill's son, giving a most vivid sketch of the difficulties and the embarrassments which attended postal communication 50 years ago. We most of us know that in those days the charge for a letter within the British Islands was multiplied by the distance which it had to travel, and I confess that I do not greatly blame these Ministers and administrators who thought there was a sort of rude fairness in a system of that sort. It would look at first sight to those who are not versed in the minutiae of postal matters as if there ought to be an increasing charge for the distance travelled within the British Islands; but it was the courage, the sturdiness, and tenacity, as well as the inventive faculty, of Sir Rowland Hill that demonstrated that, in point of fact, the distance travelled was almost an infinitesimal element in the cost of the transmission of a letter. That was the great point that had to be established. Sir Rowland Hill, who was an amateur, who was what I suppose people would have called an outsider, had grasped this fact, which had not at this time become patent to the officials at St. Martin's-le-Grand. He had not only the ingenuity and the fertility of resource to discover and develop this idea, but he had also that rare faculty of moderate and reasoned eloquence which brought the country at once to his side. No doubt he was a little sanguine; where is the inventor who is not a little sanguine? He believed that the revenue would recoup itself within a shorter time, than it actually did recoup itself but the revenue has more than recouped itself, and that the net profit upon the Post Office at the present time, enormously as its business has increased, is double what it was at that time is one of those facts which are familiar to every schoolboy in the fourth form. (Cheers.) Sir Rowland Hill was aided to a certain degree by circumstances. He brought forward his scheme at a time when public opinion was varying rather rapidly between the two great parties in the State, and no Administration that could be formed could be certain very long of continuous life; and it was, perhaps, owing to this, I must call it, happy accident on that occasion that Sir Rowland Hill was able to press successfully on the Government of that day the adoption of his great scheme, although it involved, as he was prepared to admit, at all events for the first year, a very considerable loss of revenue. I think it is gratifying

withheld from the silver while it was applied to the postcards. It occurred to me that it would be an enormous simplification if you put the money basis on the basis of the shilling calculation, under which we count money and if you put the basis of the number of the article supplied on the duodenary scale. If you wish to buy 100 postcards you send 5s., and if you want £1 worth of postcards you get 400, and I have always felt that if in anything I should have deserved the approval of the great founder of postal reform in this matter this is one which would have met with his approving regard. (Cheers.) There is another matter which is perhaps picturesque, but it is also practical, and that is the establishment of parcels coaches. I observed the other day some strictures from some antiquated and Rip van Winkle Radical, who was shocked at the idea of reversing the magnificent railway system by going back to the old coach-and-four. I read that letter with some amusement, because it showed me how a man who believed himself to be possessed of the newest ideas may be the representative of the most antiquated prejudices. I am happy to believe that we have saved a considerable sum of money to the State by the institution of the parcels coach to Brighton. We mean to save by our parcels coach between Manchester and Liverpool. I was particularly anxious to run this coach, because I thought it was the most picturesque and telling manner of bringing home to the attention of the nation the fact that in existing circumstances the contract between the railways and the Department is one which is not beneficial to the public service. Then we are always told that we ought to be making a new departure. We are always making new departures. If the public only knew the secrets of the Post Office they would find that there is no Department on the face of the earth which is so prone to ventilate and push new ideas. We are being held up occasionally by ill-informed persons to public obloquy as if we did not go with the times, when the fact is that our endeavour is, not merely to go with the times, but to keep ahead of the times. But we have a partner—Mr. Jorkins. The Post Office is never in the position to give effect to its own promptings without consulting that very formidable person in the background. (Laughter.) There is another Department of the Government which may literally be said to be paved with good intentions, and it is because our good intentions only go to pave that Department that we have not been able to show to the public what we realize among ourselves—the strenuous progressive spirit which still animates every rank in the service. (Cheers.) But it is not only that we have this difficulty at which I have hinted; we have also difficulties created by those who sometimes wish to pose as postal reformers. There are people, you know, who make the best of causes ridiculous, and there are those whose advocacy is so unfortunate as to provoke hostility and antagonism. (Laughter.) I would illustrate that for a moment by reference to a question of which we hear a great deal in the newspapers, and something occasionally in the House of Commons—the question of what is called international penny postage. I am not going to say that there may not be reasons of high State policy calling for a great reduction of our external postage rates. I do not propose to discuss that question here this evening, but I wish to point out the hollowness of the agitation which has been maintained upon this question by simply putting it to the test of the example of Sir Rowland Hill. Now, Sir Rowland Hill, when he devised the penny postage for the United Kingdom, had satisfied himself of what I will call the enormous area of productivity, which he might look to in order to recoup the revenue. There are 36,000,000 people in the country; there were about 25,000,000 at the time when the penny post was established; but if those 36,000,000 of people were each to write one letter a day—and I think it is not impossible—if we may arrive at that happy state of inter-communication, we should have a circulation of letters nine or ten times greater than that which subsists at present. In fact, the area of productivity is almost immeasurable, and to that Sir Rowland Hill looked for the recovery of revenue. Take the cost of the Indian post. There are 200,000 British-born persons in India, including the Army. Suppose that each of them writes a letter by each post. There are only 52 posts to and from India in the year, not 365. Supposing four times as many of the native community write their letters, say, one a year, you would have one million people writing 52 letters in the year as against 36,000,000 people writing a letter 365 times.

a year. If you take the case of Australia, although the figures are more favourable to the reformer, they still land him in the hopeless position of inability to prove that he has that area of productivity, or anything approaching to it, which Sir Rowland Hill saw before him when he proposed his scheme. Sir Rowland Hill had satisfied himself that in the British Islands the cost of transmission was so small that it might be absolutely disregarded. But in the case of the transmission of a letter between this country and India, China, or Australia, we know that the cost of such transmission must be three times, if not more, the total sum which the reformer proposes to levy by way of postage. I would sum it up in this way—Sir Rowland Hill proposed a great change because he believed it was for the good of all, especially of the poor, at the same time that it was shown to increase the revenue. We are asked, on the other side, to adopt a change, which must necessarily largely diminish the revenue, and must do it for the sake of the few at the expense of the many. (Cheers.) What I have said to you has no reference to those larger questions of general State policy to which I adverted earlier, but I venture to believe by conjuring from the shades the venerable shade of that great name, and by putting to the test of merciless logic this bubble which is blown before your eyes, it has been burst. I feel that this occasion is one which appeals to us on every side except one; happily it does not appeal to us on the side of party politics. You may dwell upon it as the man of business, as the family man, as the administrator and statesman, as the humble emigrant, but every member of the community takes the same interest in this great question. We should remember that in the days when it was first produced it stirred the fire even of the cold intelligence of Harriet Martineau, who spoke in the language of romantic sympathy of the wealth of ideas that would occupy the weary mind and of pleasures which would refresh the sleepless affections. Not only did this discovery stir to unwonted expression of feeling one of the clearest and keepest intellects of our century, but it actually made my Lords of the Treasury themselves turn poets. (Laughter.) In a Treasury minute penned on the occasion of Sir Rowland Hill's retirement from the office he had so long adorned, a Treasury minute salutes him, not merely as a faithful servant of the country, but as a benefactor of the human race. (Cheers.) It is with that great example before us that every man in this service does his daily work. As long as that example is cherished and honoured as it is to-day there need be no fear for this great Department, which goes step by step and stride by stride in advancing the welfare of mankind. I ask you to-night to drink the toast of the Post Office as one of the first civilizing agencies of our century and as embodying year by year, one after another, those peaceful revolutions which make up the happy history of man. (Cheers.)

SIR A. BLACKWOOD, being called upon first to respond, desired that he should be allowed to yield precedence to Mr. Pearson Hill, as the only son of Sir Rowland Hill. (Cheers.)

Mr. PEARSON HILL said.—As the representative of Sir Rowland Hill's family, I rise to offer our most hearty thanks to the Postmaster-General for his kindly reference to my father's services and to all old friends who have assembled here to-night to do honour to his memory, and to Sir Arthur Blackwood I am especially indebted for his thoughtful generosity in wishing that I should take precedence in replying to the toast with which our names have been associated. The Postmaster-General has made a generous reference to the benefits which the world has reaped from the uniform penny postage system which it was Sir Rowland Hill's lot to devise and carry to completion; but there are one or two points connected with that reform upon which, from my intimate acquaintance with my father's views, I am perhaps more qualified than any one else to bear testimony, and to which it may not be out of place for me to refer to-night. (Hear, hear.) In all his earnest endeavours to carry his plan to completion there was one great point of which he never lost sight, and that was to do so with the least possible injury to the officers of the Post Office, and of this strong desire on his part I can perhaps give a sufficient illustration by stating what took place when, 34 years ago, the work of dividing London into its ten postal districts was commenced. (Hear, hear.) The investigation then made into the working of the London district postal system soon brought to light endless abuses which had gradually accumulated in that department. In those days the letter carriers were expected to perform ten hours' work daily, but if employed beyond that time they received extra pay; but numerous instances were discovered where letter carriers received such extra remuneration, not only when they did no extra work, but when their ordinary hours of employment fell far short of the official standard. (Laughter.) One glaring case I remember, where a letter carrier was found to be working only four hours a day instead of ten hours, and yet in addition to full pay he was receiving, I think, 28s. a week in addition for extra work, not a single stroke of which did he perform. (Laughter.) Such an abuse had, of course, to be stopped at once, but in this case, and in all others, Sir Rowland Hill laid down the rule that the letter-carrier's pay should not be reduced if he were willing to perform the amount of duty which that pay represented. Again, many cases occurred where by simplifications which Rowland Hill introduced into the duties of some branch department it was found possible to work with a much smaller staff of officers; but I can remember no instance of any officer being turned adrift because his work had been abolished. (Cheers.) Places were found for redundant officers in other departments of the Post Office, or the desired reduction of force was accomplished by the simple process of not filling up vacancies as they occurred. (Hear, hear.) I need scarcely say that it is impossible for any one to reorganise a great institution like the Post Office without making many enemies amongst those who prefer that things should be left as they were, and at one time it was the fashion of some newspapers to represent Sir Rowland Hill as a hard taskmaster who constantly overworked his men and ruthlessly cut down salaries. Perhaps the two facts I am about to mention will best show the injustice of any such accusation. At the present moment a demand is being put forward on behalf of the working classes that their daily task of labour shall not exceed eight hours; but more than 34 years ago Rowland Hill, as regards the Post Office employees, anticipated this demand, and reduced the regular working day of the letter carriers from ten hours to eight (hear, hear), and I believe there is still a rule in force at St. Martin's

from your lips have, I can assure you, gratified us extremely, and they will give a sincere thrill of pleasure to the many thousands who cannot be with us to-night, but who will read your words to-morrow. (Cheers.) In the discharge of our arduous duties it is no small encouragement to receive the approbation of our political chief; and I am sure that not only the high officers who are gathered here, but also the great army of Post Office servants elsewhere, male and female, veteran and juvenile, down to the most diminutive telegraph boy, are grateful to you. (Cheers.) And now, Sir, I confess to a feeling of embarrassment and difficulty in attempting to follow my friend Mr. Hill, upon whom it devolved to speak of the achievements of his distinguished father, since no such deeds of world-wide renown can be pointed to in the history of the 50 years which have passed since that memorable 10th of January, 1840. It has been the duty of the Post Office in succeeding years to follow faithfully the lines which Rowland Hill traced, to carry out in their ever-extending ramifications the principles he proclaimed, and to apply them to the changing circumstances of each day and to the requirements of the highly organized life of modern society; and I think, Sir, that not only have you yourself to-night, but the Press of this country also has borne witness to the fact that that duty has been discharged with some measure of success. But if such startling reforms as uniform penny postage cannot be repeated, and if Rowland Hill cannot reappear, the past 50 years have not been without important events in the history of the Post Office or without great and able men in the service. Telegraphs, savings banks, parcel post, as well as great extensions of cheap postage rates, have marked those years, and the names of such men as Scudamore, Chetwynd, and Tilley are in themselves evidence of the ability and zeal for the public advantage which have been developed within our ranks. (Cheers.) Although a well-abused Department, as I know to my cost by the indignant letters I receive when a postcard is misdelivered (laughter), a telegram mis-spelled (laughter), a newspaper belated, or a parcel damaged, yet, on the whole, working as we do in "the fierce light that beats" upon us from every home and from every place of business in the kingdom (hear, hear), our labours, carried on under difficulties of which the public at large know very little, are not unappreciated, and we are glad to think that they are favourably recognized. For we do claim to be public benefactors. Talk of a free breakfast table! What is a free breakfast table compared to one loaded with letters, postcards, newspapers, and halfpenny circulars? (Cheers.) The ladies fly to the letters we bring them with swifter flight than to their cups of tea (laughter), and the man of business turns with disgust from his toast and coffee if we do not hand him his daily paper. (Cheers.) Now, to pass from these universal benefits to smaller matters, have we not conferred imperishable fame on politicians (laughter) otherwise unknown by furnishing them with materials for at least half a hundred conundrums wherewith to scare Postmaster-Generals out of their five senses? Where would such individuals be but for the Post Office? (Great laughter.) But, turning from the pleasant memories that such achievements as these awaken, I desire to say, in all seriousness, that the Post Office has a very deep sense of its responsibility. We are aware that upon no other institution or service in the country depend consequences affecting so keenly and so immediately every home—nay, almost every citizen—of this country. I do not undervalue the other great Departments of the State, but the efficiency of either the Army or the Navy might be temporarily affected without the nation feeling it. No dismay would be experienced if, during January, the ubiquitous tax-collector did not visit our homes (laughter); but if our energies flagged, if our machinery got clogged, if the pulse of the postal and telegraph system ceased to beat but for half a day, and its circulation by rail, road, and wire were impeded, the very life of the community would stand still. I can imagine no greater disaster than the breakdown of the Post Office system except the contemporaneous cessation of all railway communication. We work, therefore, under a sense of great responsibility and with a proud consciousness of the trust which our fellow-citizens so generously repose in us. We hope to prove ourselves more and more worthy of it. We have many critics, many candid friends. We touch every imaginable interest and are in contact at all points with humanity on its most sensitive side; for I know that nothing raises such passions in the human breast or elicits such violence of language as the non-receipt of a letter, newspaper, or postcard. We are necessarily much criticised and closely watched. I do not complain of this. (Hear, hear.) It is right and good for us. I would only ask that those who are so ready with blame for our failures—for we are not perfect—and for our alleged inability to move with the times would remember that, with a complicated and highly-organized machinery like ours, and working under constant high-pressure, reforms and changes must be carefully and slowly made. (Hear, hear.) That which seems very easy to the outsider who wants a change of a particular kind affecting his own interests may disturb the balance of working and affect the convenience of millions of persons and a revenue and expenditure of millions of pounds. (Hear, hear.) But I do not say this either to deprecate criticism or to advocate standing still. As the servants of the State—that is to say, the State in its character of the general public—our one and foremost object should be, and, indeed, I may say it is, to supply the wants and to minister to the convenience of that public. (Hear, hear.) Though styled a revenue department, and most valuable as a machinery for indirect and unfeared taxation, I should deeply regret if we came to be regarded, or to regard ourselves, as a mere tax-collecting department. Nothing, in my opinion, would be worse for the Department, and consequently for the public, than for the former to consider as the be-all and end-all of the Post Office service the extraction of a large revenue from the country; and, indeed, such a limitation of its functions would defeat the very object for which it exists—namely, the greatest possible convenience to the public by the multiplication and acceleration of every form of communication which properly falls within its limits. (Hear, hear.) Nothing would be so calculated to chill the ardour, and stunt the energies, and to repress the inventive seal of the officers of the Post Office as for them to feel that there are barriers in the path of postal progress which they are forbidden to surmount. (Hear, hear.) There may be many ways in which the service can render itself more useful to the community at large, and thus minister to the general progress and prosperity of the country; and I cannot but regard it as the burden if not the paramount duty of a great com-

mission is the cause of the latter being absent. I am sure that I express the hopes of all that he may speedily be restored to public life, of which he is so distinguished an ornament. (Cheers.) My own career as Postmaster-General was not a long one. It did not extend over more than a few months, but my connexion with the Department was not confined to this, for twice I served as Deputy-Postmaster—on the first occasion for many months—during illnesses of my lamented friend and colleague Mr. Fawcett, whose name is imperishably connected with Post Office improvements (cheers), and than whom no one since Sir Rowland Hill has more adequately grasped the needs of the people, or done more to popularize the service and to increase its functions. (Cheers.) It so happened that in my capacity as deputy, or as the successor to Mr. Fawcett, I was largely responsible for the regulations to carry into effect the parcel post and also sixpenny telegrams; and I think I may say that I had unusual opportunities of forming an opinion as to the willingness and capacity of the permanent officials of the Department in carrying out such great extensions. I have a very vivid personal recollection of Sir Rowland Hill. I frequently saw him at my father's house, when I was a young man, between the years 1848 and 1855. I have often heard him discuss and explain the difficulties which he encountered in carrying the great scheme in the four years before 1840. I recollect well his saying on many occasions that what most surprised him was the opposition and obstruction which he met with from the Post Office officials of that day. He was anything but complimentary to those officials; fortunately the genus is now extinct, and if there is one he would be worthy of a place in the museum of eccentricities which turn up in the Dead Letter Department. (Laughter and cheers.) Sir Rowland used to say that he could quite well understand the opposition of the Financial Department of the Government, who looked to receiving a large revenue from the Post Office, and who feared any measure which might even temporarily endanger that revenue. It must be admitted that Sir Rowland was somewhat over-sanguine as to the immediate financial results of the change, and, in fact, it was many years before the loss to the revenue was recouped. When we blame such great statesmen as Sir Robert Peel for opposing the change in the interest of the revenue, we may perhaps recollect that statesmen in the present day have been heard to pronounce in the most emphatic manner that they will brook no interference with the revenue derived from the Post Office; and if they had lived 50 years ago they would probably have taken the same view as Sir Robert Peel and Lord Melbourne. What Sir Rowland could not understand was how the Post Office officials could have ranged themselves in opposition to the scheme, why they should have sided with the financial authorities, and have done their utmost to defeat the scheme. They must have known the absurdities, the inequalities, the complexities, the injustice of the old system, how hardly it pressed on the poor, how it was the engine of privilege under which one-half of the letters forwarded were forwarded free of charge under the system of "franking." It was difficult to conceive how they could fail to understand the simplicity and equality of the new scheme. I know nothing more amusing than to read the evidence given before the Committee of 1838 by the Post Office officials. The secretary to the Post Office, Colonel Maberley, said that the scheme was utterly fallacious, a most preposterous one, utterly unsupported by facts, and resting wholly on assumption. Every experiment in the way of reductions which had been made in the Post Office had shown its fallacy. If the rates were reduced to a penny the revenue would not recover itself for 40 or 50 years. The assistant-secretary boldly stated his opinion that there would be no increase of correspondence. Every possible objection was raised to every part of the scheme. They maintained that uniformity would be unjust and impracticable; that payment in advance was impossible; and that the charge by weight could not be entertained. Sir Rowland Hill not only carried his great scheme, but gave a great blow to the obtuse and ignorant and prejudiced officialism, from which it has, I rejoice to think, never recovered. It survived in fact for a time; but Sir Rowland inspired the Department with a new spirit, and founded a new school of officials. Up to that time he has stated no improvement had ever been devised in the Department. Post Office reformers had always forced their schemes upon the Department after a long struggle. They were taken into the office to carry them out, but were later turned adrift. It is demonstrable that of late years there has been a great change in this respect. All the great changes and improvements and extensions have been devised and carried out within the Post Office by such men as Mr. Chetwynd, Mr. Scudamore, and Mr. Patey, and I have often heard Mr. Fawcett say that he owed all his schemes to men within the office, and found them the most ready agents for carrying them out; and I can bear the same testimony from my short experience. I desire to emphasize this, as there is a disposition in the Press to complain of the tardiness of the Post Office to adopt improvements. The difficulty does not rest there. It rests rather with the Financial Departments of the Government. Every change and improvement costs money; most of them risk for a time some more revenue. If it is insisted upon that there shall be an ever-increasing net revenue, it stands to reason that many reforms and extensions which the public desires must be postponed. He would be a bold man who would beard the Chancellor of the Exchequer and ask him to give up the whole of this net revenue for Post Office improvements, though it is to be remarked that no other country in the world draws a revenue from its Post Office. It is not, however, necessary to contemplate this. What I have at various times suggested is that we should estimate at a liberal amount what net revenue we should draw on the average of years from the Post Office, and that what there is beyond this of growing net revenue should be applied year by year to the improvements and extensions the public desires. The present would be a very good opportunity for applying this principle, for the net revenue is growing by giant bounds. In 1888 the net revenue increased by £300,000, in 1889 by another £400,000, and in the current year I doubt not it will be £600,000, or an increase of £1,200,000 in three years, and the net revenue is now double what it was before the introduction of the penny post. I can conceive no better way of celebrating the jubilee or in commemorating its great founder than by applying at all events the increase in the growing net revenue to imports. The essence of his scheme was simplicity, uniformity, universality, cheapness, and there are many directions in which these great principles may be carried further

years' wear and tear of life. Reading, writing, arithmetic, as taught in elementary schools, are plant of weak growth, but they are watered and made to thrive by the penny post. (Hear, hear.) I recollect giving Rowland Hill an illustration which pleased him much. I had been travelling in Norway and Sweden, and found that they were abandoning their Sunday secular schools. On asking the reason I was told that since the introduction of the penny post there were no longer found to be necessary, as cheap letters kept up education better than Sunday schools (Hear, hear.) On a day of rejoicing and remembrances like this, let me say a word of appreciation of one of the greatest and best officials in the history of the Post Office—I allude to the late Mr. Scudamore. (Cheers.) When I entered upon my duties as Postmaster-General he was in official difficulties with the Treasury and Parliament, because in his zeal he had used the revenue of the Department for the rapid extension of the system of telegraphs. Of course, this was a grave official error, for the money ought to have been voted by the House of Commons. I entered the office believing that I would have much trouble with this impetuous secretary, but I left it feeling the highest admiration of his administrative capacity and unselfish zeal. The country owe him a debt of gratitude for the rapid and efficient extension of the telegraphic system. (Cheers.) One night of anxiety remains vividly in my memory. The new Post Office buildings, with their fine telegraphic halls, were ready but it was an anxious thing to disconnect the whole telegraphic communication of the country and re-establish it in the new building. Mr. Scudamore was equal to the occasion, and the change was made with out the loss of a single message or more than an hour's delay. Like so many of our friends Mr. Scudamore has gone to the great majority, but his memory should not be forgotten on this occasion. (Cheers.) There is one feature of the Post Office which has contributed greatly to its success—I allude to its perfect freedom from political action. I believe that the only survivors of politics in it is in the appointment of rural messengers by members of Parliament for the district. This miserable remnant of patronage ought to be swept away. I do not think that I ever knew, and certainly never asked, what were the political convictions of any candidate for office when I had to deal with that patronage, and this must be the practice and experience of my successors. (Hear, hear.) How different is the administration of the Post Office in the United States! At every change of a political party in the Presidency there is a sweeping change of officers, of the principle that "spoils belong to the victors." The present President has been in office only a few months, but when I left America in November, 17,000 postmasters had been dismissed (laughter) because they were Democrats, and the party newspapers were urging increased activity in the process of disorganization. It is because our Post Office has been an efficient servant of the public, having only one thought as to how to do its duty without fear or favour, that it stands so high in public estimation. (Cheers.) Its work has been great in the past 50 years, and it is a joy for us who are present to-night, to aid in the celebration of the benefits which half a century of pure and active administration has conferred on the public. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. F. E. BAINES proposed "The Retired Officers of the Post Office," and mentioned several to the merits of whom he paid tributes which were endorsed by the company. The deceased included the following:—Secretaries:—Colonel Maberley, Sir Rowland Hill, F. J. Scudamore, C.B., Arthur Bentham, and C. H. B. Patey, C.B. Controllers of London Postal Service:—W. Bokenham, T. Boucher, and T. Jeffery. Inspectors-General of Mails:—G. Stow (mail coaches), West, and Edward Page. Receivers and Accountants General:—Hyde, Chetwynd, Richardson. Surveyors:—Gay, Creswell, Johnston, Anthony Trollope, James, and Beaufort. Savings Bank:—A. Milliken, C. Thompson, and Ramsay. Telegraphs:—Shaw and Sanger. Doctors:—William Gavin and Walter Lewis. The living included Sir John Tilley, K.C.B., Frederic Hill, Francis Abbott, W. J. Page, F. R. Jackson, Pearson Hill, H. Mellersh, C. B. Banning, C. Teasdale, R. S. Culley, J. H. Newman, Ernest Milliken, and finally E. Yates, of whom the speaker remarked that, finding the yoke of the Post Office too easy, he took on himself the cares of the World. (Laughter and cheers.)

SIR J. TILLEY, in responding, said that, if he were a useful servant at the Post Office, he owed such usefulness in great measure to the assistance he obtained from those about him. He heard with intense pleasure the generous remarks of Sir L. Playfair about Mr. Scudamore. Probably his own knowledge of Sir Rowland Hill was larger than that of any one present except the members of his family. With all Sir Rowland Hill's foresight, it was probable he never contemplated that the civilized world would take up his scheme in so short a time. When he was first appointed the General Post Office occupied the site of the present branch office in Lombard-street, and his room was the kitchen of the old rectory house of St. Mary Woolnoth. The personnel was somewhat different from what it is now. At that early date if gentlemen wanted to increase their incomes they did not write novels or their autobiographies or edit editions of Shelley. The Secretary had occasion to send for one gentleman, to whom he said, "I have the greatest admiration for trade and commerce; but you must decide between the Post Office and a cabbage stall in the New-cut." (Great laughter.) The increased business was now carried on as easily as the small amount of work that had to be done in Lombard-street. It had grown largely since he left the office ten years ago, and he believed it was conducted with greater ability than he could have brought to bear upon it. (Cheers.)

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a year. If you take the case of Australia, although the figures are more favourable to the reformer, they still land him in the hopeless position of inability to prove that he has that area of productivity, or anything approaching to it, which Sir Rowland Hill saw before him when he proposed his scheme. Sir Rowland Hill had satisfied himself that in the British Islands the cost of transmission was so small that it might be absolutely disregarded. But in the case of the transmission of a letter between this country and India, China, or Australia, we know that the cost of such transmission must be three times, if not more, the total sum which the reformer proposes to levy by way of postage. I would sum it up in this way—Sir Rowland Hill proposed a great change because he believed it was for the good of all, especially of the poor, at the same time that it was shown to increase the revenue. We are asked, on the other side, to adopt a change, which must necessarily largely diminish the revenue, and must do it for the sake of the few at the expense of the many. (Cheers.) What I have said to you has no reference to those larger questions of general State policy to which I adverted earlier, but I venture to believe by conjuring from the shades the venerable shade of that great name, and by putting to the test of merciless logic this bubble which is blown before your eyes, it has been burst. I feel that this occasion is one which appeals to us on every side except one; happily it does not appeal to us on the side of party politics. You may dwell upon it as the man of business, as the family man, as the administrator and statesman, as the humble emigrant, but every member of the community takes the same interest in this great question. We should remember that in the days when it was first produced it stirred the fire even of the cold intelligence of Harriet Martineau, who spoke in the language of romantic sympathy of the wealth of ideas that would occupy the weary mind and of pleasures which would refresh the sleepless affections. Not only did this discovery stir to unwonted expression of feeling one of the clearest and keenest intellects of our century, but it actually made my Lords of the Treasury themselves turn poets. (Laughter.) In a Treasury minute penned on the occasion of Sir Rowland Hill's retirement from the office he had so long adorned, a Treasury minute salutes him, not merely as a faithful servant of the country, but as a benefactor of the human race. (Cheers.) It is with that great example before us that every man in this service does his daily work. As long as that example is cherished and honoured as it is to-day there need be no fear for this great Department, which goes step by step and stride by stride in advancing the welfare of mankind. I ask you to-night to drink the toast of the Post Office as one of the first civilizing agencies of our century and as embodying year by year, one after another, those peaceful revolutions which make up the happy history of man. (Cheers.)

SIR A. BLACKWOOD, being called upon first to respond, desired that he should be allowed to yield precedence to Mr. Pearson Hill, as the only son of Sir Rowland Hill. (Cheers.)

MR. PEARSON HILL said.—As the representative of Sir Rowland Hill's family, I rise to offer our most hearty thanks to the Postmaster-General for his kindly reference to my father's services and to all old friends who have assembled here to-night to do honour to his memory, and to Sir Arthur Blackwood I am especially indebted for his thoughtful generosity in wishing that I should take precedence in replying to the toast with which our names have been associated. The Postmaster-General has made a generous reference to the benefits which the world has reaped from the uniform penny postage system which it was Sir Rowland Hill's lot to devise and carry to completion; but there are one or two points connected with that reform upon which, from my intimate acquaintance with my father's views, I am perhaps more qualified than any one else to bear testimony, and to which it may not be out of place for me to refer to to-night. (Hear, hear.) In all his earnest endeavours to carry his plan to completion there was one great point of which he never lost sight, and that was to do so with the least possible injury to the officers of the Post Office, and of this strong desire on his part I can perhaps give a sufficient illustration by stating what took place when, 34 years ago, the work of dividing London into its ten postal districts was commenced. (Hear, hear.) The investigation then made into the working of the London district postal system soon brought to light endless abuses which had gradually accumulated in that department. In those days the letter carriers were expected to perform ten hours' work daily, but if employed beyond that time they received extra pay; but numerous instances were discovered where letter carriers received such extra remuneration, not only when they did no extra work, but when their ordinary hours of employment fell far short of the official standard. (Laughter.) One glaring case I remember, where a letter carrier was found to be working only four hours a day instead of ten hours, and yet in addition to full pay he was receiving, I think, 28s. a week in addition for extra work, not a single stroke of which did he perform. (Laughter.) Such an abuse had, of course, to be stopped at once, but in this case, and in all others, Sir Rowland Hill laid down the rule that the letter-carrier's pay should not be reduced if he were willing to perform the amount of duty which that pay represented. Again, many cases occurred where by simplifications which Rowland Hill introduced into the duties of some branch department it was found possible to work with a much smaller staff of officers; but I can remember no instance of any officer being turned adrift because his work had been abolished. (Cheers.) Places were found for redundant officers in other departments of the Post Office, or the desired reduction of force was accomplished by the simple process of not filling up vacancies as they occurred. (Hear, hear.) I need scarcely say that it is impossible for any one to reorganise a great institution like the Post Office without making many enemies amongst those who prefer that things should be left as they were, and at one time it was the fashion of some newspapers to represent Sir Rowland Hill as a hard taskmaster who constantly overworked his men and ruthlessly cut down salaries. Perhaps the two facts I am about to mention will best show the injustice of any such accusation. At the present moment a demand is being put forward on behalf of the working classes that their daily task of labour shall not exceed eight hours; but more than 34 years ago Rowland Hill, as regards the Post Office employees, anticipated this demand, and reduced the regular working day of the letter carriers from ten hours to eight (hear, hear), and I believe there is still a rule in force at St. Martin's-le-grand that any letter carrier who, working only five with another, finds his work exceeds eight hours is entitled to apply for relief. (Hear, hear.) As regards Rowland Hill's supposed eagerness to cut down the remuneration of those employed in the postal service, I may mention one fact to which he once called my attention—viz., that while he was Secretary of the Post Office the salaries of every class of employees had been raised with scarcely more than two exceptions, those exceptions being the salaries of the Postmaster-General and of the Secretary himself. (Hear, hear.) And now I would like to say a word or two with reference to uncomplimentary observations that are sometimes

made from your lips have, I can assure you, gratified us extremely, and they will give a sincere thrill of pleasure to the many thousands who cannot be with us to-night, but who will read your words to-morrow. (Cheers.) In the discharge of our arduous duties it is no small encouragement to receive the approbation of our political chief; and I am sure that not only the high officers who are gathered here, but also the great army of Post Office servants elsewhere, male and female, veteran and juvenile, down to the most diminutive telegraph boy, are grateful to you. (Cheers.) And now, Sir, I confess to a feeling of embarrassment and difficulty in attempting to follow my friend Mr. Hill, upon whom it devolved to speak of the achievements of his distinguished father, since no such deeds of world-wide renown can be pointed to in the history of the 50 years which have passed since that memorable 10th of January, 1840. It has been the duty of the Post Office in succeeding years to follow faithfully the lines which Rowland Hill traced, to carry out in their ever-extending ramifications the principles he proclaimed, and to apply them to the changing circumstances of each day and to the requirements of the highly organized life of modern society; and I think, Sir, that not only have you yourself to-night, but the Press of this country also has borne witness to the fact that that duty has been discharged with some measure of success. But if such startling reforms as uniform penny postage cannot be repeated, and if Rowland Hill cannot reappear, the past 50 years have not been without important events in the history of the Post Office or without great and able men in the service. Telegraphs, savings banks, parcel post, as well as great extensions of cheap postage rates, have marked those years, and the names of such men as Scudamore, Chetwynd, and Tilley are in themselves evidence of the ability and zeal for the public advantage which have been developed within our ranks. (Cheers.) Although a well-abused Department, as I know to my cost by the indignant letters I receive when a postcard is misdelivered (laughter), a telegram mis-spelled (laughter), a newspaper belated, or a parcel damaged, yet, on the whole, working as we do in "the fierce light that beats" upon us from every home and from every place of business in the kingdom (hear, hear), our labours, carried on under difficulties of which the public at large know very little, are not unappreciated, and we are glad to think that they are favourably recognized. For we do claim to be public benefactors. Talk of a free breakfast table! What is a free breakfast table compared to one loaded with letters, postcards, newspapers, and halfpenny circulars? (Cheers.) The ladies fly to the letters we bring them with swifter flight than to their cups of tea (laughter), and the man of business turns with disgust from his toast and coffee if we do not hand him his daily paper. (Cheers.) Now, to pass from these universal benefits to smaller matters, have we not conferred imperishable fame on politicians (laughter) otherwise unknown by furnishing them with materials for at least half a hundred conundrums wherewith to scare Postmasters-General out of their five senses? Where would such individuals be but for the Post Office? (Great laughter.) But, turning from the pleasant memories that such achievements as these awaken, I desire to say, in all seriousness, that the Post Office has a very deep sense of its responsibility. We are aware that upon no other institution or service in the country depend consequences affecting so keenly and so immediately every home—nay, almost every citizen—of this country. I do not undervalue the other great Departments of the State, but the efficiency of either the Army or the Navy might be temporarily affected without the nation feeling it. No dismay would be experienced if, during January, the ubiquitous tax-collector did not visit our homes (laughter); but if our energies flagged, if our machinery got clogged, if the pulse of the postal and telegraph system ceased to beat but for half a day, and its circulation by rail, road, and wire were impeded, the very life of the community would stand still. I can imagine no greater disaster than the breakdown of the Post Office system except the contemporaneous cessation of all railway communication. We work, therefore, under a sense of great responsibility and with a proud consciousness of the trust which our fellow-citizens so generously repose in us. We hope to prove ourselves more and more worthy of it. We have many critics, many candid friends. We touch every imaginable interest and are in contact at all points with humanity on its most sensitive side; for I know that nothing raises such passions in the human breast or elicits such violence of language as the non-receipt of a letter, newspaper, or postcard. We are necessarily much criticised and closely watched. I do not complain of this. (Hear, hear.) It is right and good for us. I would only ask that those who are so ready with blame for our failures—for we are not perfect—and for our alleged inability to move with the times would remember that, with a complicated and highly-organized machinery like ours, and working under constant high-pressure, reforms and changes must be carefully and slowly made. (Hear, hear.) That which seems very easy to the outsider who wants a change of a particular kind affecting his own interests may disturb the balance of working and affect the convenience of millions of persons and a revenue and expenditure of millions of pounds. (Hear, hear.) But I do not say this either to deprecate criticism or to advocate standing still. As the servants of the State—that is to say, the State in its character of the general public—our one and foremost object should be, and, indeed, I may say it is, to supply the wants and to minister to the convenience of that public. (Hear, hear.) Though styled a revenue department, and most valuable as a machinery for indirect and unfeared taxation, I should deeply regret if we came to be regarded, or to regard ourselves, as a mere tax-collecting department. Nothing, in my opinion, would be worse for the Department, and consequently for the public, than for the former to consider as the be-all and end-all of the Post Office service the extraction of a large revenue from the country; and, indeed, such a limitation of its functions would defeat the very object for which it exists—namely, the greatest possible convenience to the public by the multiplication and acceleration of every form of communication which properly falls within its limits. (Hear, hear.) Nothing would be so calculated to chill the ardour, to stunt the energies, and to repress the inventive zeal of the officers of the Post Office as for them to feel that there are barriers in the path of postal progress which they are forbidden to surmount. (Hear, hear.) There may be many ways in which the service can render itself more useful to the community at large, and thus minister to the general progress and prosperity of the country; and I cannot but regard it as the bounden if not the paramount duty of a great commercial department like the Post Office to do its utmost, without undue interference with private enterprise, to invent and bring into operation such methods of general utility as will best promote the common weal. I believe that there is a variety of directions in which the Post Office could render very great service to the community which have as yet been unattempted, and that, with its unexampled facility for reaching the public in every corner of the kingdom, it might do much to help forward the social and commercial interests of the country. (Hear, hear.) It is not for me as a servant of the State to attempt to criticize the doings of my superiors, but I confess that I

illness is the cause of the latter being absent. I am sure that I express the hopes of all that he may speedily be restored to public life, of which he is so distinguished an ornament. (Cheers.) My own career as Postmaster-General was not a long one. It did not extend over more than a few months, but my connexion with the Department was not confined to this, for twice I served as Deputy-Postmaster—on the first occasion for many months—during illnesses of my lamented friend and colleague Mr. Fawcett, whose name is imperishably connected with Post Office improvements (cheers), and than whom no one since Sir Rowland Hill has more adequately grasped the needs of the people, or done more to popularize the service and to increase its functions. (Cheers.) It so happened that in my capacity as deputy, or as the successor to Mr. Fawcett, I was largely responsible for the regulations to carry into effect the parcel post and also sixpenny telegrams; and I think I may say that I had unusual opportunities of forming an opinion as to the willingness and capacity of the permanent officials of the Department in carrying out such great extensions. I have a very vivid personal recollection of Sir Rowland Hill. I frequently saw him at my father's house, when I was a young man, between the years 1848 and 1855. I have often heard him discuss and explain the difficulties which he encountered in carrying the great scheme in the four years before 1840. I recollect well his saying on many occasions that what most surprised him was the opposition and obstruction which he met with from the Post Office officials of that day. He was anything but complimentary to those officials; fortunately the genus is now extinct, and if there is one he would be worthy of a place in the museum of eccentricities which turn up in the Dead Letter Department. (Laughter and cheers.) Sir Rowland used to say that he could quite well understand the opposition of the Financial Department of the Government, who looked to receiving a large revenue from the Post Office, and who feared any measure which might even temporarily endanger that revenue. It must be admitted that Sir Rowland was somewhat over-sanguine as to the immediate financial results of the change, and, in fact, it was many years before the loss to the revenue was recouped. When we blame such great statesmen as Sir Robert Peel for opposing the change in the interest of the revenue, we may perhaps recollect that statesmen in the present day have been heard to pronounce in the most emphatic manner that they will brook no interference with the revenue derived from the Post Office; and if they had lived 50 years ago they would probably have taken the same view as Sir Robert Peel and Lord Melbourne. What Sir Rowland could not understand was how the Post Office officials could have ranged themselves in opposition to the scheme, why they should have sided with the financial authorities, and have done their utmost to defeat the scheme. They must have known the absurdities, the inequalities, the complexities, the injustice of the old system, how hardly it pressed on the poor, how it was the engine of privilege under which one-half of the letters forwarded were forwarded free of charge under the system of "franking." It was difficult to conceive how they could fail to understand the simplicity and equality of the new scheme. I know nothing more amusing than to read the evidence given before the Committee of 1838 by the Post Office officials. The secretary to the Post Office, Colonel Maberly, said that the scheme was utterly fallacious, a most preposterous one, utterly unsupported by facts, and resting wholly on assumption. Every experiment in the way of reductions which had been made in the Post Office had shown its fallacy. If the rates were reduced to a penny the revenue would not recover itself for 40 or 50 years. The assistant-secretary, boldly stated his opinion that there would be no increase of correspondence. Every possible objection was raised to every part of the scheme. They maintained that uniformity would be unjust and impracticable; that payment in advance was impossible; and that the charge by weight could not be entertained. Sir Rowland Hill not only carried his great scheme, but gave a great blow to the obtuse and ignorant and prejudiced officialism, from which it has, I rejoice to think, never recovered. It survived in fact for a time; but Sir Rowland inspired the Department with a new spirit, and founded a new school of officials. Up to that time he has stated no improvement had ever been devised in the Department. Post Office reformers had always forced their schemes upon the Department after a long struggle. They were taken into the office to carry them out, but were later turned adrift. It is demonstrable that of late years there has been a great change in this respect. All the great changes and improvements and extensions have been devised and carried out within the Post Office by such men as Mr. Chetwynd, Mr. Scudamore, and Mr. Patey, and I have often heard Mr. Fawcett say that he owed all his schemes to men within the office, and found them the most ready agents for carrying them out; and I can bear the same testimony from my short experience. I desire to emphasize this, as there is a disposition in the Press to complain of the tardiness of the Post Office to adopt improvements. The difficulty does not rest there. It rests rather with the Financial Departments of the Government. Every change and improvement costs money; most of them risk for a time some more revenue. If it is insisted upon that there shall be an ever-increasing net revenue, it stands to reason that many reforms and extensions which the public desires must be postponed. He would be a bold man who would beard the Chancellor of the Exchequer and ask him to give up the whole of this net revenue for Post Office improvements, though it is to be remarked that no other country in the world draws a revenue from its Post Office. It is not, however, necessary to contemplate this. What I have at various times suggested is that we should estimate at a liberal amount what net revenue we should draw on the average of years from the Post Office, and that what there is beyond this of growing net revenue should be applied year by year to the improvements and extensions the public desires. The present would be a very good opportunity for applying this principle, for the net revenue is growing by giant bounds. In 1888 the net revenue increased by £300,000, in 1889 by another £400,000, and in the current year I doubt not it will be £500,000, or an increase of £1,200,000 in three years, and the net revenue is now double what it was before the introduction of the penny post. I can conceive no better way of celebrating the jubilee or in commemorating its great founder than by applying at all events the increase in the growing net revenue to imports. The essence of his scheme was simplicity, uniformity, universality, cheapness, and there are many directions in which these great principles may be carried further to the benefit of the people and the improvement of trade. (Cheers.)

SIR LYON PLAYFAIR, in responding, said.—Our chairman has made such an exhaustive speech as to the occasion of the jubilee, and the progress of the Post Office during the last 50 years, that he has left to the following speakers little to say, except to refer to their own memories during that period, if, like myself, they have lived all through it. In my historical readings I remember a curious instance of the cost of letters long ago. Six hundred years since, on August 17, 1290, a letter carrier called on Edward I.

years' wear and tear of life. Reading, writing, an arithmetic, as taught in elementary schools, are plant of weak growth, but they are watered and made to thrive by the penny post. (Hear, hear.) I recollect giving Rowland Hill an illustration which pleased him much. I had been travelling in Norway and Sweden, and found that they were abandoning their Sunday secular schools. On asking the reason I was told that since the introduction of the penny post the were no longer found to be necessary, as cheap letters kept up education better than Sunday schools (Hear, hear.) On a day of rejoicing and remembrances like this, let me say a word of appreciation of one of the greatest and best officials in the history of the Post Office—I allude to the late Mr. Scudamore. (Cheers.) When I entered upon my duties as Postmaster-General he was in official difficulties with the Treasury and Parliament, because in his zeal he had used the revenue of the Department for the rapid extension of the system of telegraphs. Of course, this was a grave official error, for the money ought to have been voted by the House of Commons. I entered the office believing that I would have much trouble with this impetuous secretary, but I left it feeling the highest admiration of his administrative capacity and unselfish zeal. The country owe him a debt of gratitude for the rapid and efficient extension of the telegraphic system. (Cheers.) One night of anxiety remains vividly in my memory. The new Post Office buildings, with their fine telegraphic halls, were ready but it was an anxious thing to disconnect the whole telegraphic communication of the country and re-establish it in the new building. Mr. Scudamore was equal to the occasion, and the change was made without the loss of a single message or more than an hour's delay. Like so many of our friends Mr. Scudamore has gone to the great majority, but his memory should not be forgotten on this occasion. (Cheers.) There is one feature of the Post Office which has contributed greatly to its success—I allude to its perfect freedom from political action. I believe that the only survivors of politics in it is in the appointment of rural messengers by members of Parliament for the district. This miserable remnant of patronage ought to be swept away. I do not think that I ever knew, and certain never asked, what were the political convictions of any candidate for office when I had to deal with the patronage, and this must be the practice and experience of my successors. (Hear, hear.) How different is the administration of the Post Office in the United States! At every change of a political party in the Presidency there is a sweeping change of officers, of the principle that "spoils belong to the victors." The present President has been in office only a few months, but when I left America in November, 17,000 postmasters had been dismissed (laughter) because they were Democrats, and the party newspapers were urging increased activity in the process of disorganization. It is because our Post Office has been an efficient servant of the public, having only one thought as to how to do its duty without fear or favour, that it stands so high in public estimation. (Cheers.) Its work has been great in the past 50 years, and it is a joy for us who are present to-night, to aid in the celebration of the benefits which half a century of pure and active administration has conferred on the public. (Loud cheers.)

MR. F. E. BAINES proposed "The Retired Officers of the Post Office," and mentioned several to the merits of whom he paid tributes which were endorsed by the company. The deceased included the following:—Secretaries:—Colonel Maberly, Sir Rowland Hill, F. J. Scudamore, C.B., Arthur Benthall, and C. H. B. Patey, C.B. Controllers of London Postal Service:—W. Bokenham, T. Boucher, and T. Jeffery. Inspectors-General of Mails:—G. Stow (mail coaches), West, and Edward Page. Receivers and Accountants General:—Hyde, Chetwynd, Richardson. Surveyors:—Gay, Creswell, Johnson, Anthony Trollope, James, and Beaufort. Savings Bank:—A. Milliken, C. Thompson, and Ramsay. Telegraphs:—Shaw and Sanger. Doctors:—William Gavin and Walter Lewis. The living included Sir John Tilley, K.C.B., Frederic Hill, Francis Abbott, W. J. Page, F. R. Jackson, Pearson Hill, H. Mellersh, C. B. Banning, C. Teesdale, R. S. Culley, J. H. Newman, Ernest Milliken, and finally E. Yates, of whom the speaker remarked that, finding the yoke of the Post Office too easy, he took on himself the cares of the World. (Laughter and cheers.)

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MR. EDMUND YATES also responded, and said it was very kind of the company to drink to the health of a body of bygone and feeble old men, for whom he tremblingly returned thanks. He could scarcely bring himself to believe that it was nearly 18 years since he gracefully retired from the public service. In that retirement he had acted on the principle of the proverbial well-bred dog, who went before he was kicked (laughter); and as soon as he saw his friend Sir John Tilley's boots shuffling on the floor he made his salaam. Times had changed in the Post Office, and he understood that more work was done there than previously. So far as he was personally concerned he admitted the possibility of such a change. (Great laughter.) His first chief, Colonel Maberly, used to impress upon him the necessity of not overworking himself; he had given the Colonel the pledge that he would not, and had solemnly adhered to that sacred obligation. (Great laughter.)

SIR A. BLACKWOOD rose to propose the health of "The Postmaster-General," and said,—If my unfortunate and intolerant principles forbid my asking you to pledge Mr. Raikes in flowing bumpers and no beet-taps (laughter), I can none the less invite you to join me in wishing him most heartily all happiness and prosperity. (Hear, hear.) It has been extremely kind of Mr. Raikes to identify himself so thoroughly with the Department by presiding on the present occasion, and the postponement of our gathering for a few days has been well worth the advantage of his presence.

with another, finds his work exceeds eight hours is entitled to apply for relief. (Hear, hear.) As regards Rowland Hill's supposed eagerness to cut down the remuneration of those employed in the postal service, I may mention one fact to which he once called my attention—viz., that while he was Secretary of the Post Office the salaries of every class of employes had been raised with scarcely more than two exceptions, those exceptions being the salaries of the Postmaster-General and of the Secretary himself. (Hear, hear.) And now I would like to say a word or two with reference to uncomplimentary observations that are sometimes made with respect to the officers of the Post Office who long ago, when Rowland Hill's scheme of postal reform first came before the public, met that scheme with the most uncompromising hostility and who, to quote an amusing expression which I read in one of the recent notices of the jubilee of the penny postage, were thereby "damned to everlasting fame." (Laughter.) I must admit that when some 40 years ago I entered the postal service I used to regard such opposition as something little short of sacrilege, but I am bound now to say that so long as Colonel Maberly and the other gentlemen who were responsible for the well-working of the Post Office conscientiously believed that the uniform penny postage system would be detrimental to the public welfare, such opposition on their part was not only justifiable, but was the only course they could take with honour; and that Sir Rowland Hill himself held that view will, I think, be clear when I tell a little bit of postal history which will, I think, be new to most of those here present. One of the most earnest opponents of Sir Rowland Hill in early days was a gentleman who has long since passed away, but whose memory is held in the warmest esteem in the Post Office for his sterling worth, not only in official matters, but in his private life. I need only mention the name of Mr. William Bokenham to awaken the pleasantest memories amongst all old postal servants here present. (Cheers.) Before Rowland Hill became Secretary of the Post Office, an old gentleman who took the greatest interest in his scheme of postal reform said to him, "When you become Secretary of the Post Office the first thing you must do is to get rid of Master Bokenham." I am glad to say that, having by that time learned thoroughly to respect Mr. Bokenham for his many sterling qualities, one of the first things Sir Rowland Hill did after he became Secretary to the Post Office was to raise his salary. (Cheers.) I must apologize to you, Mr. Raikes, and to all old friends round St. Martin's-le-Grand for having already taken up so much of your time, and will only say, in conclusion, that in the brightness of this celebration of the jubilee of the uniform penny postage system one cannot help looking back with amusement to the darker days when Rowland Hill's name was not altogether that of a welcome guest at the Post Office—though I am sure you will believe me that in referring to that time I do so in no hostile spirit, but merely for the purpose of heightening the contrast between the past and the present. (Cheers.) In those days the name of St. Martin's-le-Grand was associated in the mind of Rowland Hill with a sense of trouble, vexation, heartburn, and sometimes of grievous injustice; but even had the trials of that period been tenfold what they were I am certain that he would have regarded them as a light price to pay for the cordial respect—I may almost say veneration—with which his memory is now regarded by all who knew him, and for the strong friendship which the officers of the Post Office have for years past been good enough to extend to myself and every member of Sir Rowland Hill's family. (Loud cheers.)

SIR A. BLACKWOOD, who was most cordially received, said,—In now rising to acknowledge the toast which you have been good enough to propose I am conscious of two very distinct feelings—one, that of an unaffected sense of very great personal inferiority to my distinguished predecessor, whose famous reform we are met to celebrate to-night; the other that of pardonable pride that I have the honour of sitting in his chair, who may be said almost to have created the vast service to which we belong, and consequently of being the spokesman of such a body as the Post Office of the present day. (Cheers.) In the name of that service, Sir—of the 100,000 officers of whom you are the head—I desire to return most sincere and hearty thanks for the exceedingly kind terms in which you have spoken of us. The expressions which have fallen

commercial department like the Post Office to do its utmost, without undue interference with private enterprise, to invent and bring into operation such methods of general utility as will best promote the common weal. I believe that there is a variety of directions in which the Post Office could render very great service to the community which have as yet been unattempted, and that, with its unexampled facility for reaching the public in every corner of the kingdom, it might do much to help forward the social and commercial interests of the country. (Hear, hear.) It is not for me as a servant of the State to attempt to criticize the doings of my superiors, but I confess that I should like to see the Post Office, which is the greatest commercial department in the country, administered on something like true commercial principles, and a portion at least of its large annual profit (which in reality is larger than it seems, owing to the system which charges capital expenditure against income) utilized for developing and extending its work for the general benefit of the public. (Cheers.) It may be true that in some respects other countries which at first followed us in the great postal reforms introduced by Rowland Hill have, here and there, outstripped us; and I cannot but confess a feeling of some humiliation when attending as representative of this country at our great international postal congresses, where all the civilized countries of the world are represented, at being asked by my foreign colleagues whether England, which had so long been in the van of postal reform, was now going to take a second place. I hope, for the honour of our country, as well as for its advantage, that that will never be permanently the case (cheers), and I beg to assure you, Sir, that I speak the mind of the whole Department when I say that nothing shall be lacking in the way of a high sense of public duty, of energy, and, if need be, of inventive skill to keep Great Britain in the proud position in which the determination and ability of Rowland Hill placed her—that of the first country in the world for the perfection, as it is for the magnitude, of its postal service. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. A. TURNOR proposed "The Past Postmasters-General," of whom he said two not the least distinguished were present. They regretted very much the absence of four others, and had received letters expressing sorrow that they could not attend. He was sure he was expressing the feelings of all present when he said they sympathized with the reason which prevented Lord Hartington from being present; and they wished him a speedy and a complete recovery. (Cheers.) Looking at the eminent roll of statesmen who had filled the office of Postmaster-General, he could not help dwelling on the name of one who had been taken away—a man whom they would always regard with affection and respect, one who initiated and carried through great reforms in the Post Office—he alluded to the late Professor Fawcett. (Cheers.) The duties of a Postmaster-General did not terminate with his departure from the office, and the department and the public often received valuable aid from those who had held the office. A notable example of this was furnished by the assistance which Mr. Shaw-Lefevre gave to the passing of the Sixpenny Telegrams Bill, when there was only an hour and 20 minutes available for passing it through the House of Commons. If it had not been for his skill and intimate knowledge of the subject it was probable that the Bill would not have been passed in that Session. (Hear, hear.) The duties of a Postmaster-General differed very considerably from what they were when Henry VIII. appointed Sir Brien Tuke at a salary of £86 a year, and designated him "Master of the Posts." (Laughter.) It was probable the greatest anxiety which troubled the breast of that worthy knight was how he should enjoy his salary. In the Victorian era the duties of a Postmaster-General were far different. The British public desired him to do everything and yet wished to pay for nothing. During the last 100 years there had been 38 Postmasters-General, and that number gave an average reign of two years, seven months, and 13 days. In the face of so many changes it seemed extraordinary that so many improvements were made.

Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE, M.P., in responding, said,—As one of the ex-Postmasters-General, I have the honour to return thanks for the very cordial manner in which you have received the toast. I very much regret that two of the most distinguished among our number—the Duke of Argyll and Lord Hartington—are unable to be present, and still more that serious

to the benefit of the people and the improvement of trade. (Cheers.)

SIR LYON PLAYFAIR, in responding, said,—Our chairman has made such an exhaustive speech as to the occasion of the jubilee, and the progress of the Post Office during the last 50 years, that he has left to the following speakers little to say, except to refer to their own memories during that period, if, like myself, they have lived all through it. In my historical readings I remember a curious instance of the cost of letters long ago. Six hundred years since, on August 17, 1290, a letter carrier called on Edward I. with an important letter announcing the arrival of the Maiden of Norway on the coasts of the kingdom. The King, after some grumbling, paid him 13s. 4d., a large sum in those days, for the delivery of the letter. The letter carrier was a Scotchman, called William Playfair, who held the office of letter messenger to the Earl of Orkney. As the name is not common, and as he hailed from Scotland, this letter carrier of 600 years ago may have been my ancestor, and, if so, it is natural, in the Darwinian process of evolution, that I should have become a Postmaster-General. (Laughter.) Unfortunately for myself, a change of Government prevented me from holding this office for more than a few months, so that it is good of you even to recollect the fact that at one time I was Postmaster-General. My only useful work in regard to the Post Office was prior to this appointment. In 1870 I entered into a conspiracy with the late Lord Advocate of Scotland, Mr. Macdonald, to press upon the Post Office a system of open letters, which we called post-cards. At that time Mr. Macdonald was not in Parliament, so the Parliamentary advocacy of post-cards fell upon me, but my ally in Edinburgh was most efficient in getting up influential memorials in its favour. Our work was short, because Lord Hartington—then Postmaster-General—saw the value of the suggestion (cheers), and adopted the system of halfpenny post-cards, which now number 201,000,000 annually, or nearly twice as many as the letters were the year before our jubilee. Excuse my egotism in recalling my connexion with the introduction of the post-card, for I value this humble service as a pleasant memory. (Cheers.) I now turn to my recollections of Rowland Hill, whose memory we are now to a great extent celebrating. When I first came to London, like other Scotch youths looking for occupation, the penny post had been established for one year. It was my good fortune to become acquainted with some men of light and leading, among whom were Rowland Hill, John Stuart Mill, Edwin Chadwick, Neil Arnot, and others. We formed a club to dine at each other's houses, calling ourselves "friends in council," in order to discuss various economical subjects. Among these postal reform was one of the most prominent. Even at that early date the penny post, which had been so vehemently opposed, had got to the stage when people denied its novelty, and decried the merits of Rowland Hill as an inventor. All successful inventions go through this stage of denial and ingratitude; why, even a Court of law has left a solemn decision that Watt did nothing to improve the steam engine! (Laughter.) It is a matter of perfect indifference to me whether Rowland Hill alone, or a dozen men before him, proposed a penny post. As a fact, we know that there were private companies which carried letters for a penny in various cities. The mere idea of making a local rate a uniform rate throughout a country was sure to suggest itself to some people. When the tree ripens much of the fruit gets ready about the same time, but it was Rowland Hill who grasped the idea and made it his own, who grappled with prejudice and monopoly, who awakened public conviction, who showed that a great agitator could be a great administrator, and who ultimately conferred the inestimable blessing of the penny post on the toiling millions of the people. (Cheers.) I recollect that, at our friendly dinners, Rowland Hill delighted to discuss the effect of cheap postage on the affections and education of the people. I illustrated my own case, which was by no means rare, of a family living in India, with whom it was difficult to keep up constant correspondence on account of the cost. At that time a letter consisted of a single sheet, crossed and often recrossed, and this cramped and stunted family affections. A quarter of an ounce of love (laughter) even from Scotland cost 1s. 4d.; from India much more, whereas now we can get a whole ounce of love for 1d. (Loud cheers.) As an educational agency the penny post has been most powerful. The three R's given in our public schools form such a thin veneer of knowledge that it is rubbed off in three

obligation. (Great laughter.)

SIR A. BLACKWOOD rose to propose the health of "The Postmaster-General," and said,—If my unfortunate and intolerant principles forbid my asking you to pledge Mr. Raikes in flowing bumpers and no heeltaps (laughter), I can none the less invite you to join me in wishing him most heartily all happiness and prosperity. (Hear, hear.) It has been extremely kind of Mr. Raikes to identify himself so thoroughly with the Department by presiding on the present occasion, and the postponement of our gathering for a few days has been well worth the advantage of his presence which we have thereby secured. The tenure of the office of Postmaster-General by Mr. Raikes has been remarkable for this fact—that it has comprised no less than three jubilees. First, his own—for he completed his 50th year of life since he came to St. Martin's-le-Grand; secondly, that of her Most Gracious Majesty's reign; and, lastly, the jubilee of the great event we celebrate this evening; and I am sure that this occasion will ever be remembered by him as an interesting episode in his Postmagisterial career. If Mr. Raikes may fairly be congratulated on his good fortune in that respect, we also may consider ourselves fortunate in having so distinguished and able a statesman as our present Parliamentary chief. It is a happy coincidence that the Post Office, which is nothing if not a literary department, should have at its head the representative of one of the most famous seats of learning and letters in the world; and not less fortunate are we in having as the Minister responsible to the country for our service one who, by his tact and courtesy no less than his ability, is so successful in his Parliamentary conduct of the business of the Post Office. It has been my lot to communicate instruction—or, perhaps, I ought to say, lest I unduly magnify my office, to supply information—to several successive Postmasters-General, and, without any reflection on his predecessors, two of whom we are proud to have with us this evening, I may say that I never met with any one who more rapidly or more completely mastered the complicated details of our very intricate system. There is not one of those details with which the present Postmaster-General is not conversant, and I may add—what is perhaps of greater importance—there is not one of the 100,000 people over whom he presides whose interests he is not anxious to promote whenever he can legitimately do so, and for whose welfare he is not solicitous. (Hear, hear.) I am sure that no more laborious Postmaster-General has ever occupied Mr. Raikes's chair in St. Martin's-le-Grand. Not only has he succeeded to more arduous labours than any of his predecessors by the mere growth of Post Office business, but he has materially added thereto by the self-imposition of branches of work which he felt it right personally to undertake; and the mass of papers which the secretaries have to send him every day must make him one of the hardest-worked men in the Department. For the Postmaster-General can never have a day's leave; others may have their month or fortnight, but the Postmaster-General never rests. He is the official Flying Dutchman of modern times, for the wheel of the Post Office never stops. Once or twice, indeed, overburdened, he has endeavoured to flee, not leaving his address behind; but the Post Office, which is never at fault, tracked him to his hiding place wherever he was (laughter), on the shores of the Riviera or in the fastnesses of Wales, and delivered to him with unflinching regularity his daily official papers. Still, I know that it is for him a work of love no less than of duty, and that, so long as he continues to preside at St. Martin's-le-Grand, the important service of which he is the head will be most ably administered. Our respected chief is not only a statesman of eminence and ability, but one who is susceptible to the claims of sentiment in even so prosaic a Department as the Post Office. This statement will, I am sure, be appreciated when I say (and I hope Mr. Raikes will forgive me for alluding to it) that when, on a very recent occasion, a candidate for postal employment, not perhaps in all respects quite unexceptionable, came forward, bearing fortuitously the name of Rowland Hill, Mr. Raikes could not bring himself to reject a candidate nominally so distinguished at the present time. (Laughter.) We wish you, Mr. Raikes, all health and happiness. You will shortly have to stand a broadside in the shape of the 50 questions of the honourable member for Canterbury. (Laughter.) I hope that the recollection of this evening's gathering, where you are surrounded by so many loyal and devoted servants of the State, will nerve you for the tremendous conflict. (Laughter.) We thank you most

from your lips have, I can assure you, gratified us extremely, and they will give a sincere thrill of pleasure to the many thousands who cannot be with us to-night, but who will read your words to-morrow. (Cheers.) In the discharge of our arduous duties it is no small encouragement to receive the approbation of our political chief; and I am sure that not only the high officers who are gathered here, but also the great army of Post Office servants elsewhere, male and female, veteran and juvenile, down to the most diminutive telegraph boy, are grateful to you. (Cheers.) And now, Sir, I confess to a feeling of embarrassment and difficulty in attempting to follow my friend Mr. Hill, upon whom it devolved to speak of the achievements of his distinguished father, since no such deeds of world-wide renown can be pointed to in the history of the 50 years which have passed since that memorable 10th of January, 1840. It has been the duty of the Post Office in succeeding years to follow faithfully the lines which Rowland Hill traced, to carry out in their ever-extending ramifications the principles he proclaimed, and to apply them to the changing circumstances of each day and to the requirements of the highly organized life of modern society; and I think, Sir, that not only have you yourself to-night, but the Press of this country also has borne witness to the fact that that duty has been discharged with some measure of success. But if such startling reforms as uniform penny postage cannot be repeated, and if Rowland Hill cannot reappear, the past 50 years have not been without important events in the history of the Post Office or without great and able men in the service. Telegraphs, savings banks, parcel post, as well as great extensions of cheap postage rates, have marked those years, and the names of such men as Scudamore, Chetwynd, and Tilley are in themselves evidence of the ability and zeal for the public advantage which have been developed within our ranks. (Cheers.) Although a well-abused Department, as I know to my cost by the indignant letters I receive when a postcard is misdelivered (laughter), a telegram mis-spelled (laughter), a newspaper belated, or a parcel damaged, yet, on the whole, working as we do in "the fierce light that beats" upon us from every home and from every place of business in the kingdom (hear, hear), our labours, carried on under difficulties of which the public at large know very little, are not unappreciated, and we are glad to think that they are favourably recognized. For we do claim to be public benefactors. Talk of a free breakfast table! What is a free breakfast table compared to one loaded with letters, postcards, newspapers, and halfpenny circulars? (Cheers.) The ladies fly to the letters we bring them with swifter flight than to their cups of tea (laughter), and the man of business turns with disgust from his toast and coffee if we do not hand him his daily paper. (Cheers.) Now, to pass from these universal benefits to smaller matters, have we not conferred imperishable fame on politicians (laughter) otherwise unknown by furnishing them with materials for at least half a hundred conundrums wherewith to scare Postmasters-General out of their five senses? Where would such individuals be but for the Post Office? (Great laughter.) But, turning from the pleasant memories that such achievements as these awaken, I desire to say, in all seriousness, that the Post Office has a very deep sense of its responsibility. We are aware that upon no other institution or service in the country depend consequences affecting so keenly and so immediately every home—nay, almost every citizen—of this country. I do not undervalue the other great Departments of the State, but the efficiency of either the Army or the Navy might be temporarily affected without the nation feeling it. No dismay would be experienced if, during January, the ubiquitous tax-collector did not visit our homes (laughter); but if our energies flagged, if our machinery got clogged, if the pulse of the postal and telegraph system ceased to beat but for half a day, and its circulation by rail, road, and wire were impeded, the very life of the community would stand still. I can imagine no greater disaster than the breakdown of the Post Office system except the contemporaneous cessation of all railway communication. We work, therefore, under a sense of great responsibility and with a proud consciousness of the trust which our fellow-citizens so generously repose in us. We hope to prove ourselves more and more worthy of it. We have many critics, many candid friends. We touch every imaginable interest and are in contact at all points with humanity on its most sensitive side; for I know that nothing raises such passions in the human breast or elicits such violence of language as the non-receipt of a letter, newspaper, or postcard. We are necessarily much criticised and closely watched. I do not complain of this. (Hear, hear.) It is right and good for us. I would only ask that those who are so ready with blame for our failures—for we are not perfect—and for our alleged inability to move with the times would remember that, with a complicated and highly-organized machinery like ours, and working under constant high-pressure, reforms and changes must be carefully and slowly made. (Hear, hear.) That which seems very easy to the outsider who wants a change of a particular kind affecting his own interests may disturb the balance of working and affect the convenience of millions of persons and a revenue and expenditure of millions of pounds. (Hear, hear.) But I do not say this either to deprecate criticism or to advocate standing still. As the servants of the State—that is to say, the State in its character of the general public—our one and foremost object should be, and, indeed, I may say it is, to supply the wants and to minister to the convenience of that public. (Hear, hear.) Though styled a revenue department, and most valuable as a machinery for indirect and unfelt taxation, I should deeply regret if we came to be regarded, or to regard ourselves, as a mere tax-collecting department. Nothing, in my opinion, would be worse for the Department, and consequently for the public, than for the former to consider as the be-all and end-all of the Post Office service the extraction of a large revenue from the country; and, indeed, such a limitation of its functions would defeat the very object for which it exists—namely, the greatest possible convenience to the public by the multiplication and acceleration of every form of communication which properly falls within its limits. (Hear, hear.) Nothing would be so calculated to chill the ardour, to stunt the energies, and to repress the inventive seal of the officers of the Post Office as for them to feel that there are barriers in the path of postal progress which they are forbidden to surmount. (Hear, hear.) There may be many ways in which the service can render itself more useful to the community at large, and thus minister to the general progress and prosperity of the country; and I cannot but regard it as the burden if not the paramount duty of a great com-

mission is the cause of the latter being absent. I am sure that I express the hopes of all that he may speedily be restored to public life, of which he is so distinguished an ornament. (Cheers.) My own career as Postmaster-General was not a long one. It did not extend over more than a few months, but my connexion with the Department was not confined to this, for twice I served as Deputy-Postmaster—on the first occasion for many months—during illnesses of my lamented friend and colleague Mr. Fawcett, whose name is imperishably connected with Post Office improvements (cheers), and than whom no one since Sir Rowland Hill has more adequately grasped the needs of the people, or done more to popularize the service and to increase its functions. (Cheers.) It so happened that in my capacity as deputy, or as the successor to Mr. Fawcett, I was largely responsible for the regulations to carry into effect the parcel post and also sixpenny telegrams; and I think I may say that I had unusual opportunities of forming an opinion as to the willingness and capacity of the permanent officials of the Department in carrying out such great extensions. I have a very vivid personal recollection of Sir Rowland Hill. I frequently saw him at my father's house, when I was a young man, between the years 1848 and 1855. I have often heard him discuss and explain the difficulties which he encountered in carrying the great scheme in the four years before 1840. I recollect well his saying on many occasions that what most surprised him was the opposition and obstruction which he met with from the Post Office officials of that day. He was anything but complimentary to those officials; fortunately the genus is now extinct, and if there is one he would be worthy of a place in the museum of eccentricities which turn up in the Dead Letter Department. (Laughter and cheers.) Sir Rowland used to say that he could quite well understand the opposition of the Financial Department of the Government, who looked to receiving a large revenue from the Post Office, and who feared any measure which might even temporarily endanger that revenue. It must be admitted that Sir Rowland was somewhat over-sanguine as to the immediate financial results of the change, and, in fact, it was many years before the loss to the revenue was recouped. When we blame such great statesmen as Sir Robert Peel for opposing the change in the interest of the revenue, we may perhaps recollect that statesmen in the present day have been heard to pronounce in the most emphatic manner that they will brook no interference with the revenue derived from the Post Office; and if they had lived 50 years ago they would probably have taken the same view as Sir Robert Peel and Lord Melbourne. What Sir Rowland could not understand was how the Post Office officials could have ranged themselves in opposition to the scheme, why they should have sided with the financial authorities, and have done their utmost to defeat the scheme. They must have known the absurdities, the inequalities, the complexities, the injustice of the old system, how hardly it pressed on the poor, how it was the engine of privilege under which one-half of the letters forwarded were forwarded free of charge under the system of "franking." It was difficult to conceive how they could fail to understand the simplicity and equality of the new scheme. I know nothing more amusing than to read the evidence given before the Committee of 1838 by the Post Office officials. The secretary to the Post Office, Colonel Maberley, said that the scheme was utterly fallacious, a most preposterous one, utterly unsupported by facts, and resting wholly on assumption. Every experiment in the way of reductions which had been made in the Post Office had shown its fallacy. If the rates were reduced to a penny the revenue would not recover itself for 40 or 50 years. The assistant-secretary boldly stated his opinion that there would be no increase of correspondence. Every possible objection was raised to every part of the scheme. They maintained that uniformity would be unjust and impracticable; that payment in advance was impossible; and that the charge by weight could not be entertained. Sir Rowland Hill not only carried his great scheme, but gave a great blow to the obtuse and ignorant and prejudiced officialism, from which it has, I rejoice to think, never recovered. It survived in fact for a time; but Sir Rowland inspired the Department with a new spirit, and founded a new school of officials. Up to that time he has stated no improvement had ever been devised in the Department. Post Office reformers had always forced their schemes upon the Department after a long struggle. They were taken into the office to carry them out, but were later turned adrift. It is demonstrable that of late years there has been a great change in this respect. All the great changes and improvements and extensions have been devised and carried out within the Post Office by such men as Mr. Chetwynd, Mr. Scudamore, and Mr. Patey, and I have often heard Mr. Fawcett say that he owed all his schemes to men within the office, and found them the most ready agents for carrying them out; and I can bear the same testimony from my short experience. I desire to emphasize this, as there is a disposition in the Press to complain of the tardiness of the Post Office to adopt improvements. The difficulty does not rest there. It rests rather with the Financial Departments of the Government. Every change and improvement costs money; most of them risk for a time some more revenue. If it is insisted upon that there shall be an ever-increasing net revenue, it stands to reason that many reforms and extensions which the public desires must be postponed. He would be a bold man who would beard the Chancellor of the Exchequer and ask him to give up the whole of this net revenue for Post Office improvements, though it is to be remarked that no other country in the world draws a revenue from its Post Office. It is not, however, necessary to contemplate this. What I have at various times suggested is that we should estimate at a liberal amount what net revenue we should draw on the average of years from the Post Office, and that what there is beyond this of growing net revenue should be applied year by year to the improvements and extensions the public desires. The present would be a very good opportunity for applying this principle, for the net revenue is growing by giant bounds. In 1888 the net revenue increased by £300,000, in 1889 by another £400,000, and in the current year I doubt not it will be £500,000, or an increase of £1,200,000 in three years, and the net revenue is now double what it was before the introduction of the penny post. I can conceive no better way of celebrating the jubilee or in commemorating its great founder than by applying at all events the increase in the growing net revenue to imports. The essence of his scheme was simplicity, uniformity, universality, cheapness, and there are many directions in which these great principles may be carried further

years' wear and tear of life. Reading, writing, and arithmetic, as taught in elementary schools, are plants of weak growth, but they are watered and made to thrive by the penny post. (Hear, hear.) I recollect giving Rowland Hill an illustration which pleased him much. I had been travelling in Norway and Sweden, and found that they were abandoning their Sunday secular schools. On asking the reason I was told that since the introduction of the penny post they were no longer found to be necessary, as cheap letters kept up education better than Sunday schools (Hear, hear.) On a day of rejoicing and remembrances like this, let me say a word of appreciation of one of the greatest and best officials in the history of the Post Office—I allude to the late Mr. Scudamore. (Cheers.) When I entered upon my duties as Postmaster-General he was in official difficulties with the Treasury and Parliament, because in his zeal he had used the revenue of the Department for the rapid extension of the system of telegraphs. Of course, this was a grave official error, for the money ought to have been voted by the House of Commons. I entered the office believing that I would have much trouble with this impetuous secretary, but I left it feeling the highest admiration of his administrative capacity and unselfish zeal. The country owe him a debt of gratitude for the rapid and efficient extension of the telegraphic system. (Cheers.) One night of anxiety remains vividly in my memory. The new Post Office buildings, with their fine telegraphic halls, were ready but it was an anxious thing to disconnect the whole telegraphic communication of the country and re-establish it in the new building. Mr. Scudamore was equal to the occasion, and the change was made without the loss of a single message or more than an hour's delay. Like so many of our friends Mr. Scudamore has gone to the great majority, but his memory should not be forgotten on this occasion. (Cheers.) There is one feature of the Post Office which has contributed greatly to its success—I allude to its perfect freedom from political action. I believe that the only survival of politics in it is in the appointment of rural messengers by members of Parliament for the district. This miserable remnant of patronage ought to be swept away. I do not think that I ever knew, and certainly never asked, what were the political convictions of any candidate for office when I had to deal with the patronage, and this must be the practice and experience of my successors. (Hear, hear.) How different is the administration of the Post Office in the United States! At every change of a political party in the Presidency there is a sweeping change of officers, of the principle that "spoils belong to the victors." The present President has been in office only a few months, but when I left America in November, 17,000 postmasters had been dismissed (laughter) because they were Democrats, and the party newspapers were urging increased activity in the process of disorganization. It is because our Post Office has been an efficient servant of the public, having only one thought as to how to do its duty without fear or favour, that it stands so high in public estimation. (Cheers.) Its work has been great in the past 50 years, and it is a joy for us who are present to-night, to aid in the celebration of the benefits which half a century of pure and active administration has conferred on the public. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. F. E. BAINES proposed "The Retired Officers of the Post Office," and mentioned several to the merits of whom he paid tributes which were endorsed by the company. The deceased included the following:—Secretaries:—Colonel Maberley, Sir Rowland Hill, F. J. Scudamore, C.B., Arthur Bentham, and C. H. B. Patey, C.B. Controllers of London Postal Service:—W. Bokenham, T. Boucher, and T. Jeffery. Inspectors-General of Mails:—G. Stow (mail coaches), West, and Edward Page. Receivers and Accountants General:—Hyde, Chetwynd, Richardson. Surveyors:—Gay, Creswell, Johnson, Anthony Trollope, James, and Beaufort. Savings Bank:—A. Milliken, C. Thompson, and Ramsay. Telegraphs:—Shaw and Sanger. Doctors:—William Gavin and Walter Lewis. The living included Sir John Tilley, K.C.B., Frederick Hill, Francis Abbott, W. J. Page, F. R. Jackson, Pearson Hill, H. Mellersh, C. B. Banning, C. Teesdale, R. S. Cullley, J. H. Newman, Ernest Milliken, and finally E. Yates, of whom the speaker remarked that, finding the yoke of the Post Office too easy, he took on himself the cares of the World. (Laughter and cheers.)

SIR J. TILLEY, in responding, said that, if he were a useful servant at the Post Office, he owed such usefulness in great measure to the assistance he obtained from those about him. He heard with intense pleasure the generous remarks of Sir L. Playfair about Mr. Scudamore. Probably his own knowledge of Sir Rowland Hill was larger than that of any one present except the members of his family. With all Sir Rowland Hill's foresight, it was probable he never contemplated that the civilized world would take up his scheme in so short a time. When he was first appointed the General Post Office occupied the site of the present branch office in Lombard-street, and his room was the kitchen of the old rectory house of St. Mary Woolnoth. The personnel was somewhat different from what it is now. At that early date if gentlemen wanted to increase their incomes they did not write novels or their autobiographies or edit editions of Shelley. The Secretary had occasion to send for one gentleman, to whom he said, "I have the greatest admiration for trade and commerce; but you must decide between the Post Office and a cabbage stall in the New-cut." (Great laughter.) The increased business was now carried on as easily as the small amount of work that had to be done in Lombard-street. It had grown largely since he left the office ten years ago, and he believed it was conducted with greater ability than he could have brought to bear upon it. (Cheers.)

Mr. EDMUND YATES also responded, and said it was very kind of the company to drink to the health of a body of bygone and feeble old men, for whom he tremblingly returned thanks. He could scarcely bring himself to believe that it was nearly 18 years since he gracefully retired from the public service. In that retirement he had acted on the principle of the proverbial well-bred dog, who went before he was kicked (laughter); and as soon as he saw his friend Sir John Tilley's boots shuffling on the floor he made his salaam. Times had changed in the Post Office, and he understood that more work was done there than previously. So far as he was personally concerned he admitted the possibility of such a change. (Great laughter.) His first chief, Colonel Maberley, used to impress upon him the necessity of not overworking himself; he had given the Colonel the pledge that he would not, and had solemnly adhered to that sacred

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I venture to ask you to reproduce the following extract from Mr. Raikes at the penny postage jubilee dinner of last night:—

"We used to pay 8d. per packet of 12 cards until a year ago. It occurred to me that people did not calculate money in eightpences or things in dozens. There are only two things that I know of in this country that are counted by dozens, and these are wine and silver articles; but by the arrangement then subsisting the duodenary system of calculation was withheld from the silver while it was applied to the postcards. It occurred to me that it would be an enormous simplification if you put the money basis on the basis of the shilling calculation, under which we count money, and if you put the basis of the number of the article supplied on the duodenary scale. If you wish to buy 100 postcards you send 5s., and if you want £1 worth of postcards you get 400, and I have always felt that if in anything I should have deserved the approval of the great founder of postal reform in this matter this is one which would have met with his approving regard. (Cheers.)"

There are sundry other things besides wine and "silver articles" counted by the dozen in this country. Mr. Raikes proclaims his triumphs in wholesale selling of postcards; perhaps he buys his oysters by the smack load and his eggs by the ton; but most people are content to purchase these commodities by the dozen. The count in the fishmarket of many varieties of fish, such as whiting and herring, is by the dozen; the same count holds sway in the vegetable market, where carrots, turnips, parsley, &c., are reckoned by the dozen bunches. All small articles of hardware are counted by the gross, which is a multiple of the dozen. So general is the dozen as a count that there are varieties of it, such as the "baker's dozen" and the "devil's dozen."

If Mr. Raikes when he spoke of "silver articles" was alluding to his spoons, he was right; spoons, whether of silver or any other material, being counted by the dozen. Apparently, however, he referred to shillings. Shillings are, no doubt, silver articles, but they are not habitually counted by the dozen, but by the ten and 20, which are respectively the equivalents of the half-sovereign and sovereign. Not "silver articles" it is, but certain copper articles, pence to wit, which are counted by the dozen; or, in other words, on the basis of the duodecimal calculation, which Mr. Raikes would find infinitely more symmetrical than his vaunted duodenary scale.

According to the former the shilling would, as it should, buy 24 postcards, instead of, as now, 20, and £1 worth of postcards would be 480, instead of 400. If Mr. Raikes is obdurate against throwing in the infinitesimal value of the scrap of paper which the stamp on it constitutes a postcard, he cannot pretend that 20 of such scraps represent a value of 2d. But, as is the case too often in our complex civilization, it is on the poor man that the brunt of the extortion falls. He may have neither the need for nor the price of a 6d. packet; and when he buys his single postcard and finds that he has to pay 3d. for the same, he cannot be expected to regard Mr. Raikes's duodenary scale with quite the same gush of approval as thrilled that gentleman last night.

January 16. 1890 Your obedient servant, A. F.

POST OFFICE REFORM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—May I be allowed to write a few words on the subject of further Post Office reforms?

I read with pleasure the account of the dinner lately given to Mr. Raikes and the other leading Post Office authorities, and I hope that many such demonstrations may from time to time be made, but I should be very sorry to think that further progress in cheap postage may not soon be made. I am old enough to have been acquainted with the late Sir Francis Freeling and with the far more celebrated Sir Rowland Hill. I recollect that it was a favourite saying with Sir F. Freeling—"Show me that it will pay and I will establish post offices anywhere." Rowland Hill's favourite saying was—"Give me the means of conveyance and I will make the Post Office pay in every part of the world." I firmly believe that had Sir Rowland Hill lived we should long ere this have had a British penny post to every corner of the globe.

It has been demonstrated beyond all question that the great expense of conveying and delivering letters is almost entirely that of delivery. The conveyance from one part of the world to another is by comparison insignificant. Such a colony as Australia alone is capable, I believe, of an enormous increase of postal revenue, when once letters are taken as other goods by every ship, sailing or steaming, from England; and so to the United States and Canada and every British possession in the world; but there appears to be a great dread of first outlay, which requires the energy of a dozen Mr. Henniker Heaton's to overcome. It will be overcome I have not the smallest doubt, but possibly not unless by some great chance a second Rowland Hill should arrive and scatter all these puerile objections to the winds.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
THOMSON HANKEY.

59, Portland-place, W., Jan. 18. 1890

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—When the members of a great Government Department meet to admire and dine one another over achievements with which they had no more to do than they had with the building of the Pyramids, and to which their congeners of 50 years back were bitterly opposed, their unanimity is wonderful, and we can only say, "What a good and joyful thing it is."

But when the Postmaster-General hints that he ought to have the credit, not only of the invention of penny postage, electric telegraphy, and postal orders, but also of the growth of the population from 25 to 30 millions, and of the increased average of letters per head, in consequence of his having reduced the price of postcards from 8d. per 12 to 6d. per 10, and when he says he would carry out other equally revolutionary improvements but for the Treasury, we are staggered.

Is it the fault of the Treasury that when we want to send letters from England to India or the East in English ships we save money by carrying them to Belgium and paying postage there at a far less rate for conveyance in the same ships?

Is it the fault of the Treasury that, while there are no foreign parts of the world to which a letter costs more than 5d. except the native States of West Africa, the Orange Free State and Transvaal, the non-German parts of Samoa and Diego Garcia (in my ignorance I give Mr. Raikes the benefit of the supposition that this important place does not belong to us), we have to pay 6d. for a letter to any of our Australian colonies, to New Zealand, Tasmania, Natal, Bechuanaland, Cape Colony, Fiji, St. Helena, and Ascension? (We can write to Abyssinia for 5d. and to Patagonia for 4d.)

Can Mr. Raikes lie peacefully in his bed when he reflects that a German can send a letter to Australia at a cheaper rate than an Englishman can?

Can Mr. Raikes say why a single 1d. postcard costs 1d., while a single 3d. postcard costs 3d., or why the millionaire buys the latter at 6d. for ten, while the poor man, who buys them singly, pays 7d. for the same number?

Of course, from the moment it was established that trade follows the flag we ought to have had Imperial penny postage. Mr. Raikes, however, darkens thought on this subject by irrelevant comparisons of populations, and remarks on the pains Sir Rowland Hill took to convince his contemporaries that penny postage would not involve loss. Population has nothing to do with it. Sir Rowland Hill proved sufficiently that when a 2d. rate is reduced to 1d. an increase of 150 per cent. is certain, and that a reduction from 6d. to 1d. would in all probability increase the correspondence six-fold.

Would that the Post Office would learn that an outlay of 1d. is never considered even by the poor, whereas a disbursement of 3d. or 6d. gives pause even to the well-to-do. Your obedient servant,
17.1.90 F. T. LAWRENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Will you allow me to call attention to one of the remarks made by Sir Lyon Playfair in his speech at the Post Office Jubilee Dinner? He referred to the continuance of the practice of making the appointment of rural post-office officials a piece of "patronage" at the disposal of the local member of Parliament. The mischief of this system lies principally in the connexion it establishes in the minds of electors all over the country between politics and appointments to public offices, affording a practical demonstration that jobbing is the rule of the public service, which quite obliterates all that has been done for 20 years or more to establish the system of appointment and promotion on the sole ground of efficiency and merit.

To those who have to administer a public department it is well known that there is no greater nuisance than the local Parliamentary agent who urges his member to promote some job in favour of a voter or his friends, and no greater difficulty in preserving efficiency in the department than the pressure put by the member in question on the political chief with that object. If Sir Lyon Playfair would take some practical steps to put an end to this evil, beginning by making the appointments he refers to entirely away from the "Patronage" Secretary of the Treasury, where it remains as representative of the corruption of past times, he would be doing an excellent piece of service.

Your obedient servant,
17.1.90 EFFICIENCY.

THE POST OFFICE AND ITS SHORTCOMINGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I have just risen from reading your most able article on the "Jubilee Dinner" of the Post Office officials and Sir A. Blackwood's speech.

You ask how far the plea that the Treasury hampers the work of the Post Office is sound. It is perfectly sound and true to the very fullest extent. For many years past I have taken very deep interest in the work of the Post Office, and have done my humble part in making its labours known. Though I have never had the slightest official connexion with the Department, either direct or indirect, I have had facilities, which do not fail to the lot of every one, of becoming acquainted with the interior work of the office.

It is a most indisputable fact that the Treasury interferes down to the smallest and most petty details of expenditure. Some time back the very able and able official in one of the most important towns of the North of England, whose work since his appointment to his present post, some years since, has resulted in enormous advantage to the Department and to the public, came to the conclusion that in one important portion of the district under his care a slight extension of the work would be of the greatest advantage to all concerned.

The outlay involved was very trifling, the largest item being half-a-crown a week to a boy messenger.

The plan met with the full and hearty approval of the surveyor of the district and of all the officials at St. Martin's-le-Grand, but before it could be carried out the sanction of the Treasury had to be obtained.

Will it be credited by any one who is ignorant of the plans and ways by which the official mind has been trained in the way "how not to do it" that a correspondence was carried on for more than half a year between the Treasury and the various Post Office officials before the needful sanction was given? The bundle of correspondence at last in its magnitude would be astounding, indeed, to one ignorant and unlearned in the ways of official routine. I could give even more telling examples still.

I do not hesitate to say that the cost of the correspondence and the consequent delay was a loss greater than the cost of the boy's wages for years would cover.

It is in this way that the very able and zealous servants of the Post Office are perpetually hindered and thwarted in their endeavours to carry out changes and reforms which no one desires or can appreciate more highly than they.

The perfect absurdity of the present system of the so-called control of the Treasury over the spending departments of the Government needs but to be brought to light to be at once banished to the limbo of departed follies.

By all means let the Treasury keep a very firm supervision over the expenditure of every department of the Government. It is needed. But the gross absurdity of thinking that a Treasury clerk, or any number of Treasury clerks, can know better what is needed for the efficient working of any department than those engaged in it is too patent to be entertained for a moment. Let the estimates be prepared as closely and as accurately as possible. Let the Treasury officials criticize and question them to their hearts' content. But, having been presented to Parliament and the needful sanction obtained for the expenditure, let all further interference on the part of "my Lords of the Treasury" cease. The saving in stationery and in clerks' salaries would be no small one and the gain in every other way incalculable.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,
ALICIA.

TO-DAY the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Penny Post is practically celebrated by the Bazaar in Aid of the Postmen's Rest Houses, which is to be opened by her Imperial and Royal Highness the Duchess of EDINBURGH, at the Riding School, Knightsbridge. The actual date of the passing of the Bill was later in the year; but "tis fifty years ago," and the occasion is thus a celebration full of suggestiveness, which carries the mind back, not merely to the days of franked and tenpenny letters at the beginning of the present reign, but to the now almost inconceivable period when there was no post at all in these islands. The first antecedent of Mr. RAIKES was Sir BRIAN TUKE, "Magister Nunciorum," who in 1533 was Royal Messenger-General, and kept all the letters of the kingdom in one sack. In 1635 two months used to elapse before an answer could be received to an ordinary missive despatched to Scotland or Ireland. CHARLES II. indifferently made all the profits of the existing Post Office over to the Duke of YORK. As late as 1724 the nett revenue of the mails for all the kingdom was only £96,340, and PITT was the first Minister who really took the matter in hand seriously. He sanctioned the building of mail-coaches, provided them with armed guards, and set on foot a regular though expensive service, so that by 1805 the net revenue had grown to £1,000,000 sterling annually. But from that date to 1839—the year of ROWLAND HILL'S magnificent reform—it is remarkable how the Post Office system stagnated with us. Suffice it to say upon this head that, albeit the population grew from 18,000,000 to 25,000,000 between 1815 and 1839, the revenue from the mail increased in the same period by only £100,000. Then the great reformer arose, and issued his epoch-making pamphlet, "Post Office Reform." At that time the rates on letters varied from 4d. to 1s. 8d., and all sorts of annoying restrictions prevailed. ROWLAND HILL boldly proposed a uniform inland rate of one penny, with starved covers or envelopes, and, although the proposal was hailed by the public, the officials positively hooted at the audacious innovation. Never was the unwisdom of governing men more decisively demonstrated. The Post Office people denounced the scheme as "ruinous and visionary."

Long LICHFIELD, Postmaster-General, conceived that he had settled the question by saying that twelve times the bulk of mails then carried—the calculation of the daring ROWLAND—would “crush the coaches, burst the offices, and destroy all revenues.” Ludicrous, in truth, it is to compare the sapient misgivings and terrible objections of these official persons with the subsequent course of events, and the victory of ROWLAND HILL. The steamship and the railway, however, had arisen to help him; public feeling was on his side; two thousand petitions in favour of a uniform penny postage poured into the House of Commons in one Session, and the measure to give effect to the new and great idea was introduced at last by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and carried by a majority of one hundred, becoming law in August, 1839. On the 10th January, 1840, the new and cheap rate came into force; Parliamentary franking was abolished; postage stamps were introduced in May of the same year, and day mails were instituted; but all against the grain with the Post Office officials, one of whom wrote, “The plan, we know, must fail. It is our duty to put no obstruction in its way, or the allegation will be made that it has failed in consequence of our reluctance to carry it into fair execution.”

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In a word, the old Post Office, like a bad nurse, did all it could, in a negative style, to make the infant reform perish, and the officials displayed a really monumental stupidity. The new scheme fell, also, upon a time of commercial depression, while GOULBURN, who succeeded BARING at the Exchequer, was secretly against it. Such a young HERCULES, however, was not to be slain by the snakes of dulness and red-tape. On the contrary, it strangled them, and at the end of two years the London letters had increased from thirteen to twenty-three millions, and those inland from seventy-five to one hundred and ninety-six millions. Even in face of this, the imbecile enemies of the reform protested that it must prove a failure; but seven years later the figures given above were again nearly doubled; every slow and small improvement and concession made to the public being responded to by vast augmentations of letter-writing; and it is curious to note how slowly every fresh idea occurred and was adopted. ROWLAND HILL himself seems to have had no thought at all of the adhesive stamp at first; we believe the notion first appeared in a suggestion from some outsider that “perhaps the difficulty of stamped covers might be obviated by using a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash.” In those fortuitous words of a newspaper letter lay the germ of the present system. MULREADY designed the first stamps.

which were called banteringly “HILL’s sticking-plasters.” And now, what a demand! what a sale! Up to 1834 the Post Office had issued of those once despised labels thirty-one thousand three hundred and two millions—a number more easy to write and print than to realise in imagination. In 1853 the Post Office bought, for £4,000, Mr. ARCHER’s simple but useful device for perforating the stamp-sheets, before which time we had laboriously to separate them with penknife or scissors. Little Zurich was the first among States abroad to imitate our new postage-labels. America did not adopt them until 1847, nor France until 1849, and the Sandwich Islands used their own stamp before the Netherlands possessed any. Within a quarter of a century, however, of the advent into currency of our first “Queen’s head” the globe had produced 1,391 varieties for itself, and there is really a good deal of historical and geographical interest in the more complete among the collections which are made and offered for sale of all these extremely varied impressions. But what a success for ROWLAND HILL! And, when we compare the latest figures of the half-century with the earliest, the success swells to a triumph so prodigious that one wonders those wooden-headed officials of 1839 did not go before they died to St. Martin’s-le-Grand in white sheets of penitence of their own remorseful accord. ROWLAND HILL started with a total of chargeable letters at 88,600,000 in 1839, and of newspapers at 30,000,000. The returns of letters last year were 1,512,000,000, and of newspapers 162,400,000; besides 188,800,000 post-cards, and 389,500,000 books, and so forth. And this was the reform which was “certain to fail”!

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From the same fruitful though simple innovation, from the same “sweet simplicity” of the penny stamp, have sprung, directly or indirectly, all the other postal reforms, including money orders, savings-banks, postal telegraphs, post-cards, parcel post, and we may even say the cheap mail in a measure. It is, in fact,

quite impossible to comprehend in any brief review, even by merest enumeration, the enormous area of blessing and benefit, the prodigious extension of social, civic, commercial, and economical advance, which are due to the pregnant brain and simple conception of that one clear-headed Englishman. If we could, indeed, marshal all the dazzling figures of the change, and bring into line the stupendous statistics of the Post Office, we should still be omitting the wonderful spread of the system all over the world, for England can never be deprived of the glory of having initiated the modern postal system for mankind. The French soldier at Toulon who gets a letter from his mother at Calais; the Hindoo sepoy at Peshawur who for half-an-anna hears of his dusky wife and children at Dum-Dum, may thank ROWLAND HILL. Consider, moreover, what the penny stamp has done for education; how it has silently urged and forced the populations to learn to read and write; how it has united families, clasped together the mother-country and the Colonies, softened absence, and sweetened exile. To human life and intercourse this wonderful modern organisation has added a new heart, which throbs with a “systole” and “diastole” of vigorous daily circulation, keeping up a second social life. It has given to the poor as well as the rich a constant service of faithful couriers such as ancient monarchs never commanded, whose punctuality and honesty are almost always beyond doubt. To the State it furnishes year by year a superb revenue, and keeps a hundred thousand mills busy with the manufacture of note-paper and envelopes. It is not perfected yet, until we attain all over the Empire—perhaps all over the globe—one uniform stamp which will carry a letter anywhere and everywhere, for diverse rates are an abomination and hindrance. The work, however, wrought in fifty years is so astounding, so vast, so beneficent, that this Bazaar at Knightsbridge becomes to-day the focus for reflections which pass quite beyond expression, gathering always round those two contrasted figures of ROWLAND HILL, sturdily maintaining his grand reform, and Colonel MABERLY saying to the eads of his “foolish Department,” “We know a plan will fail.”

15.5.89 46

The Special Committee, delegated by the Court of Common Council to consider the question of celebrating the Jubilee of Penny Postage, after conferring with the Postal authorities, have agreed to recommend such a celebration, and that 2,000 guineas be voted by the Court for this object. They moreover suggest that the middle of May would be a convenient date for the purpose, and that what may be termed the postal attractions got together for the occasion shall be continued during the following two days for the behoof of the public, who would probably be admitted to Guildhall by ticket.

The arrangements for the due celebration of the jubilee anniversary of the adoption of Uniform Inland Penny Postage, at the Guildhall, to-morrow evening, are rapidly approaching completion. In course of preparation for the use of the guests is a pamphlet that will be full of interest, inasmuch as it comprises a brief and popular account of the Post Office Department, together with a catalogue of the various exhibits in and about the hall; and when it is stated that these latter will comprise nearly 500 items, in addition to what may be called “special arrangements,” it will at once be seen that the attractions for the evening—to be continued throughout Saturday and Monday—will be considerable.

Among the “special arrangements” will be the following: The Royal mail parcel coach will leave Guildhall for Brighton at nine p.m., to-morrow, carrying mails made up in Guildhall. Other large mail vehicles will stand with lamps lighted in or near Guildhall-yard. The corridor will be lined with postmen and telegraph-boys in uniform. A post-office will be established in the north-west corner of the Hall, and will for the three days be designated the Guildhall Post Office; and, in illustration of the postal system, public business of all kinds will be conducted there, including the sale of stamps and postcards, the issue of postal orders, the transaction of life-
insurance and savings-bank business, and the issue of telegrams. A special postcard, prepared for the occasion, may be bought singly or in quantities, and may be written, addressed, and posted.

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The Prince of Wales will arrive at half-past ten o’clock to-morrow night, and be received by the committee and conducted over the Exhibition. His Royal Highness will spend about an hour in the Guildhall and Council Chamber—where a concert will be given by the Post Office Choir. Singular concerts will be given in the Council Chamber on Saturday and Monday afternoons and evenings by the same choir, and that of the Guildhall School of Music.

Last night the Corporation of the City of London gave a *conversations* at the Guildhall in celebration of the jubilee of the introduction of the inland uniform penny postage. About 3,500 guests were invited, of whom over 2,000 attended, and the occasion was honoured with the presence of the Prince of Wales, who arrived at about half-past 10 o’clock. His Royal Highness, who was received at the entrance of the Guildhall by the Lord Mayor and members of the committee, was informed by his Lordship that he had received numerous messages of congratulation from all parts of the United Kingdom. The general company began to arrive about 7 o’clock. The guests were received in the library by the Lord Mayor, who wore his State robes, and who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress. Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Knill and Mr. Sheriff Harris were also present, and on the dais were Sir Arthur Blackwood (Secretary to the Post Office), Alderman Sir James Whitehead, and many of the chief representatives of the Corporation. The Postmaster-General arrived shortly after 9 o’clock.

At the invitation of the Lord Mayor, and to add to the interest of the celebration, the Postmaster-General arranged an exhibition of the processes of his department in the Guildhall and in the proposed art galleries just constructed by the Corporation. In the Guildhall were shown the stamping, sorting, and preparation of letters, and the making up, receipt, and despatch of mails. Telegraphs in action were also exhibited, including Wheatstone’s circuits, news circuits furnishing intelligence simultaneously to distant towns, and ordinary circuits connecting widely separated points. Telegraphic communication was maintained with several Continental cities. A large collection of telegraphs of the past and present was displayed; and the multiplex telegraph, the telephone, and the phonograph were in operation. In the art galleries a travelling post-office was at work, and models of mail packets of the past and present were exhibited. At the western end of the Guildhall there was a fully equipped post-office, where specially prepared jubilee post-office cards could be procured, addressed, and posted, and every kind of post-office business transacted, the novel accommodation being largely patronized. At about 9 o’clock the Royal mail four-horse parcel coach left Guildhall-yard for Brighton, carrying parcel mails made up in the Guildhall; and the mail coach, to illustrate the Royal mail coaches of the past, took up and discharged mails, passengers, and luggage. Before the arrival of the Prince of Wales the company was addressed in the library by the Lord Mayor, Mr. Raikes, and Alderman Sir J. Whitehead. The Lord Mayor expressed his high appreciation of the eminent services rendered to civilization by the late Sir Rowland Hill, and Sir J. Whitehead advocated the claims which the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund had upon the public, its aim being to relieve all deserving and necessitous Post Office servants.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that they were there to celebrate a jubilee which nearly coincided with that of the reign of our most gracious Sovereign, for the Queen had occupied the throne less than three years when the Ministry of that day found it possible to introduce that great change which Sir Rowland Hill had so powerfully and disinterestedly advocated. It was natural, therefore, that the Royal House of Great Britain should take particular interest in this great triumph of peace (cheers); and he was glad to think that, not only had the Lord Mayor placed the traditional hospitality of the Corporation of this great city at the disposal of those who desired to celebrate the occasion in so fitting a manner, but that the gathering was to be graced by the presence of the Heir to the Throne (cheers), who would thus show his interest in the great work in which they all so largely sympathized. Having briefly referred to the important additional duties, the responsibility of which the Post Office had undertaken in the last quarter of a century—in connexion with the savings banks, the telegraph department, and the conveyance of parcels—the right hon. gentleman alluded to the deep interest which Alderman Sir James Whitehead had taken in the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund, and observed that that occasion would sufficiently bring home to them the duty—if he might say so—or, at least, the wish, which must pervade every generous breast in the country to relieve the necessities of those to whom they were so greatly indebted for the benefits which they all in common enjoyed. (Cheers.)

During the evening a pamphlet was circulated among the guests giving a brief, but extremely interesting, history of the Post Office, tracing the marvellous development, especially in recent years, of the department, and indicating the numerous ramifications of the work which it now performs.

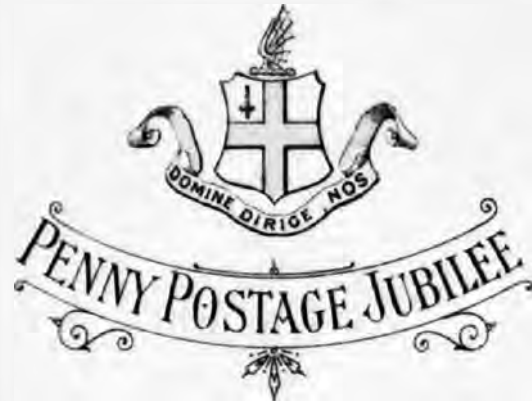
The band of the Coldstream Guards and other bands played in various parts of the building.

JUBILEE OF PENNY POSTAGE.

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THE brilliant assembly at the Guildhall last evening in celebration of the Jubilee Anniversary of the Introduction of Inland Uniform Penny Postage was certainly one of the most successful entertainments ever given by the Corporation of London. The occasion was one which was sympathetic to the hearts of citizens, for the marvellous growth of wealth and the wide extension of London are almost coeval with the penny postage. In 1839 few Londoners who had City business slept beyond the Bills of Mortality, while nowadays not only do we have half-a-dozen deliveries a-day, but the telegraph is not quick enough for some of us, and we have flown to the telephone.

No 3685



**CONVERSAZIONE.
GUILDHALL.**

Friday, May 16th 1890.

THE RIGHT HON^{BLE}

SIR HENRY A. ISAACS, K^T
LORD MAYOR.

STUART KNILL, ESQ., ALD^M }
WALTER HENRY HARRIS, ESQ. } SHERIFFS

ADMIT ONE

**THIS COUPON TO BE PRESENTED
AT THE GUILDHALL.**

THE LARGE CARD IS INTENDED
FOR PRESERVATION.

NOT TRANSFERABLE

FRANCE AUSTRIA NORWAY CANADA
GERMANY RUSSIA SWEDEN UNITED STATES
BRAZIL SPAIN ITALY STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
DENMARK HAYTI CHILI PERSIA
JAVA BORNEO PORTUGAL EGYPT
SWITZERLAND NEW ZEALAND TURKEY GREECE
AUSTRALIA JAPAN CHINA

PENNY POSTAGE JUBILEE CELEBRATION

A.D. 1840 A.D. 1890

CONVERSAZIONE AT THE GUILDHALL

No 3685

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON
requests the honour of the Company of
The President of the Philatelic Society.
AT GUILDHALL,
ON FRIDAY, MAY 16th 1890.
THE RIGHT HON. SIR HENRY A. ISAACS, K^T
Lord Mayor.
STUART KNILL, ESQ., ALDERMAN, and WALTER HENRY HARRIS, ESQ.,
Sheriffs.

Ald^r SIR JAMES WHITEHEAD, BART
Chairman of the Committee.

CONVERSAZIONE - 7 TO 12 P.M.
Uniform, Levée, or Evening Dress

DOMINE DIRIGE NOS

What number of letters passed through the Post Office in 1839, when Rowland Hill—then a school-master wrote his pamphlet on postal reform, the manuscript of which is displayed in the exhibition,—has been recorded, but the numbers of last year almost transcend imagination. No less than 850 million letters were posted out of London last year, and 690 million delivered from the country; while the actual local post amounts to over 330 millions. Of mail bags passing between office and office in London there are 4,750,000, and from the provinces 4,250,000, and from foreign parts 450,000. The figures as announced in total by Mr. Raikes, amazed the distinguished assembly which crowded the Library.

When the doors were opened there was abundant occupation for early arrivals in viewing the complete post offices on the west side of the hall—with examples of pillar boxes from the original square ones of 1855, through the tall elaborate edifice with crown and cushion, which formerly stood on London-bridge, to the modern useful pillar with its wire interior. On the East side was the Telegraph department, where every system from Cooke and Wheatstone's four-needle machine, requiring four wires, to the present single wire and almost instantaneous machine, was exhibited. Several offices were in direct communication with posts at Aberdeen Bristol, Brighton, Penzance, and other distant places to which congratulatory telegrams were sent, and the replies returned during the few minutes that spectators waited,—one sent to Penzance ran "Gog and Magog are enjoying the fun," to which the Penzance post-master replied, "I should like to be there also." This was done in three and a-half minutes. On the arrival of the Prince of Wales, the following doggerel rhymes were sent to every office on the system, and though their lines are crooked, their sentiment is excellent:—

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"England's Prince is with us,
All honour to his name;
May his life continue joyous,
And crown'd with lasting fame;"

and from 57 towns in the United Kingdom came answers of congratulation.

The Lord Mayor arrived about eight o'clock and was received by the Committee, who preceded him to the chair of state on the dais of the Library. Truth to say, the reception which lasted nearly an hour and a-half, was rather slow, and among the multitude of distinguished guests invited only few put in an early appearance. Indeed, for some time the Library was scarcely half full—for the wise ones, knowing how late the Prince was coming, discreetly examined the Exhibition during the interval. In the Great Hall they had the advantage of the music of the Coldstream's band, under Mr. C. Thomas, and in the Council Chamber the Post Office Choir, conducted by Mr. Beckley, gave two concerts, at eight and ten. The Aldermen's Room was the home of the phonograph, and in the old Council Chamber was a series of dissolving views representing letters famed in the world's history. But still the guests poured through the Library, and among the first distinguished arrivals was Sir Stevenson A. Blackwood, K.C.B., Secretary of the Post Office, in Windsor uniform. To him succeeded Sir Thomas Chambers and his daughters; then came Sir Pope Hennessy, looking naturally thinner and grayer than when, nearly 27 years ago, he led the "Pope's Brass Band" in the House of Commons, and struggled in the cause of Poland. Mr. Henniker Heaton, satisfied with his half-yearly house of 2½d. postage to the Colonies, and Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, an old Postmaster-General, were quickly followed by an interesting group—Mr. Rowland Hill and Mr. Pearsall Hill, sons of the reformer, with various other members of their family, to the number of about fifteen, including Miss Rosemond Davenport Hill, who, to the surprise of Mr. Lobb, had not brought any knitting. The first Alderman to arrive was Lieut. Colonel Cowan—but I think he left early, as I saw him no more. The Rev. J. R. Diggle, M.A., chairman of the School Board, was received with cheers, as was General Sir Daniel Lysons, G.C.B., the new Constable of the Tower—"Shifty Dan," as he is called in the service—now unfortunately laid up by gout in the toe. After him came Mr. C. Fielding, the new master of the Turners' Company, only elected on Thursday, in succession to Mr. Burdett Coutts, M.P., who, strangely enough, was not present. The new Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital, and Mrs. Wainwright, were warmly received, as were the Master of the Butchers' Company and Mr. Arthur A'Beckett, in military guise. Sir John Coode, G.C.M.G., soon followed, and then came Mr. George Spicer and Mr. Alderman Newton. Lord and Lady Meath were present, but did not go up to the dais, nor did Mr. Staveley Hill, Q.C., M.P. But Mr. Austin, who moves that "the question be now put" in the County Council came up by himself. Then arrived Mr. and Mrs. Russell and Mr. Washington Lyon with Mrs. John Scott (niece of Sir Rowland Hill and wife of Mr. Justice Scott, lately appointed by the Government to supervise the judicial system of Egypt). Dr. McGeagh (as surgeon of the H.A.C.), Dr. Westmacott (as army surgeon-general), and Mr. Edwin Freshfield arrived almost together, and Mr. George Sims—introduced as Sir George, amid applause—succeeded. Then came the master of the "Birdlers' Company" and Mr. and Mrs. "Tam" Read, Mr. and Mrs. Pennefeather—an appropriate name—Sir Edmund Hertzlet, Mr. H. G. Reid (president of the Institute of Journalists), and, amid a flourish of trumpets, Mr. Cecil Raikes himself, the great head of the Post Office—master of 30,000 men and women and earner of £3,000,000 per annum for the nation.

Now came a dilemma; neither Lord Mayor, nor Post-Master, nor Sir James Whitehead, knew how to begin, and the ladies were so placed that there was not sitting room for them on the dais; but after a little management the oratorical portion of the evening's entertainment commenced.

The LORD MAYOR, who was received with cheers, said My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—The committee entrusted with the arrangements for to-day's celebration were good enough to ask me to make a speech. You will doubtless be pleased to hear that I had sufficient fortitude and self-denial to resist that very great temptation. My reasons were various; firstly, I thought that there were very many in this assembly who have heard at least enough of my voice during the current week—"No, no!" then I thought of the many ladies who are amongst this audience; and, lastly, I thought it would be wrong of me to stand between this assembly and the two distinguished speakers who will presently address you, in the persons of the Right Hon. Mr. Raikes, the Postmaster-General—(cheers)—and my excellent friend and predecessor the late Lord Mayor—(cheers)—who was, as you are aware the founder of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund. Ladies and Gentlemen,—You will, perhaps, be asking yourselves why, if I am not going to make a speech, I must detain you. I will answer that question for you in a moment. I thought if I had contented myself with setting before you the mere fact that I had been able to resist that temptation to make a speech my silence might be open to misconstruction. There might be some doubt whether my heart is in this celebration, and I venture, therefore, to tell you that it is, and that if I resisted the temptation it was for the consideration that I have given you, and I desire to assure you that no one in this assembly, or in this country appreciates more than I do the eminent services of the late Sir Rowland Hill. (Cheers.) I cannot think of him but as the greatest benefactor of his time—a man who did more than any other in his time in the interest of civilization. I have now the privilege to introduce to you the Postmaster-General. (Cheers.)

The Right Hon. H. CECIL RAIKES said: My Lord Mayor, my Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—The Lord Mayor, who has shown on this occasion no less than his usual sympathy with all good works and useful institutions, has almost too modestly restricted his right to make a speech to-night. And yet he has said enough, I think, to satisfy this great and influential audience how warmly he sympathizes both with the triumphs and the progress of the great institution, the Imperial Post Office, and also how sincerely he feels for the objects of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund—(applause)—which I trust and believe must be greatly benefited by assemblies like this. We are collected in this ancient and historic hall—connected as it is with so many of the greatest and most interesting events of our history—to celebrate the jubilee of quite a modern institution, but of an institution which may be said to have done more for the cause of universal civilization than almost any other political or social discovery. (Hear, hear.) The memory of Sir Rowland, associated as it will always be with the introduction of the penny post, will, I think, be dear, not only to his own country, and not only to those who speak the English language in other and distant Continents, but also to all those who speak in other tongues and inhabit other countries, and who are able to appreciate the greatness of that peaceful revolution of which he was the prime mover. It is almost impossible at this time of day for us to realize the greatness of the change which has been brought about by the establishment of the penny

post. Although I would not to-night weary an assemblage like this with tedious and tiresome figures, it may be at least permitted to me to remind you that, whereas in the year immediately preceding the establishment of the penny postage, the number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom amounted to seventy-six millions (and I have no doubt that was at the time considered an enormous number), the number of letters delivered in this country last year was nearly sixteen hundred millions—(applause)—twenty times the number of letters which passed through the post fifty years ago; to these letters must be added the six hundred and fifty-two millions of post-cards and other communications by the halfpenny post, and the enormous number of newspapers, which bring the total number of communications passing through the post to considerably above two billion. I venture to say that this is the most stupendous result of any administrative change which the world has witnessed. (Hear, hear.) If you estimate the effect of that upon our daily life, if you pause for a moment to consider how trade and business have been facilitated and developed, how finally relations have been maintained and kept together, if you for a moment allow your mind to dwell upon this change which is implied in that great fact to which I have just called attention. I think you will see that the establishment of the penny post has done more to change—and change for the better—the face of Old England than almost any other political or social project which has received the sanction of the Legislature within our history. (Cheers.) I cannot forget, speaking here to you to-night, that her Majesty's Government has found in this Jubilee year of the penny post a suitable occasion for establishing a uniform postage from this country to our Colonies—(hear, hear)—together with those many great nations who are, like ourselves, the members of the Postal Union. I am happy, indeed, that the honour has been reserved for myself during my tenure of office to be the Minister specially charged with the carrying out of this great, and, as I believe, beneficial measure. (Cheers.) I do not know whether it is possible for us to-day to forecast what may happen in the distant future in the way of drawing closer those family ties which bind the mother country to her daughter colonies, but if the result of the change which is taking place—and I hope it will take place—this year should be in any degree commensurate with the change which has occurred in England since the penny post was established, I think that this humble department, whose first duty is to carry your letters, to convey your telegrams, and to take care of your savings-bank deposits, may claim to have done more and to have laid a deeper and wider basis for the great British Empire of the future than might have been achieved by the most daring or brilliant statesmanship, or by the most successful and triumphant war. We are here to celebrate a jubilee which nearly coincides with that of the reign of our most gracious Majesty, who had only occupied the throne of these realms for less than three years when the Ministry of that day found it possible to introduce that great change which Sir Rowland Hill had so powerfully and disinterestedly advocated. Therefore, it is but natural that the Royal House of Britain should take particular interest in this great triumph of peace. I am glad to think that not only you, my Lord Mayor, have placed the traditional hospitality of the Corporation of this great City on this occasion at the disposal of those who desire to celebrate the event in a fitting manner, but that this assembly is to be graced to-night by the presence of the Heir to the Throne—(cheers)—who will come here with his illustrious brother the Duke of Edinburgh, who has shown his interest in the great work,

in which all of us so largely sympathize, and pursue with that unflagging interest which distinguishes him a desire to add to his information all those items indicating the progress of the postal service which the Guildhall on this occasion has deigned to receive. I ought not to detain you by reference to those other branches of the work which have grown up around the Post Office in the course of the last quarter of a century. It would be enough for me to remind you how, in 1861, the Post Office, not contented with its duty of being the letter carrier for all classes, undertook to be also the bankers of the poor; how nine years later it accepted the responsibility of the telegraphic communication of the United Kingdom; how, ten years after that, it dared to enter the field as carrier of parcels for the public generally, and how it has been constantly on the watch to extend the scope of its usefulness and bring to bear on the national life that nervous organization which it has perfected. So much has been done for the public, that while some ladies and gentlemen here may say that too much almost has been done, at least those of you who think that the present posts a-day are more than the most voracious appetite could desire—while so much has been done, and is being done, and has still to be done by the Post Office in the interest of the public, we hope that the public will not forget those—the humblest class of the servants of the Post Office—who form the basis of this great superstructure, and by whose labour the great benefits of civilization are carried to every corner of the globe. Those of you who may have studied the pamphlet which has been circulated this evening, or who may have looked at the first pages of the catalogue which your committee kindly placed in my hand, may realize how much there is still to be done to ameliorate the lot of our working postmen, to comfort them in their anticipation of the future, and to console their declining years. (Cheers.) The State is bound to be just before it can be generous. The public can afford to be generous before it considers whether it will be just—(cheers)—and I for one am certain that there can be no juster cause for unloosing the purse strings of that benevolence which has such high tone in the City of London than to ameliorate the labours of those servants of the public, for whom the State has not found it possible to make a sufficient provision. As you know, there are pensions and superannuation funds by which servants of the public may expect to receive a very moderate amount of subsistence when they have served their full time and have passed out of the sphere of active usefulness; but there are cases in which a man breaks down, perhaps in the middle of his career, or a man has served the public without being actually and technically in the service of the State, and who finds when he is incapacitated from further public service that no provision exists for his necessities, and those of his family. All honour to those who, like Sir James Whitehead—(cheers)—not enlisted in the actual service of the department, have conceived that the great name of Rowland Hill, and the magnificent services rendered by him to his country may best be ameliorated and assisted by inviting the sympathy and kind consideration of the public at large on behalf of those servants of the public whose labours have been so greatly increased by this reform. I think, my Lord Mayor, that you, as the Lord High Almoner of your countrymen, have never more worthily discharged that important function of your great office than in presiding over this meeting to-night—(hear, hear)—and I am satisfied that, however feebly and imperfectly I have attempted to connect in your minds those immense benefits and conveniences which have become part of our daily lives with the services of a most laborious, of a most honest, and a most dutiful class of public servants. The fact that you have been brought here to-night, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, and upon this most interesting and important occasion will have sufficiently brought home to you the duty, if I may say it, or at least the wish which must pervade every generous breast in this country, to improve the condition, to meet the necessities of those to whom we are so greatly indebted for the benefits which we all in common enjoy. (Cheers.)

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The LORD MAYOR, again rising, said: I have the honour to call upon Sir James Whitehead. (Cheers.)

Alderman Sir JAMES WHITEHEAD said: My Lord Mayor, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen—I feel somewhat in a difficulty in being called upon to address you on this occasion, inasmuch as I have been preceded by the Postmaster-General, who has, to a very great extent, said what I myself was going to say. I had been asked, and I hope without any vanity, I may add not inappropriately asked, to say something this evening on behalf of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund. It may be in the recollection of some who are here to-night, that about eight or ten years ago I took part, along with others, in what we felt to be a due recognition of the great work that had been done by Rowland Hill, and starting from the point that we desired to erect a statue to his memory and a monument to record his good work in Westminster Abbey, we found ourselves in course of time in possession of a larger amount of money than we had at first anticipated. With a surplus of something like £16,000, it occurred to us that we might possibly perpetuate the memory of a great man, to whom we owe the introduction of the uniform system of penny postage in a manner that would be in accordance with what we believed to have been the spirit of his life, and in what we believed to be the desire of his family, and also the desire of a large number of the present officials of the Post Office, who desire to keep his virtues and his good deeds green in the recollection of the present generation. Well, now, the Corporation have given this conversation just as they always, as I conceive, do the right thing at the right moment, and they have opened their hand, and opened their purse in a manner which, I believe, will be well appreciated, not only by the citizens of London, but not only by the people of the metropolis, but by the great bulk of the English speaking people throughout the entire empire. (Cheers.) Now it is not in accordance with the usual custom of the Corporation that there should be any charge for admission, or that there should be any collection within the precincts of this Guildhall. But while that is the rule which obtains amongst us, we are bound, as we feel, to respect the desire and the wishes of those officials who are connected with the Post Office, and to whom we owe such an exhibition of ancient and modern postal arrangements and postal facilities as has probably never been gathered together at any time under one roof. Well, we know that the postal leaders, the leading officials of the Post Office, desire nothing for their own services, but they do desire that some good should arise out of this great gathering on this occasion, for the benefit of an institution—the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund—which has been referred to in such eloquent and kindly terms by the Postmaster-General. (Cheers.) But you may very reasonably ask, What is the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund—what is its object and what is its aim? The Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund was established in the first instance by a few friends and myself, and it is to-day doing an enormous amount of good in proportion to the



trude at its disposal—an amount of good that could not possibly, probably hardly, be exceeded by any other institution or association possessing so small an amount of money for the purpose of its usefulness. Now the pamphlet which has been placed in the hands of a large number of those who are here to-night does convey in clear and concise language what is the object of this fund, and at the risk of being what the Postmaster-General desired to avoid, at the risk of being tedious and tiresome, I fear I shall be obliged to give you some statistics. The fund, according to the book which has been put into your hands,

available for the relief of every class of officers employed by the Post Office, whether in receipt of a pension or not, the only condition being that there shall be actual distress on the part of the person relieved, or on the part of the widow or children. Aged persons past work and with very small means, or none at all, and widows with young children, and few or no resources, are the chief recipients of this fund. (Hear, hear.) I know the public will ask, and perhaps not unreasonably ask, why there is a necessity for this. I know the public run away sometimes with the impression that the great public departments ought to provide for everybody engaged in the department, and for all who belong either directly or indirectly to it. But it is perfectly impossible that that can be so, looking at it from a national point of view, and while I am prepared to say that the amount of remuneration given to the servants of the post-office is not too high, I am bound to admit that the Postmaster-General and those who act under him do at all times, so far as I am able to ascertain, pay the full market price for the value of the labour they employ in each district where they require servants. Of course we are aware that the servants of the Post Office are some of them in the receipt of pensions, through what is called the superannuation Act, but even if a servant of the Post Office is on the staff it is well known that no pension is given until a servant has been in the service of the department for ten years. If he has been there for less than ten years and he is unfortunately obliged to retire from the service he is granted a gratuity, which is equal to one month's salary for every year he has served his country. Of course, if he has served for eight years, and his salary has been at the rate of £6 per month, when he retires from the service, he receives a gratuity of £48, and everyone who has had any experience of family life must know that there is the possibility that such a sum as that may be swallowed up either by the doctor's bill or by the funeral expenses, or by the two put together. (Hear, hear.) The Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund comes in under circumstances such as these, to give aid to the person who has received the pension, and to the widow and children of the man who may be taken away. Then again, if a servant of the Post Office has served for more than ten years, he is entitled to one-sixtieth part of his income for every year he has served. I may give you an example: Supposing he has £120 a-year, and has served the Post Office for 15 years, and is obliged to retire his pension would be £30. If he had served 20 years it would be £40. Now, we know a great many men are obliged to retire partly because of delicate health, frequently because of delicate health, and it may be the man has a sick wife and a large family, and that he is called upon to look to other and extraneous aid for the support of those who are near and dear to him. There, again, the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund steps in and gives assistance. Then again, if he dies, if the servant dies, his pension dies with him, and the widow not infrequently has a very hard struggle, and then, again, the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund gives such aid as it is able to give in accordance with the funds at its disposal. I will not trouble you either with a long dissertation on the wants of the servants or with more figures to illustrate the object I have in view, but I do desire to bring home to you this evening that there is another object—there is a claim upon us which those of us who come here this evening ought to some extent, at least, to recognise. We know that the servants of the Post Office are among the most trustworthy of all labouring for the public good. We know that they convey messages which are of vital importance in commerce, that they convey messages which are of an affectionate and endearing character, and we know therefore that the penny postage service introduced by Sir Rowland Hill, apart altogether from the good that has been realized by us as a mercantile nation, has tended to knit and hold together whole families, who, except for that system, would have been very largely divided from each other. We ought, too, as it seems to me, to show our gratitude to the memory of Sir Rowland Hill for the services of those who act so well for us, and I am satisfied that if we who are here to-night decide that, from this time, we will contribute more largely to the Rowland Hill Fund than we have done hitherto, we shall not only be showing our gratitude to those who have given us this marvellous entertainment to-night, but we shall be doing a great service for the public at large. We shall also be doing something which will stimulate the servants of the public, who are in the service of the post office to perform their duties with as much zeal and as much desire to benefit the general community at large as those in the service. (Loud cheers.)

The speeches being over, the civic party, with the principal guests, retired to the Library Committee-Room for refreshments, and were only summoned thence about twenty-five minutes past ten, when the telegraphist had announced the Prince's departure from Marlborough House. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs met his Royal Highness at the porch of Guildhall, and conducted him to the dais, the Lord Mayor having on his arm Mrs. Raikes, while the Prince conducted the Lady Mayoress. Arrived on the dais the Lord Mayor addressed the Prince, and presented him a catalogue of the exhibition. He then presented Sir James Whitehead and Mr. J. E. Sly, C.C., mover and seconder of the entertainment; Sir J. Whitaker Ellis, the senior Alderman present; Mr. Baines, C.B., assistant-secretary General Post Office, and chairman of the committee; Mr. Toombs, manager London District; and Mr. Preece, F.R.S., chief electrician. Immediately the party rose and proceeded through the building. The first visit was paid to the Art Gallery, where the Prince was greatly interested in the collection of artistic, quaint, and ignorant addresses found on letters. When a letter is addressed "Esmer Quinstares, Ldn." it requires some skill to discover that it means "Assessor, Queen's Taxes." When one arrives from Italy with a couple of pears drawn on it, "England," it is only our knowledge of the great advertising firm that leads us to identify it. Then came the pistols

and blunderbusses formerly carried by the guards of the coaches; placards announcing rewards for mail robbers; franks of C. J. Fox, W. Pitt, and others of later date, all of which the Prince carefully examined. He also looked at the old accounts of one T. Randolphe, master of the posts, 1566, and another Stephen Lilly, 1695. Then at Sir Rowland Hill's portrait and his wonderful pamphlet which changed the old system, but so slowly that there was exhibited the portrait of the sole letter carrier in Wolverhampton in 1854. In Wolverhampton of to-day there are over 100 Post Office employes. The tent of the Post Office Volunteers as used by them in the Sudan detained the Prince, and sometimes he entered into conversation with the decorated sentries who were with Volunteers the first time they received their baptism of fire. Returning to the Great Hall after admiring the models and pictures of coaches and mail stations, the Prince entered the Great Hall, in which was a machine he used to play with 40 years ago. He sent off a message to France by the Hughes system, and waited many minutes for the reply. Again he stopped at the desk whence ran the special wire to the *City Press*, and accepted a copy of the proofs as sent down. One other machine attracted his attention, and then he proceeded to the Council Chamber, where, after the National Anthem he heard a part song. After traversing the Old Chamber, he retired to the committee-room, where he remained for nearly half an hour in conversation with the principal guests, among whom was the Duke of Teck, who arrived at the last moment. It was not until half-past eleven that the Prince left, expressing himself interested and delighted with the whole entertainment—as did all those privileged to be present.

THE Lord Mayor informed the Prince of Wales that messages of congratulation had been received from all the principal municipalities of the United Kingdom, and that replies had been forwarded. The telegrams referred to included messages from the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and Glasgow, the Mayors of Belfast, Nottingham, Sheffield, Cambridge, Manchester, Reading, Hastings, Exeter, Bradford, Salisbury, Liverpool, Leamington, Cork, Penzance, Swansea, Ipswich, Cheltenham, Oxford, Dover, Chester, Bath, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Brighton, Stockport, Limerick, Shrewsbury, Sir Albert Sassoon (Brighton), the Lord Provost of Dundee, the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, the Provost of Inverness, the Lord Provost of Perth, the Mayors of Cardiff, Bristol, Winchester, Birmingham, &c.

DURING the evening a number of more or less humorous messages were dispatched by the officials at Guildhall to Aberdeen, Penzance, and other towns with which there was direct connexion.

THE Prince of Wales telegraphed an acknowledgment of a "kind message" to Penzance.

THE following are the members of the Committee who carried out the arrangements: The Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir J. Whitehead, Bart., F.S.A. (chairman), Alderman Sir W. Lawrence, Mr. Alderman Cotton, Alderman Sir F. W. Truscott, Mr. Alderman Savory, Mr. Alderman Gray, Mr. Alderman Renals, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Knill, Mr. Sheriff Harris, Mr. T. H. Ellis, Mr. C. Barham, Mr. W. H. Pannell, Mr. J. L. Sayer, Mr. H. Clarke, Mr. A. J. Hollington, Mr. J. Bastow, Mr. G. H. Edmonds, J.P., Mr. R. W. Edwards, Mr. D. Burnett, Mr. A. B. Hudson, Mr. J. Tickle, Captain H. J. Alfred, Mr. J. F. Hepburn, Mr. A. Pussell, Mr. B. Stapley, Mr. F. McCarthy, Mr. E. B. I'Anson, Mr. C. J. Cathbertson, Mr. N. Jones, Mr. T. Wildash, Mr. T. Sangster, Mr. J. Cloudsley, Mr. Deputy Fisher, Mr. L. M. Myers, Mr. W. B. Pryke, Mr. C. E. Smith, Mr. M. Wallace, Mr. S. Price, Mr. J. E. Sly, Mr. Deputy Halse, the Postmaster-General (the Right Hon. H. C. Raikes, M.P.), the Secretary of the Post Office (Sir S. A. Blackwood, K.C.B.) Post Office Committee of Co-operation: Mr. F. E. Baines (chairman), Major Cardin, Mr. W. H. Preece, F.R.S., Colonel Raffles Thompson, Mr. R. C. Tombs, and Mr. W. G. Gates, Mr. S. Beckley, and Mr. G. A. Aitken (hon. secretaries).

MR. TAYLOR and Mr. Gibbs acted as masters of the ceremonies.

By wire from Guildhall we received last evening the following message "From G. E. Wood to Editor: Mr. G. E. Wood, C.C., was examined on Wednesday and again this morning in committee of the House on the Richmond Lock and Weir Bill."

ALL the refreshments were served from the "Albion." ALL the upholstery work, including the marquee outside the Guildhall, was admirably carried out by Messrs. Sim-

monds Bros., acting under the directions of the City architect.

MESSES. STREUDWICK, of Hammersmith, furnished the floral decorations.

THE badge worn by the members of the committee was manufactured by the Abyssinian Gold Company, and is a replica of the penny postage stamp at present in use, enamelled on silver, and with a cross bar in red colour bearing the words "Penny Postage Jubilee, 1890."

THE design of the admission ticket is entirely in black and tint. In the centre of the top portion is a portrait of Rowland Hill, the City Arms being in the lower part of the card; underneath the portrait is a facsimile of the penny adhesive stamp issued by the post office, bearing the letters V. R. in the top corners, with the dates 1810-1890 on either side, and flanked right and left by the two hemispheres. Rays of light proceeding from the portrait of Rowland Hill towards the hemispheres, bear the names of the chief countries of the world. The whole is surrounded by an artistically engraved border, and has been designed and printed by Messrs. Blades, East, and Blades, of Abchurch-lane.

THE "CITY PRESS" EXHIBIT.

THE following, printed as *City Press* Extras, was distributed during the proceedings to the company present at the Guildhall:—

EXHIBITIONS are usually at least a month behind, and the first day is simple chaos. There is no rule, however, without an exception, and the Guildhall to-night is a brilliant exception to the rule to which I have referred. The Postmaster-General and Sir James Whitehead are up to time and the Exhibition to celebrate the Jubilee anniversary of the introduction of inland uniform penny postage is a marvellous example of postal punctuality and electric speed. As far as one may judge from a hasty and cursory survey of the entire building, everything is

ready, every machine is in working order, and every man at his post. Visitors are pouring in by the hundred, and it is expected that within an hour or so over three thousand persons will have assembled beneath the roof of the Guildhall. The first object which strikes the eye of the visitor as he passes the strong cordon of police under Superintendent Foster, is a mail coach, with passengers on top and bags of letters loaded up ready to start for some distant and unknown destination. The awning outside the Guildhall is distinguished by a Royal Standard in company with two ensigns. A magnificent crush-room has been erected, about three times as large as the one in use at Mr. Stanley's reception, and Dr. Crosby will not have to complain to-night that after a comfortable dinner at his club he has been pitchforked into a football scrimmage. Everything proceeds smoothly, and there is no crushing or crowding at the windows where the hats are received and deposited. The walls of the crush-room are tastefully hung with tapestry and Indian drapery, while the floor is covered with crimson carpet, and piled up with the most lovely of summer flowers, having a fine background of tropical palms. A hundred men of the 24th Middlesex form a guard of honour in the vestibule under Captain Ogilvie. Along the corridor leading to the Library are stationed, in military order, about seventy postmen and messengers in uniform under Overseer Barnes and Inspector Howard. Beyond these and in the same line are a number of telegraph boys, some of them looking remarkably like girls, attired as Elizabethan pages, whose duty it is to distribute programmes to the passers-by. Leaving the Library, which is the reception-room for the evening, on the left we pass to the Art Galleries, which, strangely enough, contain anything but pictures. There are, indeed, on the walls a few splendid specimens of mail packets, which are even better represented in models under glass cases. There are an electric engine, which works whenever a penny is dropped into the slot, also a model travelling post-office, with apparatus for receiving and despatching mail-bags, and a model of the Liverpool and London mail-coach. There are some grim rusty old blunderbusses, such as were probably used to frighten our grandmothers or protect the pockets of our grandfathers as they travelled north or south, while close by are notices offering rewards, varying from £50 to £200, for the apprehension of miscreants who had waylaid hapless post-boys and the benighted mails. The fac-similes of certain letters which have passed through the Post Office form a curious feature. There is a specimen penned with an artistic border, "Sacred to the memory of the fine weather, which departed from this land June, 1838." Perhaps the most interesting object in this department is the Army Post Office. The interior of the tent has a somewhat gloomy appearance, and one might almost imagine that the men inside were laying some deadly mine for the destruction of Arabi's devoted followers, rather than about to engage in the innocent work of flashing home the news of Wolseley's victory. The men dressed in canvas suits and white helmets are those who served on the sands of Egypt a few years ago. The large hall is brilliantly lighted and in full working order, telegraphy at one end and Post Office business at the other. The decorations are much the same as at the Stanley reception. The Congo flags have been removed, but there remain trophies, representing England, America, Germany, Italy, Belgium, and other nations. A large temporary gallery at the east end is draped with crimson cloth and gold fringe, and in the opposite gallery the band of the Coldstream Guards is discoursing most excellent music.

THE Guildhall Post Office is doing a roaring trade, not to be equalled at St. Martin's-le-Grand a few minutes before post time. There is an extraordinary demand for the Jubilee penny post-card, for which sixpence is charged, and which, owing to the limited supply, will, it is rumoured, be worth at least five or ten guineas in a few years' time. I hope this information will not have the effect of increasing the rush, and causing anything like a disaster at the Guildhall. All the telegraphic machines, which extend along two parallel lines down one-half of the Hall, are clicking, and messages are being flashed to distant parts of the world. The *City Press* instrument, through which this report is being dispatched, is the centre of a small crowd of interested observers. Lower down scores of postmen are actively engaged receiving, sorting, and dispatching letters to different towns of the country, and far beyond its borders. At the present moment the chief interest centres in the Library, which has been transformed into a magnificent reception-room; curiously enough, books are conspicuously absent, being closed in by a mass of crimson drapery. All the bays of the two galleries are filled with fair forms and faces, while the body of the Library is crowded to such a degree that the temperature is anything but agreeable. At the far end a large dais has been erected, with a background of flowers of almost every colour and variety, red and white,—the Corporation colours—naturally predominating. In front of the gilded chairs stand the Lord Mayor—in his State robes—and the Lady Mayoress—in a beautiful dress of golden hue, and wearing a magnificent necklace of diamonds—receiving the guests as the names are announced by the masters of the ceremonies. Close by are the Sword and Mace Bearers and the Sergeant-at-Arms, with the symbol of civic authority, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Knill and Mr. Sheriff Harris, in their scarlet robes and chains, Alderman Sir James Whitehead, Bart., in black velvet Court dress, with the chain of a past Lord Mayor, and Sir Stevenson Blackwood, in Court dress, with a mass of gold braid. Amongst the arrivals are Mr. Rowland Hill, the Misses Davenport Hill, Mr. Pearson Hill, Sir G. H. Chubb, Sir Daniel and Lady Lyons, the Earl of Meath, Lady Whitehead, Lady De Keyser, the Recorder and the Misses Chambers, the Common-Sergeant and Lady Charley, Mr. Alderman Evans and Mrs. Evans.

SINCE nine o'clock the company in the reception-room has been gradually dwindling away, and not even the music of Willoughby's string band, and a superabundance of the most brilliant diamonds and



Penny Postage Jubilee-1890.
Guildhall, London.

The Editor,

"Daily Graphic,"

Milford Lane,

Strand, W.C.

THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST: ONE OF THE SPECIALLY PREPARED POST OFFICE CARDS
EXHIBITED AT THE RECENT GUILDHALL CONVERSAZIONE (See page 10.) 3.7.90

jewels on the loveliest of dress which presents almost every variety of colour, can stop the exodus. At last the Postmaster-General, the Right Hon. Cecil Raikes, has arrived, and the speech-making begins before a comparatively meagre audience, the four heralds, in scarlet coats blowing a preliminary blast on their silver trumpets. The Lord Mayor, stepping to the front of the dais, starts the flood of oratory, standing on his right being the Postmaster-General, and on his left Sir James Whitehead, both ready to take their turn.

The following message was sent by the Prince of Wales to the Emperor of Germany at 11.4 p.m.: "We are celebrating the Jubilee of uniform penny postage at Guildhall, London, and I send you my warmest greetings on the 50th anniversary of an invention which has had such a marvellous influence for good in every country of the world."

The Jubilee post-cards were in great demand, and the stock was exhausted early in the evening. Messages and inquiries from visitors to friends in Aberdeen, Paris, and Berlin, are being sent off, and answers promptly received. As an illustration, our special sent the following to Berlin: "It is raining hard here, what kind of weather have you in Berlin?" The answer was received in one minute: "No rain at all; splendid weather all the day. Now a little fresh outside."

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As chairman of the Penny Postage Jubilee Committee, Alderman Sir J. Whitehead, ex-Lord Mayor, last night entertained about 60 members of the committee and friends at dinner at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. The chairman was supported by the Right Hon. H. O. Raikes, (Postmaster-General), Sir Arthur Blackwood (Secretary of the Post Office), Mr. F. E. Baines, C.B., Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Knill, Mr. Sheriff Harris, Mr. Pearson Hill, Mr. Herbert Joyce, Alderman Renals, Major Cardin, Mr. Deputy Halse, Mr. Deputy Fisher, Sir J. Monckton, Colonel Raffles Thompson, Captain Alford, Messrs. E. O. Tombs, H. O. Fischer, John E. Sly, J. Clouadesley, H. Clarke, A. J. Hollington, W. H. Prosser, W. G. Gates, G. H. Edmonds, J. L. Sayer, S. Wilson, A. Belcher, Samuel Price, R. W. Edwards, W. Wallace, F. McCarthy, Lewin Hill, G. A. Aitken, J. Tickle, A. B. Hudson, T. H. Ellis, J. F. Heburn, R. Stapley, W. R. Pryke, Sidney Beechley, Thomas Sangster, Thomas Wildash, A. Parnell, James Bastow, F. Singleton Knott, L. M. Myers, O. E. Smith, Neville Jones, D. Burnett, O. J. Outhbertson, Andrew Murray, O. Barham, &c. The loyal toasts having been duly honoured, the Chairman (Sir J. Whitehead) proposed, "The Post Office, and the Health of the Postmaster-General." Without wishing to enter too much into controversial subjects, they all hoped that the difficulty which had arisen at the present time in connection with the serving of the Post-office would be of only a transient character, and that for the public good it would be soon settled. (Cheers.) They knew that at the present time there was considerable friction between employer and employed in various phases of commercial life, but he was of opinion in regard to the prevailing conflict in the postal department of this country, that if there was due conciliation on both sides, and if there was a general recognition of the just aspirations on the one side, and what was due to the public service and to the taxpayer on the other side—if the subject of difficulty was approached in this spirit, he was quite sure that before long the conflict would be brought to a satisfactory conclusion. (Cheers.) They all participated in the advantages of the last 50 years' development of the post-office, and were grateful for the benefits which had been conferred upon the community. Personally he looked forward to a universal penny postage. (Cheers.)—The Postmaster-General, in reply, said that he did not want to chill the chairman's enthusiasm about universal penny postage, but there were some people who thought that their letters ought not only to be carried at cost price, but practically at a price which represented no revenue at all. While admitting that the Post Office existed for the benefit of the country, and that the authorities must be liberal in their treatment of employees he was not prepared to accept in their entirety either the doctrine that the public was entitled to have its letters carried at a ruinous loss to the revenue, or that the services of the Post Office employees should be remunerated at a price exceeding the value of their labour, and with a view to being made partners in the concern. (Cheers.) He was perfectly agreed that in dealing with its subordinate officers the Department of which he happened to be for the moment at the head should practise a wise liberality. When they were satisfied that they had done what was right and just they should not be moved by any clamour or form of compulsion into doing anything more than what was right and just. The relations between the authorities of the Post Office and those who served it had until the present moment been of especial and happy unanimity. If persons unconnected with the service had chosen to find a happy hunting-ground within their walls, and if they had perverted and misguided those whose interests the authorities always had at heart into a position of momentary antagonism to their superiors they had only this to consider that they trusted to the support of the country to resist any such innovation and usurpation of that authority which properly belonged to the constituted authority. First and foremost amongst those who wished to improve and to maintain the position of the Post Office servant were those who were charged with that responsibility to the Queen and the country, with that delicate and difficult duty of holding the balance between the servants of the public and the public, who after all were the masters.—Mr. W. H. Prosser gave "The Lord Mayor and the Corporation of London," for whom Alderman Renals and Mr. Deputy Halse responded.—The Chairman proposed "Success and prosperity to the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund," and Sir A. Blackwood, in reply, said he believed the celebration of the postal jubilee would benefit the fund to the extent of at least £20,000. (Cheers.)—Mr. S. Price gave the health of the Chairman, and the guests soon afterwards separated. 3.7.90 64

THE special post-cards, which were issued to the guests at the Postal Jubilee celebration at the Mansion House, were collected there and then by one or two enterprising gentlemen, who have made a "corner" in them for the purpose of disposing of them to collectors. Business is business! 24.5.90 65

Two letters of thanks and congratulation were read from the Postmaster-General in connexion with the penny postage jubilee at Guildhall. On the motion of Mr. Deputy HALSE, seconded by Mr. SLY, who took a very active part in arranging for the conversazione, the letters were ordered to be printed in the minutes.

THE
City Press.

LONDON: SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1890.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL.

WHEN the minds of those interested in the rural districts of this country are busy over the various phases of the tithe question its enforcement

12.6.90

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL.—Yesterday, a meeting of the Court of Common Council was held at Guildhall, the Lord Mayor presiding. The report, from the Local Government and Taxation Committee, of their proceedings in reference to the Central London Railway Bill, now before Parliament, was adopted. Replying to Mr. Morton, M.P., Mr. Alderman Cotton, chairman of the Police Committee, said he knew nothing of any petitions having been presented by the City police for an increase of their pay. Alderman Sir James Whitehead moved the adoption of the report of the Jubilee Penny Postage Committee, in which it was stated that on the occasion of the recent celebration the Guildhall was for three days turned into a huge post-office. In addition to the issue and sale of special post-cards, 20,508 ordinary post-cards and 3,845 postage stamps were sold, 445 postal and money orders were issued, 200 new savings' bank accounts were opened, and 134 deposits were made in existing accounts. Many letters were registered, large numbers of parcels were received and despatched, some hundreds of telegrams were received and answered, and 190,000 letters were stamped and sent away, of which 40,000 were written in the Guildhall. The report was adopted, and ordered to be printed. Mr. Morton, M.P., moved that the meetings of the Epping Forest Committee be open to the public except when otherwise ordered by the committee. The motion was negatived by a large majority. The Court granted £262 10s. out of the City's cash towards the funds of the French Hospital and Dispensary in London. 67.

THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CITY PRESS."

SIR,—

In a late issue you announced that specimens of Adhesive Postage Stamps by JAMES CHALMERS from as far back as 1834 onwards would be exhibited by a Post Office official, a stranger to me, at the coming Guildhall Exhibition. This, however, the Post Office authorities have been pleased to forbid. The effect would have been to dispel the last shred of delusion as to the Adhesive Postage Stamp having been the invention of Sir Rowland HILL.

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS,

Wimbledon,

May 12th, 1890.

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THE PENNY POSTAGE JUBILEE.

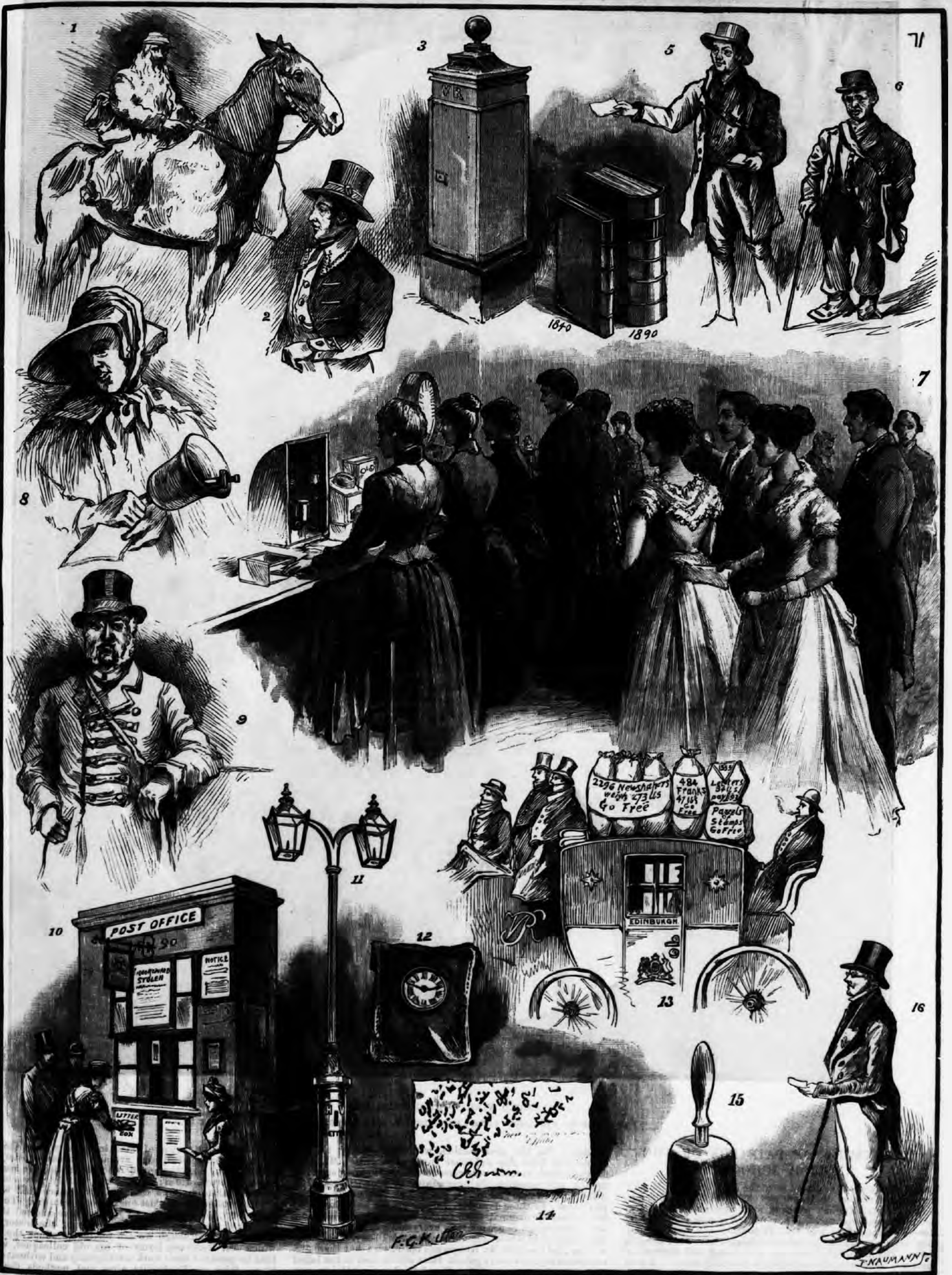
The Jubilee of the Penny Post was celebrated by a reception at Guildhall, on May 16, which was attended by the Prince of Wales, the Lord Mayor and civic dignitaries, and about three thousand other guests. In the course of the evening the Postmaster-General (Mr. Raikes) made a few remarks, showing the wonderful development of the postal service, and expressed gratification at having been able to propose a uniform rate of postage to the Colonies.

The Lord Mayor's guests, on this occasion, had the first view of an interesting exhibition illustrating the rise and progress of the British postal service during three hundred years. The Committee, of which Alderman Sir James Whitehead was the Chairman, had the co-operation of the Postmaster-General, Sir A. Blackwood, Secretary to the Post Office, and several of the principal officials of the department. There was a working post and telegraph service, complete in every detail, showing the processes of stamping, sorting, and preparation of letters, the making up, receipt, and dispatch of mails, and telegraphs in action. The multiplex telegraph and the telephone were in operation in the Art Galleries, a travelling post office was shown at work, models of mail-packets and mail-coaches were on view, and there was a display of historical and other curiosities connected with the Post Office. The Prince of Wales exchanged telegrams with Paris. Ten thousand Jubilee post-cards were sold for the benefit of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund, which was one of the special objects of the exhibition. To make the illustrations of the service complete, a number of four-horse mail-coaches, for which Messrs. Macnamara are the contractors, were dispatched during the evening from the Guildhall yard, with mails which had been made up in the hall. Among the literary curiosities were the first declared account of T. Randolph, Master of the Posts in 1566, signed by Lord Burghley and Sir W. Mildmay; a similar document rendered by Stephen Lilly, Receiver-General of the Post Office in 1695; a large collection of English and foreign stamps; pictures illustrating the old mail coaching days; portraits of celebrities who have been connected with the Post Office, among them John Brindley, a quaint old letter-carrier, in a tall hat, swallow tail, and white trousers, who was actually the only postman in Wolverhampton as recently as 1854; and the driver of a mail-cart, Robert Paton, as he appeared, his face covered with icicles, after braving the terrible storm of March 1, 1886, when he left two horses on the road, and went on with a third horse. This brave man lost his life in another perilous journey, during the storm of Jan. 18 in the present year, being found with his neck broken, under his overturned mail-cart.

The exhibition remained open on Saturday and Monday. 66

Here are two pictures: A brilliant conversazione at the Guildhall, graced by Royalty, where two thousand guests in purple and gold were celebrating the Penny Post Jubilee. The other picture, a scene on Clerkenwell-green, where over one thousand postmen and Post Office employees demanded publicly that their wages should be raised to a minimum of twenty-four shillings a week. Sir James Whitehead, at the Guildhall, in his best commercial-traveller style said, "People may ask why it is necessary for us to plead on behalf of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund, and may say that the State should look after its servants so that they may not need public charity. But I say that the Postmaster-General, and those that work with him, do at all times pay the full market price for the value of the labour they employ." 68

That may be true in a sense. The question arises: What is market price? Is it a fair living wage, or is the wage cut down to the lowest starvation point, owing to competition and the plethora of labour? A Government department which makes a huge profit as the Post Office does, should set the example to the country of paying a fair wage to its employees, and the concession of the demands of the postmen would be a far better celebration of the Jubilee than any conversazione in the Guildhall and the laudatory speeches of departmental chiefs who evidently belong to the Mutual Admiralty Society. 2.5.90



1. The late Robert Paton, a Mail-driver, as he appeared after the terrible Snowstorm of March 1, 1886.
 2. A Manchester Postman in official livery, before the Penny Postage Reform.
 3. The First Pillar Letter-box, 1836.
 4. London Postal Directories, 1840-1890.
 5. Heber Dale (height 4 ft., age 51), the shortest man in the Postal Service, 1889.
 6. A Letter-woman, with Bell, 1768.
 7. James Nobbs, the last of the Mail-guards, still in the service.
 8. A Letter-woman, with Bell, 1768.
 9. James Nobbs, the last of the Mail-guards, still in the service.
 10. A Post Office of 1790.
 11. Lamp-post, Letter-box, and Fire-alarm, combined.
 12. Old Post Office Timepiece, in leather case. [Khartoum, June 22, 1884.
 13. Analysis of the London to Edinburgh Mail, before the Penny Postage Reform.
 14. Last Letter (in Arabic) received by post from the late Gen. Gordon; dated
 15. Original Bell, used by the Bellmen who collected letters in the City in 1840.

16. John Brindley, the only Letter-carrier in Wolverhampton in 1834.

THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POSTAGE.

THE COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL EXHIBITS AT THE GUILDHALL.

Of all the departments of Government work, that which comes closest to the greatest number of her Majesty's subjects is the Post Office. Difficult as it would be to conceive of the limitations which surrounded the collection, transmission, and delivery of the mails 50 years ago, even within the confines of the United Kingdom, how impossible of realization the far more primitive methods of a century and two centuries ago! We have only to go back a little more than 250 years to find nearly every merchant who

with other administrative reforms, coupled with the growth of rapid transportation, has led to such a vast increase in the work thrown upon the Department that the appliances and machinery adequate for the routine of business in 1840 would break down at the first attempt to make them subserve the necessities of 1890. It is the chief purpose of the exhibition at the Guildhall to show these modern appliances, and, secondly, to contrast them with those in use in earlier days.

Before passing to the exhibits, a few statistics will be useful in impressing the imagination both with the stupendous aggregation of work performed by the Post Office, and with the remarkable growth in the amount of this work since 1840. In 1839 the number of letters which passed through the post was 76,000,000 in round numbers. In one year the number rose at a bound to over 168,000,000, more than doubling the figures of 1839. But these sums are comparatively insignificant in contrast with the 1,538,000,000 dealt with in 1889. In addition 152,000,000 newspapers and 652,000,000 post-cards, parcels, and book-post matter were sent through the post in 1889, making a grand total of 2,362,000,000 articles. Postal orders originated in 1881, and last year 178,000,000 were issued. The Parcel Post was first established in 1883, and six years later handled 39,000,000 parcels. The telegraphic messages numbered in 1889 about 82,368,000, a growth in the twenty years since the Government acquired the telegraphs of 750 per cent. And how impossible it is to estimate the benefits conferred upon the wage-earning classes by the Post Office Savings Bank, which, first opened in 1881, hold deposits reaching the immense sum of £80,000,000—veritably the guardian of the savings of the people. These figures will help to convey some, but necessarily an inadequate, notion of the complex machinery required to transport all the branches of so vast a business. The real wonder is, not that the Post Office Department should make any mistakes, but that it should offer such slight occasion to public and private criticism.

In the Great Hall has been erected a counterfeit presentment of the Post Office of 100 years ago, with its inquiry window and a hanging sign, bearing the Royal Arms, suspended above. The sign is a genuine relic. Genuine, too, is a notice board to prevent loitering before the Post Office. "Every hawk," so it reads, "newsvendor, idle, or disorderly person who shall loiter on the pavement opposite the General Post Office, or in any part thereof, will be liable to a penalty of five pounds."

Other genuine and interesting announcements, furnished by the archives of the Post Office, are posted up in the front of this ancient structure. Here is an "Account of the Days and Hours that the Post sets out from the Post Office in Oxford," from which we learn that the mail coach left for Bath, Bristol, and "all parts of the West" three days in the week "at two o'clock at noon;" to London every day except Saturday, and came in from London every day except Monday. One post a day, and that on five days in the week only, between London and Oxford! This notice, though it bears no date, was earlier than the

a suggestion of the nature of the work which has to be done: "The letters when posted are of course found all mixed together, and bearing addresses of every kind in one direction, then they are stamped (the labels, that is the postage stamp, being defaced in the process), and thereafter the letters are ready to be sorted. They are conveyed to sorting frames (or tables) where a first division is carried out, the letters being divided into about twenty

as now used by the Post Office. First comes a double-shed porcelain screw insulator, which is fixed by screwing to the bolt an indiarubber washer that serves as a cushion between the insulator and the shoulder of the bolt. Other examples include a single shed porcelain insulator used for unimportant and short wires, a post-office terminal, and several earthenware insulators. Arranged behind these poles is the City Press wire. The instrument is a direct-writing Morse ink. Its advantage over the Morse "emboosser" lies in the

acted by the movements of one or both needles. An alarm bell was originally used for calling attention, but it was afterwards found that the "click" of the needles acted sufficiently well, and the alarm bell was abandoned. In the case of Highton's single needle instrument, shown here, the letters are indicated by the movement of the needle from side to side. Certain letters are formed by one or more movements of the needle to either side, other letters requiring combinations of movements to both sides. Two tapper "keys" are used to transmit the signals. A Dering's single needle telegraph as used by the Electric and International Company, forms the adjoining exhibit. This instrument differs from the Highton and the Cooke and Wheatstone instrument, inasmuch as the movement of the needle is effected by means of an electro-magnet instead of a coil. A Bright's bell telegraph, as used by the British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company, is exhibited. It is worked with a relay. The single-needle alphabet is produced in this case by striking two bells of different tones, the hammers being actuated by electro-magnets, each worked by a relay and local battery. The relay consists of two electro-magnetic bobbins placed side by side, their ends being furnished with pole pieces turned inwards. Other instruments shown in this division include Henley's magneto-electric needle, Cooke and Wheatstone's A B C telegraph receiver, several Cooke and Wheatstone's A B C transmitters, Siemens' A B C transmitter, 1858, a Morse emboosser, and Wheatstone's automatic telegraph transmitter. In this last apparatus, the transmission of the electrical current is regulated by the action of three vertical rods, which are caused to move up and down by the rotation of a wheel worked by hand. A slip of paper punched with holes corresponding to the signals to be transmitted passes over the upper end of the rod and through it the ends of the rods can pass. Near this exhibit are two old forms of Wheatstone's automatic telegraph receiver and also a telegraphic puncher.

In connexion with the pictured coaches we should not overlook a model, enclosed in a glass case, of the Liverpool and London mail-coach, and a model of the Indian post-cart (why "cart"?), from the collection of the South Kensington Museum. A special interest may be said to attach to a painting (374), representing the last of the four-horse Royal Mail-coaches leaving Newcastle-on-Tyne for Edinburgh, July 5th, 1847. The coach bears the Union Jack, but at half-mast, thus pathetically announcing its own death before the steady advance of the iron-horse, which, according to Mr. Ruskin, has robbed rural England of the greater part of its charm.

Amongst the pictures is a small painting (No. 70), on the wall near the exit to the Library, which will attract no little attention. It is a portrait of the last of the mail guards, Mr. James Nobbs, who is still re-



A FOREIGN POST-BAG.

transacted business by correspondence to any extent his own postmaster, despatching and receiving his letters by private carriers, and when Charles I. attempted to put a stop to this practice by proclamation, the system of posts he established was little to the taste of the mercantile community, and scarcely less costly than the private post. With the great mass of the community the receiving or sending of a letter was a rare, almost an unknown, sensation, and the public news conveyed by one such epistle trickled like a refreshing shower through numberless rills, till it watered the parched minds of the remotest neighbours of the recipient.

It was in fact exactly 250 years ago that the King's posts may be considered to have been fairly established as a settled institution of the country, for then



TRAVELLING POST OFFICE, WITH WAY SIDE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY.

the establishment was placed in the hands of Philip Burslem, to be exercised under the authority of the Chief Secretary of State, though "Chief Postmaster of England" is the term bestowed by Camden on one Thomas Randolph, in the days of Elizabeth. In these early days, and up till as late as 1784, the mails appear to have been carried entirely by mounted couriers, or post-boys, furnished with relays of horses. In this latter year, however, the coach was first utilized by the Post Office, the idea having been suggested, it seems, by the custom of tradesmen bound letters by these conveyances, for the sake of the greater speed and safety thus ensured. The post-boy had fallen into conding disgrace with the public, and Mr. John Palmer, who made the suggestion of the change, characterized the post as then carried on as "about the slowest conveyance in the country!" There is a singular parallel between the experiences of Mr. Palmer and of Sir Rowland some fifty years later. Both proposed to the department radical reforms; each encountered the hostility of the establishment, and gained the ear of the public, and each was afterwards appointed to inaugurate and carry out the reforms proposed and urged by him. Sixty years ago, in 1830, the first mails were conveyed by railway.

From conditions like these to those of to-day, what a leap! It is stating a truism, but to which, after all, few realize, to say that nothing so plainly indicates our commercial and intellectual progress as the development of our postal facilities, and at the same time, nothing has had so great an influence on our material progress as that particular line of development. Of course, increasing facilities of transportation, both by land and water, have gone hand-in-hand with this development, and the total progress is the sum of many units and influences, but we might have had the steam boat and the railway without the modern machinery of the Post Office; and what we venture to say is, that the enormous economical stride of the last fifty years is due more to the cheapening and rapidity of communication by post, telegraph, and telephone than by any other single agency.

To-day, scarcely a household is so poor and friendless and insignificant as never to receive a Government messenger, bearing to its very door some welcome message from friend or relative at home or abroad. The postman's knock is in a very real and true sense



"CITY PRESS" REPORTERS AND SPECIAL WIRE TO "CITY PRESS" OFFICE.

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PACKET AND NEWSPAPER SORTING.

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THE BRIGHTON PARCEL MAIL.

the most significant evidence of nineteenth century progress. It is a daily announcement to everyone of us that the whole world is knit together by a system as once complex and simple, a piece of human machinery, stretching over six continents and Isles of the immeasurable work of dispatch, making minds a thousand miles apart beat to the same rhythm at the same time. It is just this close relationship which the Postal Department bears to every man and woman that makes its operations, even its stupendous statistics, of absorbing interest to all. And it is just this absorbing interest which gives to the present exhibition at the Guildhall a claim upon general attention which probably no other collection of objects could command.

It is the Post Office Jubilee Exhibition, and marks the first stage in the history of modern posting, which practically came in with the reforms of Sir Rowland Hill. The chief of these reforms, as everybody knows, was the introduction of penny postage to supersede the then expensive cost of letter-postage which averaged about 6d. per letter for all distances in Great Britain. On January 10th, 1840, the uniform rate of 1d. per half-ounce for prepaid letters was established, which in turn gave place to a further reform in 1871, when the weight for a prepaid letter postage of 1d. was increased to one ounce, and substantially the rates now in force for inland postage were established. The cheapening of postage rates, inseparably connected

days of pre-paying stamps, for it contains the information that when any letters are put into the office marked "pre-paid," but the money not handed in at the same time they will not be sent. It is supposed to date from about 1790. A copy of the printed "Notice of Special Instructions to all Letter Receivers," being the announcement of the reduction of postage, and bearing date January 2nd, 1840, is also shown, as well as a proclamation of an award of £1,000 for the discovery of the person who stole certain bank-notes from the Ipswich mail on its way from London on the night of September 11th, the year not being given.

Contrasted with this early and primitive post office is shown by its side the arrangement of a counter in a modern post office, with which we are all so familiar; the high brass railing surmounted with the signs which testify to the multifarious functions of the department to-day, the "Parcel Post," the "Insurance and Annuity" department, the Money Order, Postal Order, and Savings Bank, Registered Letters, Inland Revenue Stamps and Licences, and Telegrams. In the Great Hall, too, are other exhibits of new obsolete appliances, such as a singularly uncouth looking and cumbersome Pillar Box of the date of 1855, but the display here is chiefly of apparatus now in actual use. The process of sorting letters at large receiving offices, so deftly and quickly performed by trained hands, is one of the chiefest of mysteries to the uninitiated. Much light will be gained, especially as to the appliances for facilitating that operation, by an intelligent study of a group of exhibits at the west end of the Large Hall. Here, for example, is a large stand illustrating the work performed at ten principal districts and 100 sub-district sorting offices in the London area; and another stand exhibits the appliances for parcel sorting, large baskets, appropriately labelled, standing upon a three-tier frame work. Packet and newspaper sorting requires a still different form of construction, the baskets being arranged in long rows and tiers, each labelled, and each pivoted at the lower back edge so that it may be tipped back and its contents discharged without removal from the rack. In fact, all the appliances for cancelling stamps, sorting every species of matter which passes through the post, modern pillar-boxes of the improved style now in use, are shown here and form an object lesson to the uninitiated of the whole process of receiving and dis-

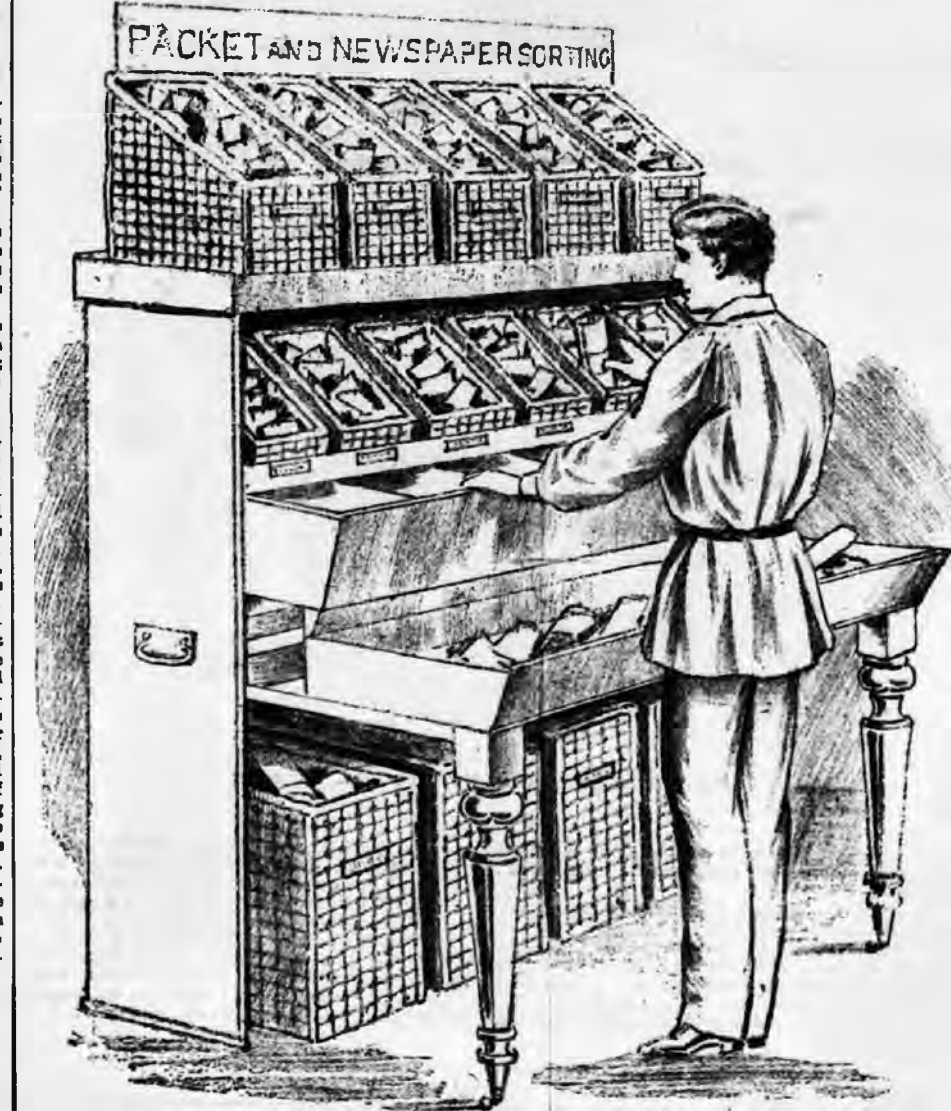
patching postal matter. One of the latest improvements shown is a large model, half full size, showing a combined lamp-post, letter-box, and fire alarm.

In this section, though on a relatively diminished scale, all the operations of a modern Post Office are being actually carried on. Letters, papers, parcels, are being received, stamped, sorted, and despatched to their several destinations. Telegrams are received and delivered, postal and money orders issued and paid, stamps are sold, letters registered, and, in fact, the Guildhall Post Office, by special dispensation established and maintained for such brief space of time as the exigencies of the occasion demand, is to all practical purposes a genuine branch of the department to which the public are invited, and where they may, so to speak, peek behind the scenes and study the manipulation of postal matter in all its details. Finally, the modern mail coach stands in Guildhall-yard, and once a day starts with its burden to the sound of the post-horn, while Post Offices vans come and go much as though St. Martin's la Grand had suddenly changed places with the abode of Gog and Magog.

Process of sorting is too confusing to the outsider to be adequately described in the limits of such an article as this, but the confusion is only in the uninitiated mind. Order, system, and the perfection of routine machinery mark the actual operation. The following extract from a description written by a postmaster at one of the largest offices, will best convey

lets, representing roads or despatching divisions, and a few large towns. Then at these divisions the final sortation takes place, to accord with the bags in which the letters will be enclosed when the proper hour of despatch arrives. This seems very simple, does it not? But before a sorter is competent to do this work, he must learn 'circulation,' which is the technical name for this system under which correspondence flows to its destination, as the blood courses through the body by means of the arteries and veins."

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PACKET AND NEWSPAPER SORTING.

The east-end of the Great Hall is devoted to the display of telegraphic apparatus. This exhibit comprises specimens of almost every known form of telegraph instrument. It may be divided into two classes, those of historical interest—showing the earliest inventions of Wheatstone and Cooke, with subsequent improvements by them, together with the productions of rival inventors—and the working apparatus of all kinds as actually now used in carrying on the telegraphic intercourse of the country. Close to the

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GROUP OF POSTMEN OF THE PAST FIFTY YEARS.

entrance two model telegraph-poles have been erected for the purpose of illustrating the ancient and modern methods of insulating aerial lines. The first pole supports no fewer than sixteen cross-arms formerly in use, but now discarded in favour of more effective means. They include a lip insulator with a zinc cap in use about 1850, several specimens of glass insulators, Walker's double cone device, an obolite insulator, and a few made of earthenware. The other pole is equipped with specimens of insulators for aerial lines

telegraphs of the Cook and Wheatstone type. One dated 1838 is fitted with four needles. In this instrument some of the letters are indicated by the combination of two needles, while other letters are indicated by the deflection of one needle only. Four-line wires are required, and the signals are transmitted by the simultaneous depression of two out of ten finger keys. Another instrument dated 1844 is fitted with crutch handles and supplied with two needles. Two line wires are used, and letters indi-



"CITY PRESS" REPORTERS AND SPECIAL WIRE TO "CITY PRESS" OFFICE.

of two electro-magnetic bobbins placed side by side, their ends being furnished with pole pieces turned inward. Other instruments shown in this division include Hensley's magneto-electric needle, Cooke and Wheatstone's A B C telegraph receiver, several Cooke and Wheatstone's A B C transmitters, Siemens' A B C transmitter, 1858, a Morse embosser, and Wheatstone's automatic telegraph transmitter. In this last apparatus, the transmission of the electrical current is regulated by the action of three vertical rods, which are caused to move up and down by the rotation of a wheel worked by hand. A slip of paper punched with holes corresponding to the signals to be transmitted passes over the upper end of the rod and through it the ends of the rods can pass. Near this exhibit are two old forms of Wheatstone's automatic telegraph receiver and also a telegraphic puncher.

Coming now to the modern apparatus at work, there is seen opposite to the entrance a pneumatic tube as used for sending messages from a counter in the post office to an instrument or to another room where the rooms are situated apart from each other. The messages in bulk are forced through the brass tube by air power, and are received in the cage as shown.

Near at hand is a model telephone exchange, with a handsomely-fitted Gower-Bell loud speaking telephone. The next stand contains an exhibit illustrating the working and mechanism of Presser's railway block system. Diagrams of the down and up signals are shown on the operator's instrument. Two levers are provided to turn "off," and switches are placed in front to "open" or "close" the line. In the same annex are shown the multiplex system of transmitting six messages over one wire at the same time as working to Birmingham, and the Hughes' type-printing telegraph. The Hughes' machine is mainly mechanical, the electrical action being confined to sending a single short pulsation of current at the instant the type wheel is in the proper position. Only one wire of current is needed to produce a letter. The transmitter and receiver are combined in one apparatus. The signals are dispatched by working keys similar in appearance to those of a piano. This instrument is extensively used for continental messages, for which it is especially suitable. Several forms of acoustic or "sounder" telegraphs are shown. These machines are widely used, and over long distances. A special exhibit is made of the Wheatstone automatic system, so largely used for press telegrams. The message has first to be prepared on a slip of paper. This takes the form of performing the Morse characters along the slip. The slip is next passed on to the transmitter, and the message is received at the distant station in the ordinary dots and dashes of the Morse code. Enormous speed may be obtained with this instrument ranging from 100 to 400 per minute in the hands of the Post Office, and a speed of over 600 words per minute has been obtained between London and Bristol. To illustrate the connexion of the Press with the telegraph, an apparatus is arranged showing a complete news circuit. It consists of a transmitting instrument and three receivers, representing offices, say, in London (sending office), Newcastle, Edinburgh, and Glasgow (receiving offices). A practical exposition of this system is also intended. Along the farthest stand are placed cases containing specimens of different submarine cables. The most interesting is the piece of the first cable laid between Dover and Calais in 1850. The gutta-percha was not protected. It was sunk by means of lead weights attached at intervals throughout its length. The cable worked for one day only, and the specimen shown was picked up in 1875. A portion is also shown of the first sheathed submarine cable laid between Dover and Calais the year after the laying of the before-mentioned failure. Other specimens include portions of the seven-wire Irish cable, and of the first cable to Holland. In connexion with the cables is shown a piece of rock removed from a cable off Portland. The groove shows the outline of the sheathing of the cable, and has probably been cut into the rock by the continued friction of the cable. Portions of aerial wires fused by lightning are also shown, together with the old and new methods of making joints in the air lines. The Exchange Telegraph Company show one of their recently-invented column printing telegraph, with transmitter and receiver in operation. Probably outside telegraphy strictly speaking, but included in the hall, is a model electric locomotive, lent by the North London Railway Company.

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SORTING PROCESS.]

trative of the new obsolete features of mail carriages before the introduction of railways. A strong sentiment, for which our novelists are largely responsible, still exists for the old mail coach, and it must be admitted that these views suggest a pity—especially in travel by high roads, which is sadly lacking in journeying by rail. The starting of the Royal mail coaches, the scenes at the relay stations, the adventures of the road, midnight travel—these and many more, here brought together in profusion, present a singularly vivid ensemble of the varied experiences of those whose lot it was to travel by mail coach, when they travelled at all, at the not very exhilarating rate of two miles an hour, though even that was considered a marvel of speed when macadamized roads first enabled it to be done, in the earlier part of this century.

These pictures exhibit, we should say, about every form which the mail-coach has taken, and by arranging them in chronological order a fairly true view of the evolution of the modern mail-coach could be



ANALYSIS OF THE LONDON TO EDINBURGH MAIL, 2ND MARCH, 1838.

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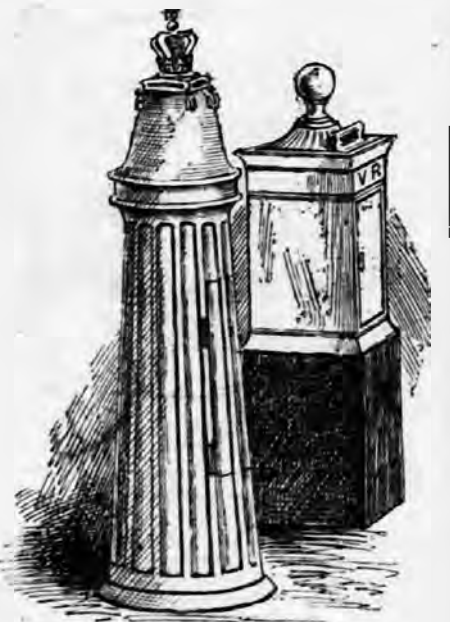


it seems, has not escaped the honour paid to most distinguished persons and institutions in having been the victim of the joint muse and musical composer, though the song here shown entitled "The Post Office," is that doubtful honour bestowed by the comic poet and his sympathetic collaborator. It appears to have been composed by Mr. J. Sanderson, written by Mr. Lawler, and published by Messrs. Munro and May, Holborn Bars, but bears no date, though it is placed at about the year 1840.

Those who are most interested in the curiosities of Post Office working will linger over the books of curious addresses (33 and 311), the envelope of the letter (94) which was twelve long years in reaching its destination; the print of the dumplings (148) which was entrusted to the tender mercies of the post; the time-bill of the London and Edinburgh mail coach (181), which made the journey in 42 hours in 1836; the nest of the tom-tit that was built inside a letter-box, and the famous bird itself, now preserved in a glass case (213); a copy of the second edition of the Post Office

Directory issued in 1801, in which it is stated that 5,000 copies of the first issue had been sold; Mr. Pasch's cartoon, representing Britannia crowning Sir Rowland Hill with a wreath of laurel, and Pasch's famous joke thereon, in which he applauds Sir Rowland's act of sticking on the head of a good Queen as more meritorious than Cromwell's cutting off the head of a bad king.

Another case on the north side of the gallery contains a particularly interesting collection of objects. Among them is the original Treasury warrant for regulating the rates of postage (245) dated November 22nd, 1839, and signed by Lord Melbourne, Sir F. Baring and Mr. Tuffnell. This warrant directed that all letters should, after December 5th, be charged by weight, and not according to sheets of paper or enclosures, which calls attention to the practice formerly prevailing, when even the use of an envelope or cover doubled the postage on the letter, and two enclosures required treble postage. The previous rates, high though they were, only carried a single sheet of paper, which gave rise to the use of the large square sheets, folded in four, and then secured with a seal, the direction being written on the letter back. The introduction of the gummed envelope is comparatively modern, but the first envelopes were invariably sealed with wax, and the use of wafers is well within the memory of men still young. The water-seal was the first which required moistening before use; and it is possible to understand, if not to sympathise with, the towering indignation of a gentleman of the old



OLD PILLAR BOXES.

school, when he first received a letter thus sealed. "What does the fellow mean," he exclaimed, "by sending me a letter licked with his own spittle!"

In the same case which encloses the Treasury warrant referred to is a diary of Sir Rowland Hill. It is opened at a page on which appears the following significant entry: "January 10. Rose at 8.30. Penny postage extended to the whole kingdom this day. Very able articles on the subject in the *Chron.*, *Advertiser*, and *Globe*."

Thus modestly did the originator of the penny post record the accomplishment of his task, but we can imagine that he had looked forward to this tenth day of January with an emotion which, if it finds no expression in his diary, was not the less real and intense. Something of the anxiety which he must have felt as to the ultimate success of his scheme, how great his confidence in it was, is shadowed in the preceding entry, which deals with the then recent rapid increase in the number of letters posted in the United Kingdom. An illuminated copy of the resolution presenting the freedom of the City of London to Sir Rowland Hill, forms another interesting object in the same case.

It is consonant with this Jubilee celebration that very much of the documentary and printed matter embraced in the collection should bear upon the introduction of penny postage, its inception, the literature of the subject, Treasury and Post Office Minutes, Royal proclamations, instructions to officials and servants of the department, and explanatory matter, officially issued for the information of the public.

The curious in such matters will find in the several cases devoted to this branch of the subject abundant matter to arrest attention and reward scrutiny. Besides the collections furnished by the Government, many private possessors of curious fragments bearing upon the history of the Reform have sent their possessions to swell the lists of exhibits, and there can be no doubt but that the present collection is, at least in this feature, the most complete that has been, or for a long time will be, gathered together.

In this connection a very fine portrait in oils of Sir Rowland Hill, painted by J. A. Vintner, should be mentioned. It hangs near the centre of the north wall of the art gallery. A fine, strong, intellectual face; the head well set on an apparently robust body; just the type of man to carry a reform stoutly and yet with fine forbearance and patience, through to the end, if he had not his heart upon it; a man to meet obstacles unflinchingly, to turn them aside graciously, if possible, but to trample them aside as he would. It is a peculiarly English face in features and complexion, and few who realize what benefits he conferred by his far-sighted intuition and judgment and self-confidence and persistence, will pass this portrait by without an upward acknowledgment of the debt we owe him.

were issued to the letter carriers and others in the employ of the Post Office in April, 1848, during the prevalence of the Chartist riots.

Curious, too, is an original ball (47) as used even so late as 1840 by the ballmen who collected letters. From the itinerant's bellman to the pillar-box it involves a reconstruction of street scenes as striking as the growth of correspondence which has crowded the former out of existence as an altogether obsolete and inadequate piece of machinery. A battered post-horn, which saw service in the earlier years of this century, has also been preserved and contributed by a private collector to the Exhibition; and a postman's leather pouch (146), used in 1837, is equally interesting by way of comparison.

One of the most attractive features in these old prints of the mail-coach days, especially to the Londoner, is the series of glimpses many of them afford of the appearance of old London streets and buildings, as, for example, the views of the Bull and Mouth Inn, with exterior and interior, at St. Martin's-le-Grand, with the despatch of the mails; the Bull and Mouth, Regent-circus, Piccadilly, and the Brighton Coach; the "Peacock" at Islington, with the North-country mails; and others which are scattered here and there on the walls of the room.

Deserving of special note as a grimly humorous illustration of the abuse of the franking system is one view of the Edinburgh coach, of which an illustration will be found in our columns. This coach is represented as bearing 354 lb. of postal matter, but note the disproportion between the quantities and weights which go free and those which pay postage. Of newspapers, there is a parcel of 2,490, weighing 273 lb., which pay nothing. There are 454 franked letters, weighing 47 lb., and these go free. As a set-off we have from the general public 1,555 letters, weighing but 34 lb., and paying the sum of £93 in postage. What a commentary upon the system which came to an end with the advent of the days this jubilee anniversary so fitly celebrates! The 1,555 letters, which averaged less than half an ounce in weight, paid an average of upwards of a shilling each.

Fashions in uniforms, if not quite so ephemeral as those which regulate the ordinary attire of civilians, evidently change from time to time, and a water-colour drawing, exhibiting eleven different styles of uniforms for postmen, will be scanned with as much amusement as interest. These uniforms all belong to the last fifty years, and do not represent among them that now worn by postmen, so that the average duration of any one style of dress is but little more than four years. Another, and earlier fashion, is shown in the sketch (200) of the postman (but one was required for the work) of Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1824, who is represented in a tall hat of remarkable proportions, and in the act of delivering a letter at the open door of a residence.

Two small pictures, which will be found in the cases, illustrate phases of post offices working that always have an attraction for the public. One is a drawing, and represents six gentlemen bending above a table, whereas the contents of a "dangerous parcel" in the Returned Letter Office. In this case the "dangerous parcel" appears to have contained nothing more perilous than a collection of forbidding looking crustaceans, which invite to biological and, possibly, to piscatory studies. Post office officials, we may presume, are not above enjoying the pleasures of a lobster salad, even though the post is the fishing ground. Much more delectable, however, is the view given us in a small photograph of the "Returned Letter Office Larder" at Christmas time. Here is a display of game and poultry which would do credit to any poulterer's shop. What becomes of these returned delicacies? and how comes it that those for whom they were intended have departed like an Arab who folds his tents in the night time and leaves no trace behind him?

The omissions, mistakes, and blunders of every sort which make a large part of the business of the returned letter office, are often amusing as well as perplexing. Large sums of money are frequently sent under cover, upon which the sender has failed to put any address whatever. Curious addresses are by no means uncommon, and the greatest ingenuity is often displayed in deciphering some of the more remarkable specimens of ill-spelled and ignorantly-written addresses. Who, for example, but a trained hand at the business would have ever discovered that

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The Old Oak Orchard,
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One gentleman—or could it have been a lady?—who was in grave doubt as to an address, and was resolved not to be balked by any lack of knowledge on the part of the Post Office authorities, wrote the following instructions upon the envelope:

"For a gentleman residing in a street out of the road, London. He is a shopkeeper, sells newspapers and periodicals to the trade, and supplies hawkers and others with cheap prints, some of which are sold by men in the street. He has for years bought the waste of the *Illustrated*—, their prints printed in colours particularly. He is well known in the locality—being wholesale. Postman will oblige if he can find this.

The letter was delivered.

These curiosities of the office lead us by a natural connexion to those remarkable evidences of childlike confidence of the ability of the postal department to furnish all sorts of information, much as though it had the power of omniscience. Long-lost relatives appear to be, in the minds of some simple folk, always within the eye of the Postmaster-General and his subordinates, as witness the following naive requests:—

"I write to ask you some information about persons that are missing. I want to find out my mother and sisters who are in Melbourne, in Australia, I believe—

folded and stamped, with the address written on the back, and thus consigned without cover to the care of the post. Undoubtedly the smallest letter ever sent was one written on the back of a penny stamp. The stamp bearing its message was then dropped in the letter box, and got safely to its destination.

We are familiar enough with some of the abuses launched at the Post Office in a more or less public way, but the isolated complaints, threats, anathemas, which are hurled by private in-

dividuals with real or fancied grievances, no one hears of outside the department. They are neither few nor always framed in very courteous form, however. One or two specimens of this class are worth giving as examples. One individual, who seems to have had a previous tussle with the authorities, wrote:—

"I got no redress before, but I trust I shall on this occasion; or else there must be something rotten in the State of Denmark. Judas Iscariot was a thief, authorities have no other genuine basis than in the fancies or vagrant humours of those who make them. A capital illustration of this truth is afforded in the account given by Mr. Anthony Trollope of a bit of his own experience. The complaint came from a gentleman in County Cavan, who conceived himself, to judge by his letters, most grievously injured by some postal arrangement. Trollope was sent to have a personal interview and appease the old gentleman's wrath, if possible. He arrived at the squire's country



PARCEL SORTING.

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STAMPING BY HAND AND BY "PIERSON HILL" MACHINE.

and carried the bag, and it will be a pity and a great scandal if he has found a successor in some branch of the Post Office."

And another shows a very inflamed state of mind on the subject of a bullfinch: "Not having received the live bullfinch mentioned by you as having arrived at the Returned Letter Office two days ago, having been posted as a letter contrary to the regulations of the postal system, I now write to ask you to have the bird fed, and forwarded at once

seat on a jaunting car, wet through and chilled to the bone. We will let Mr. Trollope describe his reception in his own words: "I was admitted by a butler, but the gentleman himself hurried into the hall. I at once began to explain my business. 'God bless me!' he said, 'you are wet through. John, get Mr. Trollope some brandy and water—very hot!' I was beginning my story about the post again, when he himself took off my coat, and suggested that I should go up to my bedroom before I troubled myself with business.

"Bed-room!" I exclaimed. Then he assured me that he would not turn a dog out on such a night as that, and into a bed-room I was shown, having first drunk the brandy and water standing at the drawing-room fire. When I came down I was introduced to his daughter, and the three of us went into dinner. I shall never forget his righteous indignation when I again brought up the postal question on the departure of the young lady. Was I such a Goth as to contaminate wine with business! So I drank my wine, and then heard the young lady sing, while her father slept in his arm-chair. I spent a very pleasant evening, but my host was too sleepy to hear anything about the Post Office that night. It was absolutely necessary that I should go away the next morning after breakfast, and he explained that the matter must be discussed then. He shook his head and wrung his hands in unmitigable disgust—almost in despair. "But what am I to say in my report?" I asked. "Anything you please," he said. "Don't spare me if you want an excuse for yourself. Here I sit all day with nothing to do, and I like writing letters!" I did report that he was now quite satisfied with the postal arrangements of the district; and I felt a soft regret that I should have robbed my friend of his occupation."

Scattered throughout the larger gallery and in the two small rooms reached by the stairs, are numerous models of mail steamers, some of great size, and all most beautifully made and finished. The largest of all the models is that of the "Umbria" and "Etruria," of the Cunard Line, which stands in the entrance lobby to the Guildhall, but scarcely inferior in size is the splendid model of the "Oceania," of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, which stands in the centre of the large Art Gallery. This ship is 465 ft. long, 62 ft. broad, and 34 ft. deep, and contrasted with these proportions is a model close by of the packet "William Fawcett," the first vessel employed in the Contract Mail Service to the Peninsular ports in 1837. She was a paddle-wheel steamer, and her dimensions were 74 ft. 3 in. by 15 ft. 1 in. by 8 ft. 4 in., with a tonnage of 208, and developing 60 horse-power; whereas the "Oceania" has a tonnage of 6,382, and her engines a capacity of 7,000 h.p. Other models of steamers are those of the "Ireland," the City of Dublin Company's Royal Mail steamer, built by Messrs. Laird Brothers, and one of the "Scotia," belonging to the British and North America Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. From the South Kensington Museum comes a working model of Crampton's engine and a beautiful model of the marine steam boiler. A very curious model is that of a Red Sea Dhow, from the same collection.

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Besides this very modern development of the postal service, the room we are now in is almost entirely devoted to exemplifying in models, pictures, and full-size structures, the highest advance in the direction of saving time in the distribution of postal matter. We

iron and wood, and this supports a network of rope stretched with chains. A wrought-iron frame attached to the side of the railway carriage supports a tractor and a delivery arm. The stout mail-bag, filled with its complement of letters, is hung upon the delivery arm, and, as the train flies past the network we have already described, the bag is unhooked by the contact, tumbles into the net, whence it is removed, and taken to the local post-office. The delivery arm is then automatically returned to an upright position. The operation thus described is exactly reversed in the process of collecting the mail bags. An iron standard is erected by the side of the



A POST-OFFICE IN 1790.

line. This is furnished with delivery arms, the counterpart of those used in the postal cars. Nets supported by iron frames stoutly secured to the side of the carriage are thrown out as the delivery station is approached and the suspended bags are caught, detached by the contact, and safely landed in the net, whence they are removed, opened, and their contents arranged, sorted, fresh mail bags made up, and so the operation continues until the journey's end is reached and the last bags despatched to their destination. This mechanical collection and delivery can be safely made at any speed up to 75 miles an



THE MULREADY ENVELOPE, 1840.

hour, and at a trial recently carried out with all the improved appliances a train was run four miles in 3 minutes 37 seconds and collected four packages, each weighing 55 lbs. In fact it is rare that a bag is missed or dropped.

Improvements are being made from time to time in the details of the mechanism employed, the latest being in the construction of the tractor which supports the delivery arm where the strain chiefly comes. The newest system is being gradually introduced on all lines in the United Kingdom. A small model is shown of the style of net used for many years before the adoption of the present one. It will be noticed that the net work of ropes was so arranged as to allow the bag to fall to the ground. In wet weather this was objectionable, and at all times the wear and tear of the bag was greatly increased by that cause. The modern net does not permit the bags to touch the ground.

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OLD PILLAR BOXES.

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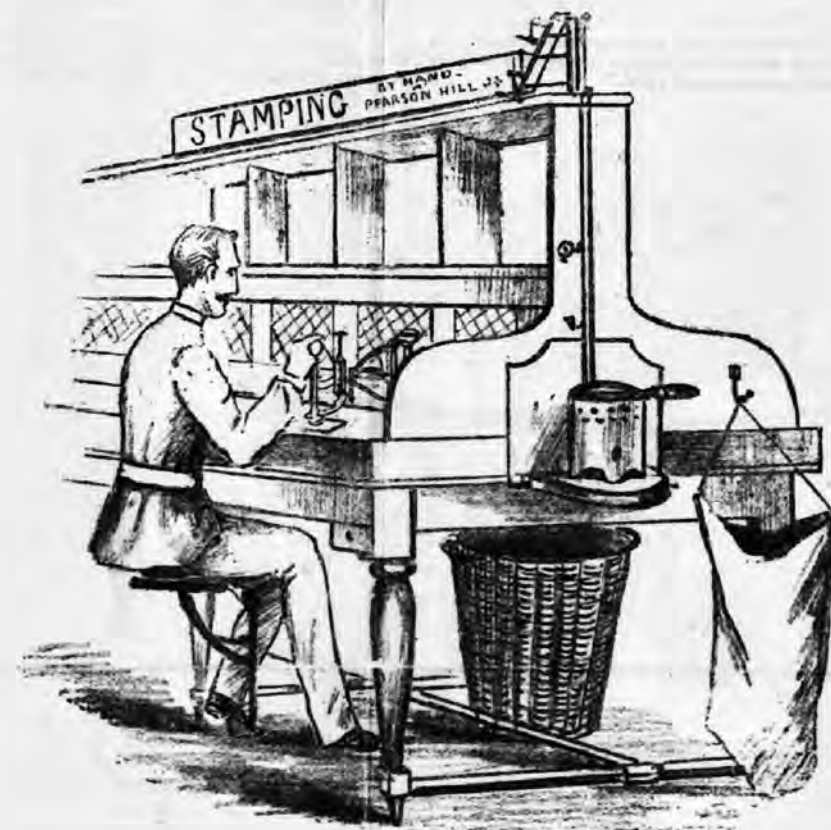


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POSTAGE ONE PENNY.

THE MURKHEAD ENVELOPE, 1840.

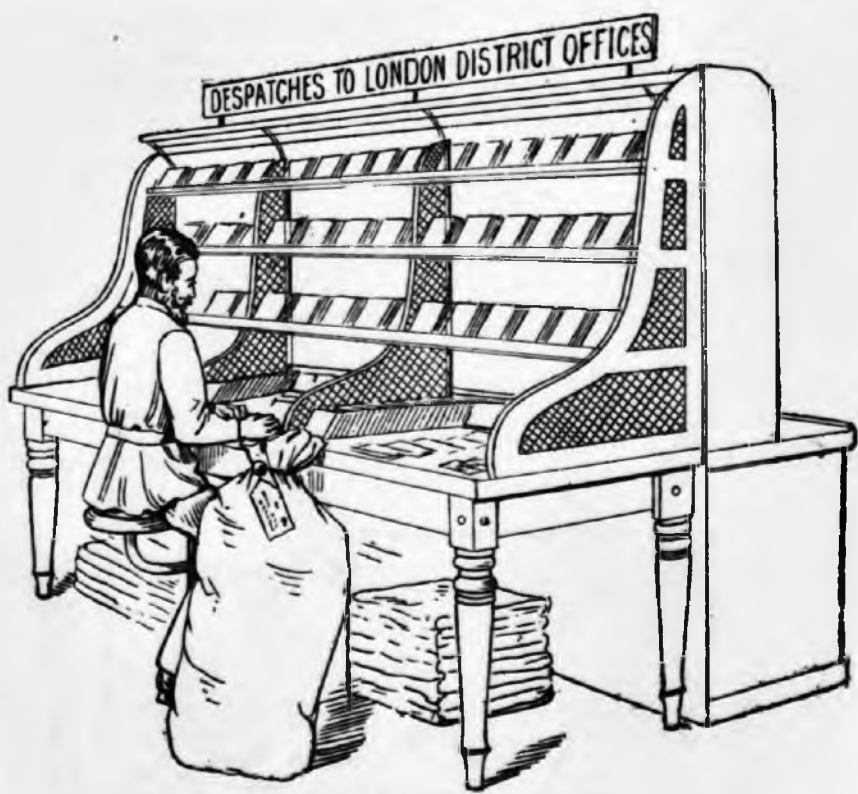
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Now let us turn to the model postal carriages on the other side of the room. These models are constructed on a scale of three inches to the foot, and through the open doorways it is easy to see their internal construction. The sides are lined with boxes labelled with the names of towns and postal districts, and here sorting goes on all the night long, while the train is rushing on its way to the north. The postal train is in itself a marvellous instrument for economizing time, and, even if stops had to be made to deliver the bags made up for different points and collect those which contained matter for points still further ahead, it would be esteemed an invaluable adjunct to the rapid working of the department. But what is no doubt the most interesting feature has yet to be noticed. This is the apparatus for collecting and delivering the letter bags while the train is in motion. This apparatus is shown in full size, and a small working model, constructed on a scale of one inch to the foot, is also displayed. Briefly, the appliances consist of a net and a hook, or support, for the bag to be caught. Beside the line is constructed a stout framework of

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Such is, in brief, the travelling post office and way-side delivery system of 1890, and we may very fully conclude this review of the postal advances of fifty years by comparing the present mode of operations with that shown in one of the coloured prints hanging on the walls of the large gallery below. The mail-coach is represented as rattling through the deserted streets of a sleeping village. Dawn seems to be just breaking along the sky line in the distance, and one of the box passengers is stretching his arms and yawning after the broken slumbers of the night. The coach is just passing the village post office, and the postman, in nightcap and robe, is handing out of an upper window a meagre-looking post bag to the guard.



DESPATCHES TO LONDON DISTRICT OFFICES.

In still other cases arranged around the sides of the art galleries we find abundant evidence of the perils of the road in the times of the post courier and the mail coach. A pair of flint pistols (43), carried by the guard of the mail coach running between Clapham and Lancaster in 1835; a blunderbuss (46) used by a guard in about the year 1780, and another (48), which belongs to a much later time, 1830, are fair specimens of the uncouth weapons with which the carriers of the Royal mails occasionally had to fight their way over lonely moors and along forest roads, to the no small peril and discomfort of their passengers. Even now the guards to parcel coaches require to be well armed, as witness the revolver (50) and the sword-bayonet (51), which form the defensive weapons of to-day. Comparing this modern sword-bayonet with the entrenching tool (45) used by a mail coach guard in 1800, we are able to say that, though humanity is still unpurged of its dangerous classes, we are able to arm our protectors rather more efficiently than our ancestors 90 years ago. A curious survival from a theft perpetrated upon a post-boy running between Selby and York, which occurred in 1790, is the mail-bag (158) of which he was robbed. It was found in 1870, hidden away in the roof of an old public-house, when the latter was pulled down to make room for improvements. One would like to devour that old leather bag with a tongue and other vocal organs, and get its story. As an evidence of specially perilous times, we are shown an ugly-looking bludgeon or baton, such as

if you would find them out for me please let me know by return of post, and also your charge at the lowest." "We heard in the paper about 12 or 14 months back Mary Ann—, the servant girl at London was dead. Please send it to the Printer's office by return of post, whether there was a small fortune left for —"

Others appear to have regarded the post-office as a general inquiry or detection department. And among letters asking for information of this sort the following may be cited as a fair illustration:—"I have just been hearing of 3 men that was drowned about 9 months ago. I hear there was one of the men went under the name of John— Could the manager of the office give any particulars about that man,—what he was like, or if there was such a name, or if he had any friend. He just went missing about that time. I here enclose a stamp and address to —"

Of the attempts made by the unscrupulous to defraud the Post-Office in one way or another volume might be written, but the most curious of these attempts are those which seek to avoid the payment of proper charges for articles of value by concealing them in the folds of newspapers, books, and the like. Loose gold pieces are occasionally found thus enclosed in a newspaper, or a hole is cut in the leaves of a book, valuable jewellery inserted therein, and then sent for a small rate, in the hope of escaping the vigilance of the Office. Perhaps the most valuable open letter ever sent was a five-pound note, simply

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EXHIBITORS OF THE FINEST	Healtheries 1884
NEW ZEALAND	Colonian and Indian 1886
MUTTON AND LAMB	Liverpool 1886
AT 4 EXHIBITIONS.	Newcastle-on-Tyne .. 1887

BEST ENGLISH, SCOTCH, AND AMERICAN BEEF.
BEST ENGLISH, SCOTCH, AND NEW ZEALAND MUTTON.

THIS evening a conversation will be held at the Guildhall, in celebration of the Penny Postage Jubilee, exactly half-a-century having elapsed since the Legislature and Government of this country adopted Mr. ROWLAND HILL's scheme for delivering letters in any part of the United Kingdom at a uniform postal rate of one penny. During the celebration of this memorable anniversary, which will be continued to-morrow and Monday, the ancient palace of our Municipality will be in part converted for the nonce into a working post office, affording all the latest facilities of postal and telegraphic communication to any one who may desire to avail himself of them. From the establishment organised in the north-west corner of the venerable hall—which will for the three days of the Jubilee fêtes bear the title of "The Guildhall Post Office"—it will be possible to despatch letters, telegrams, and post-cards to any part of the world. At this temporary district office all the branches of the postal system will be practically illustrated by the actual transaction of business, including the sale of stamps and post-cards, the issue of money orders, life assurance policies, and savings-bank deposit books, and, we believe, the expedition of newspapers and parcels, as well as of ordinary correspondence. A special post-card, purchasable singly or in packets, has been prepared for the occasion, and may be posted "on the premises." Large mail vehicles, of the newest approved pattern, will stand duly horsed, with lamps alight, in and near Guildhall-yard. The Royal Mail parcel coach will leave Guildhall for Brighton at nine p.m., carrying mails made up in the hall itself. Postmen and telegraph boys in full uniform will line either side of the corridor leading from the chief entrance to the stately banqueting-room, in which some five hundred exhibits will be displayed, exemplifying the various developments that have accrued in the Post Office Department during the past fifty years. These developments will be described and explained in a "catalogue raisonné" specially prepared for the use of the Committee's guests, and attached to a pamphlet containing a popular account—historical and statistical—of the Department. The objects in question, practically constituting a "Post Office Exhibition," organised under official auspices, will be inspected this evening by the Prince of WALES, who will also be present at a concert given by the Post Office Choir. It is announced that musical entertainments of a similar character will figure conspicuously among the attractions of the Penny Postage Jubilee celebrations during the afternoons and evenings of to-morrow and Monday next.

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The achievement thus receiving public commemoration at the Guildhall was one of the most important and useful reforms ever effected by human ingenuity and national enterprise. Its results have been productive of incalculable benefits, not only to the inhabitants of the country in which penny postage took its rise, but to mankind at large. At the time of Queen VICTORIA's accession to the throne, shortly after which ROWLAND HILL published his memorable pamphlet on "Post Office Reform," no precise account existed of the number of letters annually transmitted through the General Post Office. From the data of the London district post, however, and from the returns of sums collected for postage, it was roughly estimated that about ninety-six millions of letters—over seven millions of which were "franks," delivered free of charge—had been posted during the previous year, 1836, with a profit to the State Exchequer of nearly sixteen hundred thousand pounds sterling, the total cost of management and distribution being a trifle under seven hundred thousand pounds. The net revenue derived from this branch of the public service had then been practically stationary for some twenty-two years, its amount, indeed, in 1815 exceeding that of 1836 by two thousand and odd pounds. At the latter date the rates of postage imposed beyond the limits of the London district varied between fourpence and one shilling and eightpence for a single letter written upon one piece of paper not exceeding an ounce in weight, the addition of a second sheet of paper or an enclosure, however small—such as a ticket or visiting-card—constituting a double letter. The single letter, if at all exceeding an ounce in weight, was charged with fourfold postage, and the average impost upon inland General Post letters amounted to ninepence a-piece. These charges were prohibitive to the poor, as far as epistolary correspondence was concerned, and vexatiously restrictive to the lower middle classes. Franks—that is to say, signatures of Members of Parliament and official personages entitled to enjoy exemption from postal charges on the condition of inscribing their autographs on the heads of their letters—were eagerly sought for

by persons who deemed it no wrong to defraud the revenue, and a large traffic—at once dishonest and demoralising—was carried on in these privileged endorsements. Travellers by stage-coach to remote provincial towns were pestered by their friends, acquaintances, and dependents to carry and deliver London letters, and vice versa, thus evading the statutory postage-payments. At that time the conveyance of a letter—to Edinburgh, let us say—while occupying at least forty-six hours, cost twenty-five per cent. more than the fee at present demanded for transmitting a telegram to the Scottish capital in four or five minutes. ROWLAND HILL's proposal to obviate all these inconveniences and malpractices by reducing the primary charge for distribution of letters in every post town of the United Kingdom to one penny per half-ounce, and to issue stamped covers at a price including that postage—thus collected in advance of delivery—was received by the trading community, and even by the general public, with great favour. The chief Post Office functionaries denounced it as ruinous, and held it up to ridicule as visionary. Speaking on the subject of HILL's scheme, from his place in the House of Peers, Lord LICHFIELD, then Postmaster-General, deemed himself justified in applying to it the terms "absurd and impracticable." Its adoption was, nevertheless, strongly recommended by a Select Committee of the Lower House, and was carried by a large majority during the following Parliamentary Session.

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In January, 1840, the uniform penny rate came into operation throughout these islands, and Parliamentary franking was abolished. Four months later adhesive postage stamps, the invention of Mr. JAMES CHALMERS, a Dundee printer, were introduced, and found so ready a sale that supply was at first unable to meet the demand. It is an interesting fact that of these "labels"—which were not separable by perforation until 1853—over fifty thousand millions have been printed and issued in this country alone between May 1, 1840, and the present time. Within ten years of the birth of penny postage the number of letters annually delivered by "the Department" had considerably more than tripled itself, and is now estimated, we believe, at between sixteen and seventeen hundred millions—exclusive of postcards, book-packets, and newspapers, to the number of some six hundred additional millions—for the current year. The General Post Office, under its present system of organisation, employs over a hundred thousand persons, twenty-two thousand of whom are females, and has about seventeen thousand post offices under its control; it has, moreover, established a like number of street and road "receiving-boxes," including the scarlet pillars that adorn our thoroughfares in convenient profusion. In its capacity as a savings-bank, it is the custodian of some fifty millions of public money, yielding an income of a million and a quarter sterling, chiefly to the operative classes, in whom the virtue of thrift has been greatly encouraged and stimulated by this admirable institution. It does an enormous business in money orders and postal orders, receiving and paying over thirty millions of pounds per annum. For more than twenty years it has exercised the exclusive right of public telegraphy in the United Kingdom, and within that period has reduced the charges of transmission to less than a third of their former rates, doubled the number of telegraph offices, and more than quadrupled that of the messages carried over its wires. These developments may fairly be said to have grown out of ROWLAND HILL's penny postage, which itself, by facilitating every sort of communication connected with business, has imparted an extraordinary stimulus to the transactions of commerce, with infinite advantage to the industry and surprising increments to the general revenue of this country. It is to be hoped that Englishmen of the present generation who may participate in the "Penny Postage Jubilee Celebration" at Guildhall will accord due meed of grateful remembrance to the eminent patriot and distinguished public servant, in recognition of whose unparalleled services Mr. GLADSTONE, a few months before he left the Post Office, wrote the following generous words: "He stands pre-eminent and alone among all the members of the Civil Service as a benefactor to the nation."

The inland penny post has become so thoroughly familiar to us, it plays so essential a part in the transactions of every-day life, that it is not easy to realize in imagination the state of things that existed before its establishment or that would now follow from its loss. We have almost come to regard it as working by a natural law, as certain in its operation as that which regulates the order of the seasons or the alternations of day and night. The Guildhall Postal Jubilee of last week reminds us of what comparatively recent growth it has in point of fact been. If we turn back in thought for a little more than a bare fifty years, we find ourselves at a time when the inland penny post was unknown in use, and was no more as yet than an untried project mistrusted and condemned in advance by the Post Office official staff. It is well, as they are now acknowledging, that this unfavourable judgment and these gloomy forebodings were not suffered to prevail. The scheme was tried, and, as they themselves are foremost in demonstrating, it has been more than justified by the event. In old days, with an average postal charge of 9d. for inland letters, there were some 75,000,000 letters and packets passing through the Post Office in the course of the year. The number has now risen to more than two thousand million, and the net revenue of the office has increased at the same time to considerably more than double what it was previously. It seemed indeed for awhile as if the prophets of evil had been in the right. The head acting administrator of the Office, COLONEL MADERLY, in his evidence before the Postal Committee of 1843, referred with unshaken confidence to the verdict which he had pronounced before the new scheme was tried, and declared that after the first week of trial it had become evident to him that it must fail. So things went on for a time, the business of the Post Office steadily increasing year after year, until at length it had reached dimensions which put the enemies of the new system to silence, and drove them finally into the opposite camp.

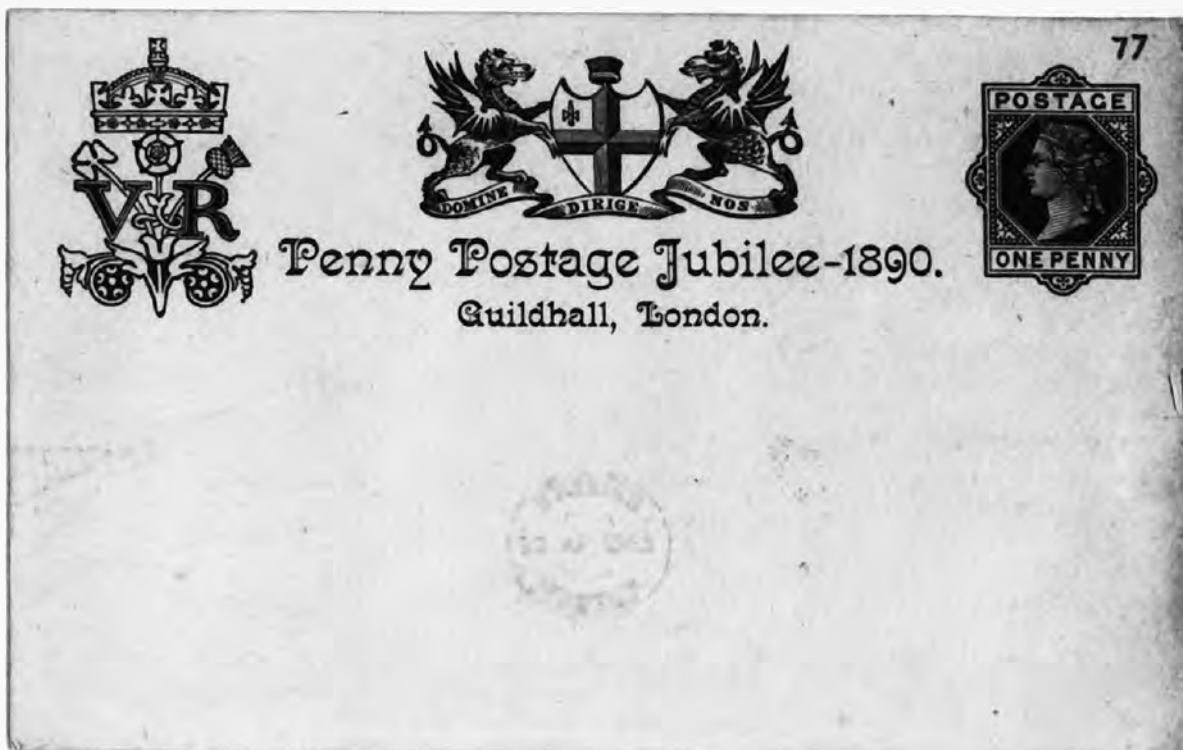
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The establishment of the inland penny post was not the only important change started in 1840. The use of stamped covers and envelopes had been of somewhat earlier date. It was not until May 1, 1840, that adhesive stamps were introduced. The demand for these was at once so great that the stamp office was unable to meet it, and they have kept their place since in general favour. Very different was the fate of the MULREADY envelope, with its curious allegorical design, which was introduced at the same time. For the first day or two this sold well, but the sale soon fell off, and before long came almost to an end. The refusal of the public to purchase it was so complete as, in SIR ROWLAND HILL's words, to necessitate the destruction of nearly all the vast number prepared for issue. The MULREADY envelope has had its revenge since. Stamp collectors at the present day would gladly purchase for pounds what was once unsaleable at a penny. Not unlike this has been the restoration of the old stage coach to a popularity sentimental for the most part. In 1840, as the proceedings at the Jubilee remind us, it was the regular form of conveyance for letters and for passengers. It is confined now almost entirely to the latter use. The appearance on Friday of the Brighton mail, charged with its old freight of letters and parcels and signalling its departure by the blasts from the guard's horn, may have reminded some of the spectators of sights and sounds familiar to them in far-off days. To the great majority of the crowd it can have been only a realistic show, as little connected with the facts of every day life as the old armour in the Tower of London or the flint utensils from the drift.

We have no space to refer at length to the successive improvements in our postal system since 1840, or to the many and multifarious services with which the modern Post Office has been charged, and which it performs well and creditably. When we look to the future, we see cause for trust that in more directions than one there will be good progress made, and that possibly fifty years hence the year 1890 will have a jubilee commemoration claimed for it. The International Telegraph Conference just opened at Paris may be expected to result in the cheapening and improvement of one form of communication which is growing both in importance and in use, and in the arrangements of which there remains much yet to be done to satisfy the public demand. We can speak with more certainty of the new postal tariff between the United Kingdom and the colonies. The reduction of charge to the uniform rate of 2½d. has been practically obtained after a long struggle, and in spite of protestations very similar to those uttered in 1840 against SIR ROWLAND

HILL's scheme, and doomed, we trust, to be no less signally falsified. But the doubt comes in here whether this is a final reduction, an irreducible *minimum* below which the Post Office will not go. The letter which we publish this morning from MR. HENNIKER HEATON is in the old strain of discontent. Its view seems to be that in the matter of communication with the colonies, nothing is done as long as anything remains to be done, and that no gratitude is due for anything short of Imperial penny postage. MR. HENNIKER HEATON repeats this morning his arguments for a change which he has long and persistently advocated. His trust, however, is not in the Post Office, but in Parliament. If he can but obtain a Select Committee to consider his plan, he is confident what their report will be. But we must remind him that, under reduced postal charges, the experience of the next few years will do much either to establish his case or to overturn it. If they bring, as we expect, a marked increase in the postal deliveries between this country and the colonies, there will be more reason than ever for assuming that a further reduction will be followed by a further increase. The amount at stake is, in any event, not large. The POSTMASTER-GENERAL puts it at £75,000, MR. HENNIKER HEATON at £45,000, and this only for the first year. An Imperial penny postage may be thought cheap at either sum. But we observe that MR. HENNIKER HEATON professes now to be writing in the interest of the inhabitants of the three kingdoms. The colonies wish for the change, but they wish England to take the lead. We should prefer to discover signs of a simultaneous movement, and we have good hope that if the present experiment turns out well, there will be no long delay on either side in carrying it a stage further. 76

THE POSTAL JUBILEE EXHIBITION.—The Guildhall was densely thronged up to the hour of closing at 10 o'clock last evening, and many were the regrets expressed that such an interesting exhibition could not remain open longer. The misfortune, however, was that it was not merely a collection of objects to be inspected, but it was a display of apparatus and scientific instruments the actual working of which called for the constant attention and unceasing activity of detachments from the staff of the Post Office, the routine of which, therefore, was to that extent interfered with, so that the continuance of the exhibition was not so simple a matter as some visitors might think. The working of the telegraph instruments was watched with great eagerness by as many as could crowd around them. The rapidity with which complimentary messages were transmitted to, and answers received from, Paris and Berlin, was a never-failing source of wonder to many who unexpectedly found themselves placed for once in instantaneous communication with those capitals. Whilst in the neighbourhood of the transmitting instruments visitors were to be seen filling up telegraph forms with their messages, in other parts tables were besieged by those who were addressing letters and post-cards to be posted within the building, so that they may be delivered with the Queen's head defaced by the jubilee obliterating stamp. There was a great run on the penny postage jubilee cards until they were sold out, and, as no more will be printed, the possessors consider themselves fortunate in having secured a unique souvenir of an historic celebration. One exhibit of great interest was the album of the artist who makes copies of the drawings in ink and colours which sometimes ornament the envelopes of letters that pass through the General Post Office.



21.8.90. A POST-CARD "RECORD." 79

Mr. Henniker Heaton gives me (says a contributor to the *Sunday Times*) some interesting particulars concerning the adventures of two post-cards, the first of which was posted at Guildhall temporary post-office on May 17. The card was addressed to the British Consul at Yokohama, via the United States with the request that it might be redirected, via Brindisi, back to London. The request was complied with, and the card duly reached London, and was delivered to the original sender on July 24, the time taken in transit being sixty-eight days, thus establishing a new record for such a novel feat, the cost of which only amounted to 3d. The post marks are as follows:—Penny Postal Jubilee, Guildhall, May 17; Yokohama, June 21; Yokohama, June 21; London, W., July 24. The second postal card travelled the reverse direction—namely, westwardly. It was posted June 13 to the P. and O. Steamship agents at Singapore, via Brindisi, and duly reached that port July 8. Being then re-posted via Hong Kong and San Francisco, it was delivered in London on the 5th inst., thus going round the world in fifty-three days, or fifteen days' less time than the preceding card, at a cost of only 3½d. The postmarks on this card are—London, S.W., June 13; Singapore, July 8; Singapore, July 8; London, W., August 5. The first card performed its outward journey in 35 days, and returned in 33 days; total, 68. The second card took only 25 days in reaching Singapore, and 28 on the return journey to London; total, 53 days, or 15 days quicker than that going to Yokohama.

Those who were not invited on Friday last to the Postal Jubilee held in the Guildhall, and those who were but missed their opportunity, will learn with mingled feelings of interest and regret that the special sixpenny postcard issued to celebrate the occasion went up in value the same evening to five shillings. On the following morning one and two pounds were asked, and now five are wildly talked of. It is understood that the issue of these cards was confined to ten thousand, and as every collection of stamps will be incomplete without one, the wild quotation of five guineas may not, perhaps, prove so wild as it looks. I was amongst the invited (writes Mr. A. W. Tuer), but, alas! could not attend, and am now in sackcloth and ashes. 20.8.90 F. Halliday.

Philatelic Society of London.

EXHIBITION COMMITTEE.

OFFICES: 4, LOMBARD COURT,
LONDON, E.C.

SIR,

I have to inform you that in commemoration of the FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY of the Introduction of Postage Stamps, an Exhibition of Postage Labels, Envelopes, Postcards, and Newsbands, as also of Proofs, Essays, Philatelic Literature, and other objects of interest in connection with the Postal Service, will be opened in London in the month of May, 1890 (the 6th of that month being the anniversary of the date of the first issue of Postage Stamps to the public), under the auspices and direction of the Philatelic Society of London.

A Select Committee of the Society, including the President (F. A. PHILBRICK, Esq., Q.C.), and the Vice-President (T. K. TAPLING, Esq., M.P.), has been appointed to make the necessary arrangements and to engage a suitable hall or institution at which an exhibition can conveniently be held; and full details will shortly be sent to all who are disposed to interest themselves in the proposal.

The initial expense entailed upon the Society in carrying into effect their projected scheme cannot but be large, although the Committee is sanguine that the novelty and national importance of such an exhibition will invite considerable public patronage, and that their outlay will be to a great extent recouped.

The Committee, however, desire from the first to be placed in a position to inaugurate what they venture to submit may be termed a national movement, in a manner befitting the country which initiated so important a reform in the Postal system of the world.

I am requested, therefore, to invite support from those interested in Philatelic subjects (whether members of the London Society or not), and am authorised to enclose a form, which may be filled in and returned to me, containing either a promise of a subscription, however small, towards the expenses of the object in view, or a guarantee of a sum (limited to £10), which may be called up, if required, by the Committee at a fortnight's notice at any time after the 31st March next.

Detailed accounts of the Receipts and Payments incident to the Exhibition will be duly published by the Committee, and should any surplus remain after repayment of the "Guarantee Fund," it is proposed that a charity or charities in connection with the Post Office shall benefit accordingly.

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

CHARLES COLMAN,

Hon. Sec., Exhibition Committee.

12th January, 1890.

[P.T.O.]

To be filled up and returned to the Secretary, Exhibition Committee.

Philatelic Society of London.

EXHIBITION.

To CHARLES COLMAN, Esq.,

Hon. Sec. Exhibition Committee,

4, Lombard Court, E.C.

I beg to enclose you the sum of £ : :
as a donation towards the expenses of the proposed Philatelic
Exhibition.

I am willing to guarantee the sum of £ : :
towards the expenses of the proposed Philatelic Exhibition
payable if required on and after the 31st March next, in
accordance with the terms of the circular letter of the Exhibi-
tion Committee, dated the 12th January, 1890.

Signed

Address



Philatelic Society of London.

Report of Committee as to Jubilee Celebration, 1890.

(Adopted at Meeting held 20th December, 1889.)

IT will be remembered that on the 19th October last, the Committee through the Vice-President, reported to the Society that the Right Honble. Henry Cecil Raikes, the Postmaster-General, had verbally expressed his own desire, and his belief that it was also the desire of Her Majesty's Government, that the 50th Anniversary of the introduction of Postage Stamps should be celebrated in some fitting manner during the year 1890. The Vice-President further reported that he had recently written a letter to Mr. Raikes reminding him of the proposal, and suggesting the co-operation of this Society in the formation of any scheme which the Government might contemplate; but that no reply had up to that date been received to his communication.

Before leaving for India, the Vice-President left instructions that any letter received at his residence from the Postmaster-General or from any Government Department upon the subject of the proposed celebration should be at once forwarded to the Secretary of the Society. No such letter has been received by the Secretary, and it is to be presumed either that the Government have come to no definite conclusion upon the subject, or that unforeseen difficulties have rendered the endeavours of Mr. Raikes to carry such a scheme into effect for the present nugatory.

Under these circumstances, the Committee, while they recognize the extreme desirability of obtaining the support, if not the entire co-operation, of the Government in this enterprise, are of opinion that the preliminary steps towards the object the Society have in view should be no longer deferred.

The Committee therefore recommend:—

(1.) That the Jubilee Anniversary of the introduction of Postage Stamps should be celebrated by an Exhibition of Postage Stamps, Stamped Envelopes, Post Cards¹ and Philatelic Literature, as well as of all Postal and Philatelic Curiosities and objects of interest, to be held at a suitable hall in London during the week ending on the 10th May, 1890.

(2.) That having regard to the extreme difficulty of assembling a large Committee, the arrangements for such Exhibition be entrusted to a Committee of five Members of the Society, to be termed the "Exhibition Committee," any two members of which shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

(3.) That the President and Vice-President of the Society shall be constituted *ex-officio* Members of such Exhibition Committee.

(4.) That it shall be open to the Exhibition Committee, on the requisition of any two Members, to summon a meeting of the full Committee of the Society, to take such further instructions as may be deemed desirable upon any questions which may arise in connection with their duties.

(5.) That the Exhibition Committee be appointed by ballot at the first meeting of the Society held in the month of January, 1890; the names of those desiring to act upon the Committee to be left with the Secretary one clear week before such meeting, and such names to be notified by him to all Members of the Society in the notice of such meeting.

(6.) Subject to such reference to a full Committee as above mentioned, the whole arrangements and entire management of the Exhibition should be confided to such Exhibition Committee, who should be required, however, to report to the Society for the information of its Members, but

not for the purpose of inviting discussion, from time to time, the mode or principle upon which the Exhibition is to be carried out, especially having regard to the nature and manner of the exhibits, and any other information which may be usefully conveyed.

(7.) That a fund to be called the "Exhibition Expenses Guarantee Fund," be opened under the direction of the Exhibition Committee, and a Treasurer thereof be appointed. That the Exhibition Committee be requested as soon as possible to communicate an approximate estimate of the expenses connected with the Exhibition; and that thereupon a circular notice be addressed to the principal collectors and persons interested in Philately throughout the United Kingdom, informing them of the proposed Exhibition, and inviting their co-operation with the Society in defraying the necessary expenses.

(8.) The Committee finally recommend that so soon as the Exhibition Committee are able to report upon the general scheme of the Exhibition, communications be addressed by the Secretary of the Society to the Postmaster-General and to any Government Departments likely to be interested in the project, informing them of the arrangements, with a view to securing their support, and expressing the particular desire of the Society to render assistance to any scheme of a similar nature that may be undertaken by the Government, even at the sacrifice or partial sacrifice of its own arrangements.

Dated the 20th December, 1889.

23, TEDWORTH SQUARE,
CHELSEA, S.W.,

28th December, 1889.

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Philatelic Society of London.

DEAR SIR,

I have to inform you that the next Meeting of the Society will take place at the "Salisbury" Hotel, Fleet Street, on Friday, the 3rd January, 1890, at 7.30 p.m.

The following gentlemen offer themselves for re-election as Members of the Society:—

1. MR RICHARD PEARCE, of Lanarth House, Holders Hill, Hendon, N.W.,

Proposed by Mr. Nankivell, seconded by the Secretary.

2. MR WILLIAM COWLAND, of No. 20 Bucklersbury, E.C.,
Proposed by the Asst. Secretary, seconded by the Secretary.

3. MR WALTON R. BURRELL, of Bury St. Edmunds.
Proposed by Mr. Hawkins, seconded by the Secretary.

I have the pleasure to enclose a copy of the Report of the Committee upon the proposed celebration of the 50th anniversary of the introduction of Postage Stamps, and to inform you that this Report having been adopted at the last meeting of the Society, the Exhibition Committee will be elected by ballot on the 3rd January next.

Names of those who desire to serve on this Committee may be sent to me on or before the 2nd January

next, and will be included in the list from which the five members of the Committee will be selected.

The following names have been at present proposed to me :—

MR. E. D. BACON.	MR. A. W. CHAMBERS.
„ M. P. CASTLE	„ E. HAWKINS.
„ C. COLMAN.	„ W. B. THORNHILL.
„ J. H. TILLEARD.	

The order of business on the 3rd January will be :—

1. Election of Members.
- 2 Appointment of Exhibition Committee.

and as the latter subject may invite some discussion no other business will be taken.

I am asked to send you the enclosed circular notice from Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, a Member of the Society resident in Tasmania.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

DOUGLAS GARTH,

Secretary.

Philatelic Society of London.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
AS TO JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

Adopted at Meeting
held 20th December, 1889.

20th February, 1890.

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London Philatelic + Exhibition, —1890.—

.....

Committee.

F. A. PHILBRICK, Esq., Q.C.
T. K. TAPLING, Esq., M.P.
E. D. BACON, Esq.

M. P. CASTLE, Esq.
D. GARTH, Esq.
J. A. TILLEARD, Esq.

CHARLES COLMAN, Esq., *Secretary.*

EXHIBITION OFFICES:

4, LOMBARD COURT, E.C.

Prospectus.

IN commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the introduction of Postage Stamps, an Exhibition of British, Colonial and Foreign Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Post-cards, Newsbands, &c., and of Albums, Books and Appliances for their collection, of Philatelic Literature, and of curiosities and objects of interest in connection with the Postal Service, will be opened at the "PORTMAN ROOMS," BAKER STREET, LONDON, W., on MONDAY, the 19th MAY, 1890, under the direction and management of a Committee of the Philatelic Society of London.

The Committee desire that the Exhibition shall comprise a complete collection of the Postal issues in all countries during the past 50 years, and with this object they cordially invite the co-operation of Collectors throughout the world.

The Portman Rooms have been selected as affording at once ample space for such an Exhibition, and facilities for displaying all Exhibits in a good light, without, however, risk of damage from immediate contact with the sun's rays. The rooms are also readily accessible, being close to the Baker Street Station on the Metropolitan Railway, and on a line of omnibuses directly communicating with Charing Cross.

All Postal Issues will be exhibited under glass and in locked or sealed cases. The Committee will employ night and day watchmen, and take every possible precaution; and no stamps, envelopes or other exhibits of a similar nature will be allowed to be handled except by the Committee and the Judges; but the Committee cannot undertake personal responsibility in case of loss.

It is intended that the Exhibition shall remain open to the public until the evening of Monday, the 26th May, and Exhibits will be returned to the owners as soon as possible after that date.

It is proposed to hand any surplus proceeds of the Exhibition, after payment of all expenses and guaranteed sums, to a Charity in connection with the Post Office, to be selected by the Postmaster-General.

The Committee have decided that the Exhibition shall be subject to the following Rules and Regulations, of which all Exhibitors will be held to have had notice.

Rules and Regulations.

1.—Exhibits in Class I. must be mounted on cards, paper, or loose pages, and in order to secure, as far as possible, uniformity in the general appearance of the Exhibition, cards of suitable sizes have been provided by the Committee, and can be furnished on application to the Secretary at a trifling cost. It will be inconvenient to exhibit cards or sheets exceeding 14 inches in height, and the Committee therefore recommend the adoption of mounts of moderate size.

2.—A charge for space occupied by exhibits, or by the cards or other material on which they may be mounted, will be made on the following scale:—

For each square foot occupied up to 25 ft	6d.
" " " where more than 25 ft. is occupied ...	"	"	"	5d.
" " " " " " 50 " " ...	"	"	"	4d.
" album or volume of stamps exhibited ...	"	"	"	2s. 6d.

The above charge will be payable by the exhibitor on sending in his exhibit, and will be inclusive (except in the case of albums) of insurance from risk by fire. Collections in books or albums will be insured for such a sum as the owner may desire, the premium being payable by him in addition to the charge for the exhibit.

3.—Notice of the character and extent of exhibits, with the value for insurance, should be sent to the Exhibition Secretary *not later than the 15th March*, and the Committee would be glad to have earlier notification, if possible, from intending exhibitors. The accompanying form of notice

can be conveniently employed. All exhibits should be delivered, post or carriage paid, at the Offices of the Committee, 4, Lombard Court, E.C., on or before the 1st May. In the case of exhibits under Class VIII., notice of the character of the article proposed to be exhibited should if possible be sent to the Secretary before the 1st April, who will then communicate with the applicant with a view to its inspection by the Committee, or their agent, who will decide as to its suitability for exhibition. All exhibits in this latter Class accepted by the Committee should be delivered, free of carriage, at such time and place as the Secretary may notify to the owner. All exhibits will be returned to their owners after the close of the Exhibition: free of charge, registered or insured, or otherwise, as directed, but transmission will in all cases be at the sole risk of the owner.

4.—The Committee reserve the right of rejecting any exhibit, or exhibits, without assigning any reason for such rejection. They will endeavour, however, to find room for everything which may be deemed worthy of exhibition. All specimens exhibited for competition must be *bonâ fide* the property of the Exhibitor.

5.—Albums and volumes of stamps will be exhibited open at the most interesting pages, to be varied from time to time during the exhibition by a Member of the Committee. No albums will be allowed to be inspected (except by the Judges) unless with the express written permission of the owner and at his risk, and then only in the presence of one of the Committee.

6.—No price or other notification of its being for sale should be affixed to any exhibit, but an intimation may be made to the Committee that any exhibit or exhibits are for sale, and they will make arrangements accordingly to facilitate this circumstance and the price being made known to the public. No exhibit thus sold will, under any circumstance, be allowed to be removed until the close of the Exhibition. In all cases of sale, the purchase money will be payable to the Committee, who will deliver the article to the purchaser, and account to the owner for the price, after deducting a commission of 7½ per cent., which will be applied towards the general expenses of the Exhibition.

7.—No dealer will be allowed to compete, except for the prizes given under Class V.

8.—The Judges will be appointed at a Special General Meeting of the London Philatelic Society, to be held during the last week in April, and their decision will be in all cases final. In making their awards, the Judges will take into special consideration, not only the value and completeness of the exhibit, but also the neatness and accuracy of arrangement, method of mounting, and condition of the specimens submitted.

9.—The following scheme of competition has been adopted by the Committee, who, however, specially desire to point out that exhibits not for competition are also cordially invited.



CLASS I.

Will consist of Special Collections of the Adhesive Stamps of any one of the countries or combinations of countries named below :—

Group I.

AFGHANISTAN.
BRITISH GUIANA.
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE AND NATAL.
CONFEDERATE STATES AND LOCALS.
FRANCE INCLUDING COLONIES.
GRANADA CONFEDERATION, INCLUDING THE VARIOUS STATES.
GREAT BRITAIN.
HAWAII.
INDIA AND CEYLON.
JAPAN.
MAURITIUS.
MEXICO AND GUADALAJARA.
NATIVE STATES OF INDIA INCLUDING CASHMERE.
NEW SOUTH WALES.
NEW ZEALAND.
PERU AND PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION Co.
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.
TASMANIA.
TRANSVAAL, BOER OR NEW REPUBLIC.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
UNITED STATES LOCALS.
VICTORIA.

Group II.

ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION & REPUBLIC, BUENOS AYRES AND CORRIENTES.
AUSTRIA, AUSTRIAN ITALY, BOSNIA, DANUBIAN STEAM NAVIGATION Co. & HUNGARY.
BOLIVIA AND ECUADOR.
BRAZIL AND CHILI.
CANADA, NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.
GERMANY—1. BERGEDORF, BREMEN, BRUNSWICK, HAMBURG, HANOVER, LÜBECK,
PRUSSIA AND SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.
„ 2. BADEN, BAVARIA, GERMAN CONFEDERATION & EMPIRE, MECKLEN-
BURG SCHWERIN & STRELITZ, OLDENBURG, THURN AND TAXIS,
AND WURTEMBERG.
HOLLAND, BELGIUM, CONGO, AND LUXEMBURG.
ITALY, MODENA, NAPLES, PAPAL STATES, PARMA, ROMAGNA, SARDINIA, SICILY,
AND TUSCANY.
LABUAN AND FIJI ISLANDS.

NEWFOUNDLAND, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.
 PORTUGAL, AZORES, AND MADEIRA.
 PORTUGUESE INDIES AND OTHER PORTUGUESE COLONIES.
 QUEENSLAND, SAMOA, AND TONGA ISLANDS.
 ROUMANIA AND MOLDO-WALLACHIA.
 RUSSIA (INCLUDING LOCALS), FINLAND, LEVANT, LIVONIA, POLAND, AND WENDEK.
 SAN DOMINGO AND HAYTI.
 SHANGHAI, CHINA, AND HONG KONG.
 SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
 SPAIN.
 STRAITS SETTLEMENTS AND DEPENDENCIES.
 SWITZERLAND.
 TRINIDAD.
 TURKEY.
 URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, AND LA GUIARA.
 WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Group III.

ANTIGUA, MONTSERRAT, AND BRITISH HONDURAS.
 BAHAMAS AND BERMUDAS.
 BARBADOES AND NEVIS.
 COSTA RICA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AND SAN SALVADOR.
 CUBA, PORTO RICO, AND FERNANDO POO.
 CYPRUS, GIBRALTAR, HELIGOLAND, IONIAN ISLANDS, AND MALTA.
 DOMINICA, GRENADA, JAMAICA, AND ST. CHRISTOPHER.
 EGYPT, SUEZ CANAL, AND LIBERIA.
 GRIQUALAND, BRITISH BECHUANALAND, PROTECTORATE, AND ORANGE FREE STATE.
 LAGOS, GAMBIA, GOLD COAST, SIERRA LEONE, AND ST. HELENA.
 NORTH BORNEO, SARAWAK, AND SIAM.
 NORWAY, DENMARK, ICELAND, AND SWEDEN
 PERSIA.
 GREECE, SERVIA, EASTERN ROUMELIA, BULGARIA, AND MONTENEGRO.
 ST. VINCENT AND ST. LUCIA.
 TURK'S ISLANDS, TOBAGO, AND VIRGIN ISLANDS.

NOTE.—Any three countries not enumerated in the above lists, may be shown together for competition as one country in Group III. Exhibitors may compete in any or all of the above Groups, and the number of Exhibits is not limited.

CLASS II.

Will consist of entire Collections of Adhesives, with or without envelopes, Postcards, &c.

Division 1.—Total number not to exceed 5,000.

“ 2.— “ “ “ “ 3,000.

CLASS III.

Will consist of Collections of entire Envelopes and Wrappers.

Division 1.—One or more of the following countries :—

AUSTRIA AND ALL STATES.

GERMANY AND ALL STATES.

MAURITIUS.

RUSSIA, FINLAND AND POLAND.

Division 2.—Any four countries not named in Division 1.

CLASS IV.

Will consist of Collections of entire Post-cards and Letter Cards.

Division 1.—One or more of the following countries :—

FINLAND.

GERMANY AND ALL STATES.

JAMAICA, BARBADOES AND TRINIDAD.

JAPAN.

LUXEMBURG.

MEXICO.

ROUMANIA.

Division 2.—Any six countries other than those given in Division 1.

CLASS V.

For exhibits of Adhesives, Envelopes, Wrappers or Cards by Dealers.

CLASS VI.

For Philatelic Literature and Works connected with the introduction of Postage Stamps in Great Britain.

CLASS VII.—For Albums, &c.

Division 1.—The best method or system suitable for mounting the Stamps of Class I.

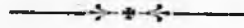
„ 2.—The most suitable Album or Book for Class II.

„ 3.—The best method or system for arranging Classes III. & IV.

CLASS VIII.

Special Arrangements or Groups of Stamps, Stamps on original envelopes or otherwise marking historical events, or not conforming with the preceding Classes. Telegraph Stamps. Proofs and Essays. Curiosities and Objects of Interest in connection with the Postal Service.

List of Prizes.



- CLASS I.** *Group* I. Two gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze medals.
 " II. One " 2 " " 3 " "
 " III. Two silver and 4 bronze medals.

A special gold medal, being the *Grand Prize* of the Exhibition, will be awarded to the most meritorious exhibit in any group of this Class.

- CLASS II.** *Division* 1. One silver and 2 bronze medals.
 " 2. One " " 1 " medal.

- CLASS III.** *Division* 1. One gold and 1 silver medal.
 " 2. One silver and 2 bronze medals.

- CLASS IV.** *Division* 1. One silver and 1 bronze medal.
 " 2. One " " 1 " "

CLASS V. Three bronze medals.

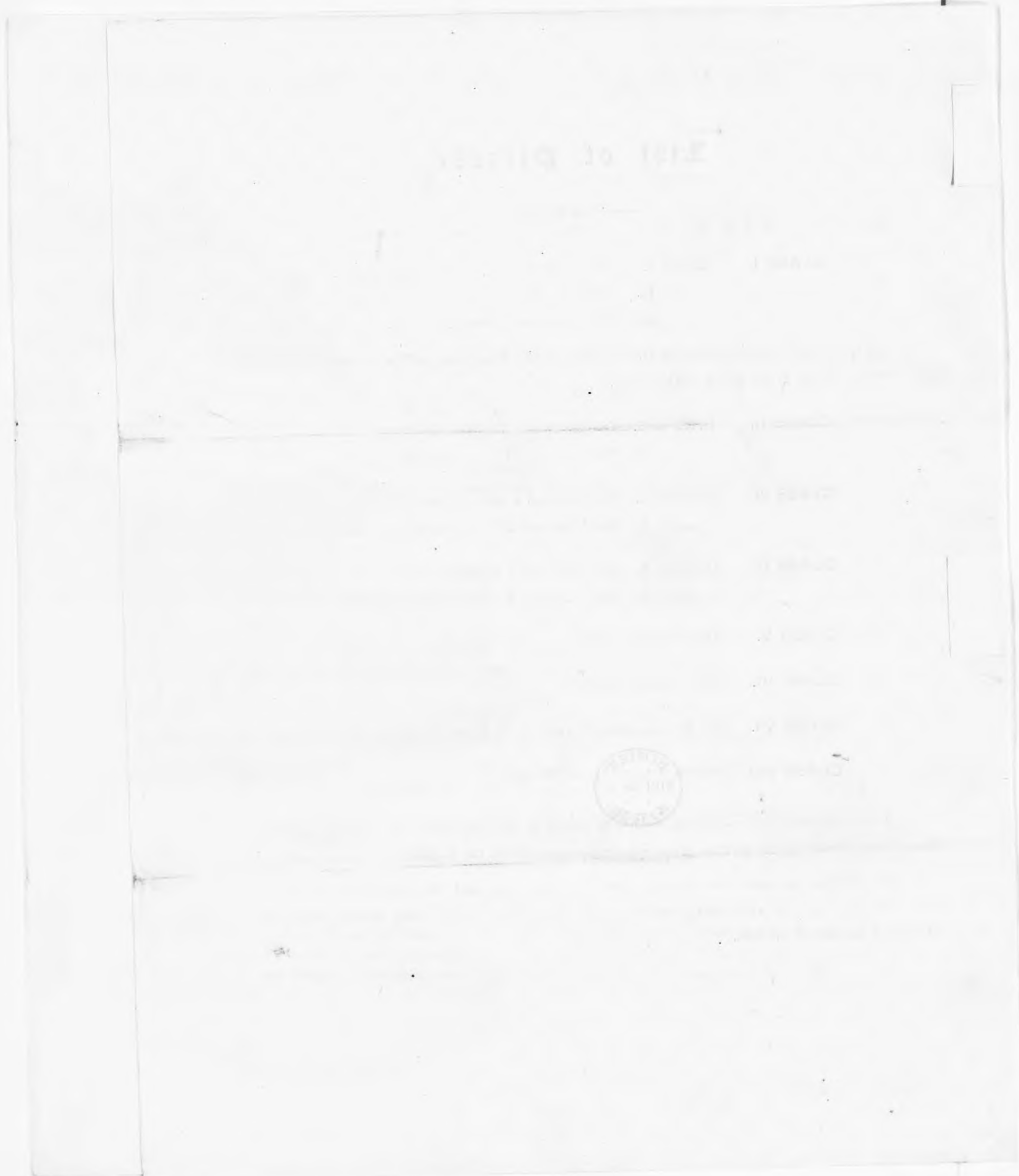
CLASS VI. Three bronze medals.

CLASS VII. One Bronze medal for each of the three Divisions.

CLASS VIII. Two silver and 3 bronze Medals.

A limited number of medals will further be placed at the disposal of the Judges, including Three Silver Medals for recognition of special services rendered to the Exhibition.

No exhibitor can take more than one prize in each Class, and the Committee reserve to themselves the right of withholding medals if the competition in any Class should produce an insufficient number of exhibits.



Philatelic Exhibition, 1890.

TO THE HONORARY SECRETARY,
EXHIBITION COMMITTEE,
4, LOMBARD COURT, E.C.

I desire to become an Exhibitor at the forthcoming Philatelic Exhibition, and I am willing to be bound by the Conditions, Rules and Regulations referred to in the Circular Notice issued by the Committee, and bearing date, the 20th February, 1890.

I propose to send the following exhibits.

No. of Class

Character of Exhibits

Approximate space required in

English square feet

NOTE.—One foot = 30 centimètres.

Amount of Insurance desired

*Precautions desired in the return of the
exhibit to the owner*

Name of Exhibitor in full

Address

Date

NOTE.—Exhibits will be returned to the address above given unless otherwise directed in writing by the owner.

Exhibitors out of the United Kingdom will be granted an extension of the time fixed for sending in Exhibits.



LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION,
1890.

TO BE HELD AT THE PORTMAN ROOMS,
BAKER STREET, W.

The Committee beg to announce that the DUKE OF EDINBURGH has fixed 12 o'clock at Noon on MONDAY, the 19th MAY, for the Opening of the Exhibition by His Royal Highness.

The Admission on the day of Opening will be, up to 4 p.m., 5/- by Ticket, which will also admit during the whole period of the Exhibition; after 4 p.m. the charge for Admission will be 2/6, and on subsequent days 1/-

Each holder of a 5/- Ticket is entitled to one Lady's Ticket for the Opening Ceremony at the additional price of 2/6. Ladies' Tickets do not admit the holder on any of the subsequent days.

Tickets can now be obtained from the Secretary at the Offices of the Exhibition Committee, No. 4 Lombard Court, E.C., and at The Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W.

The Exhibition will close on the evening of MONDAY, the 26th MAY.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

530 SOUTH EAST ASIAN AVENUE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607

TEL: 773-936-3700

FAX: 773-936-3700

WWW.PHYSICS.UCHICAGO.EDU

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23, TEDWORTH SQUARE,

CHELSEA, S.W.,

3rd May, 1890.

Philatelic Society of London.

DEAR SIR,

In connection with the forthcoming Exhibition: it is proposed that the Members of the Society shall dine together on the same principal that is usually adopted on the occasion of their Annual Dinner. Thus opportunity will be given for the entertainment, by joint or individual invitation, of any Foreign Philatelists who may visit the Exhibition.

The Dinner will be held at the "Portman Rooms," in rooms adjoining the Exhibition, on Wednesday, the 21st inst., at 7 o'clock p.m. precisely.

I shall be glad to know, at your earliest convenience, whether it is your intention to be present, and whether you will bring any, and, if so, how many, guests.

I am, dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

DOUGLAS GARTH,

Secretary.

Answer 21/

23, TEDWORTH SQUARE,
CHELSEA, S.W.,
10th May, 1890.

Philatelic Society of London.

DEAR SIR,

It has been determined to admit Ladies to the Exhibition Dinner on the 21st inst., of which I lately sent you notice.

Please let me know, at your very earliest convenience, whether you will be present yourself, and whether you purpose bringing any guests, whether ladies or gentlemen.

A Gentleman's ticket is 21s. ; and a Lady's ticket 15s.

I am, dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

DOUGLAS GARTH,

Secretary.

23, TEDWORTH SQUARE,

CHELSEA, S.W.,

10th May, 1890.

Philatelic Society of London.

DEAR SIR,

I am asked to beg that you will make it convenient, if possible, to take a Ticket and to be present at the Opening of the Exhibition at 12 o'clock on Monday, the 19th May, as it is desired that the Society shall be as fully represented as possible.

I have also to give you notice that a General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Exhibition, on Tuesday, the 20th May, at 8.30 p.m., (Morning Dress). I trust you may be able to be present, and that you will take the opportunity of introducing any Members of Foreign Societies who may be visiting London.

I am, dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

DOUGLAS GARTH,

Secretary.

23, TEDWORTH SQUARE,

CHELSEA, S.W.,

10th May, 1890.

Philatelic Society of London.

DEAR SIR,

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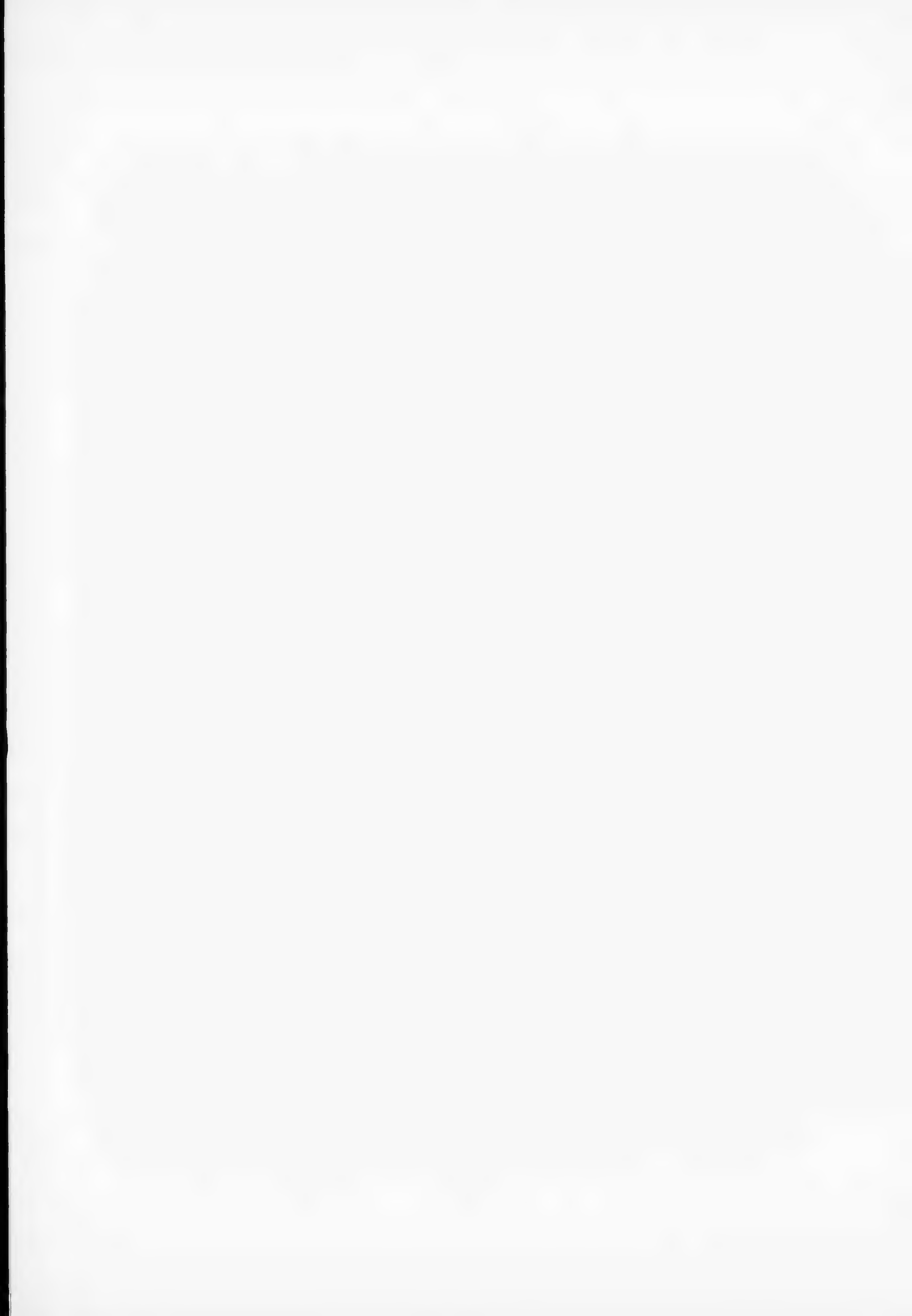
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I am, dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

DOUGLAS GARTH,

Secretary.



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LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY,

EXHIBITION BANQUET.

on Wednesday, May 21st,
at the Portman Rooms, Baker St, at 7 15. 0. Clock.

Admit *J. G. Philbrick by 26.*

GENTLEMAN'S TICKET 21/-

MAPLE & CO. LITH. LONDON

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23, TEDWORTH SQUARE,
CHELSEA, S.W.,

13th December, 1890.

Philatelic Society of London.

DEAR SIR,

At the next Meeting of the Society, on the 19th inst., the Exhibition Committee will produce the balance sheet of receipts and payments in connection with the recent Exhibition, shewing still a deficit of over One Hundred Pounds, for which the Society is undoubtedly liable.

It is wished that, if possible, the necessity should not arise for making a compulsory call upon Members of the Society to meet this deficiency, and it is hoped that by voluntary contribution of say one-half of the amount required, the balance might be satisfied out of the general funds of the Society.

May I ask you, therefore, to kindly let me know before the 19th inst., whether you would be willing to guarantee payment of a subscription payable before the end of the year towards the amount required.

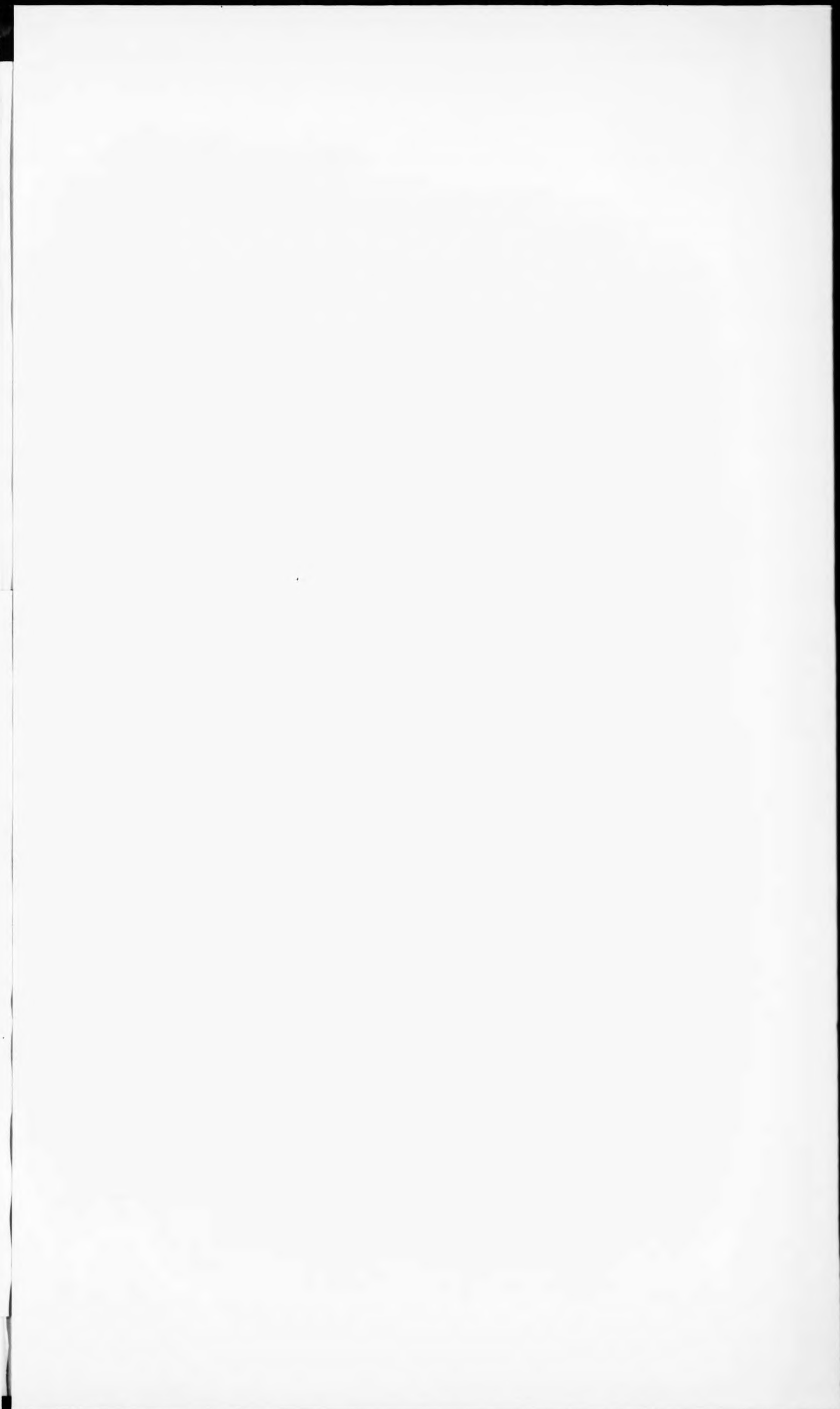
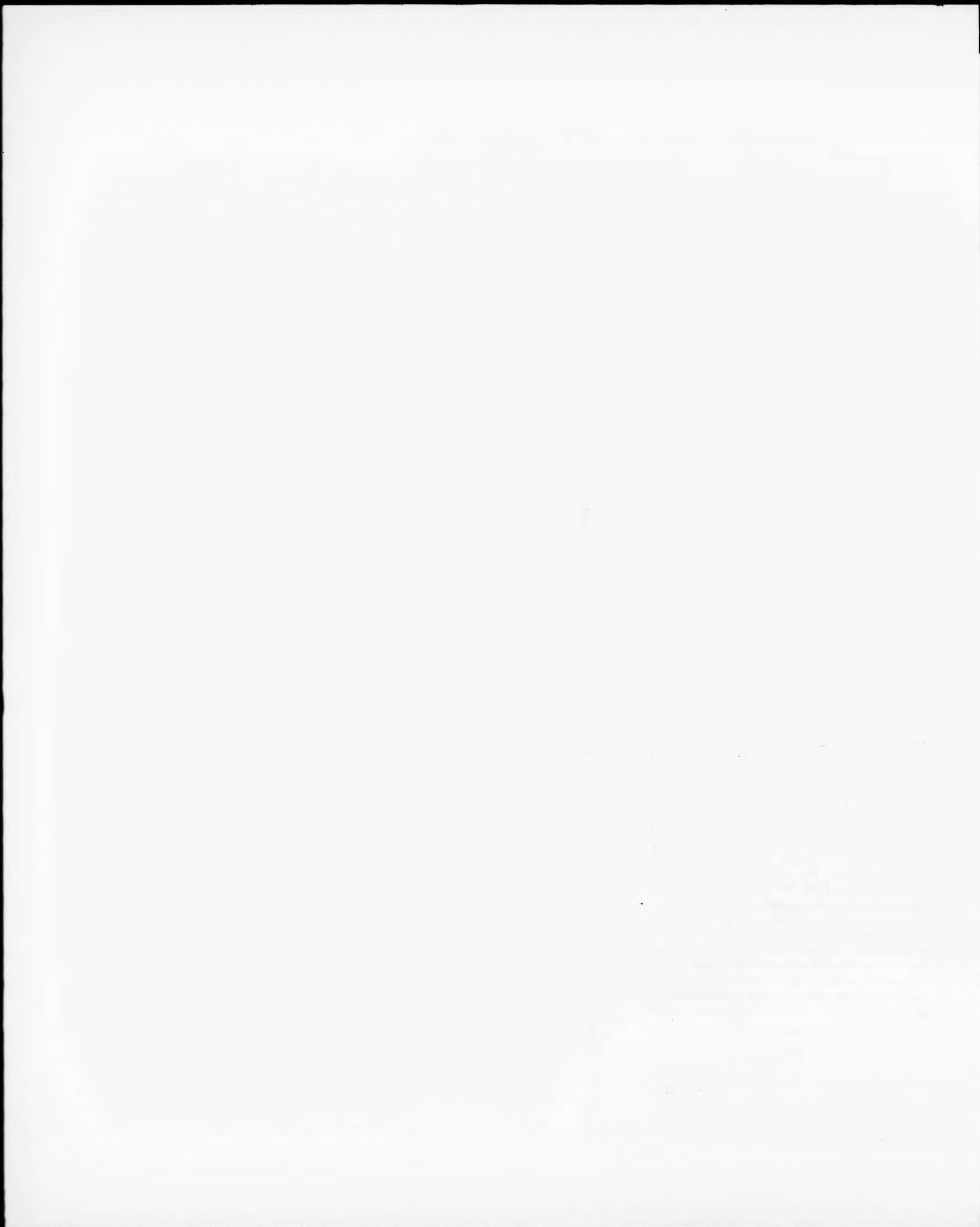
I would point out that if all or the greater portion of the Members in Great Britain would subscribe small sums ranging from ten shillings to two guineas, according to their means, I should probably be enabled to report to the next meeting that all further difficulty is avoided.

I am, dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

DOUGLAS GARTH,

Secretary.



To meet His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

London Philatelic Exhibition of 1890.

The Committee request the pleasure
of the Company of
Mr. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C.

at a Luncheon after the opening of
The Exhibition at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W.
at twelve noon on the 19th of May.

Luncheon at 12.45

R.S.V.P.

M. P. CASTLE, Esq.

DOUGLAS GARTH, Esq.

J. A. TILLEARD, Esq.

E. D. BACON, Esq.



F. A. PHILBRICK, Esq., Q.C.

C. COLMAN, Esq.,
Hon. Sec.

T. K. TAPLING, Esq., M.P.

THE PHILATELIC EXHIBITION COMMITTEE.



Exhibition Committee

F. A. Pulbrick, Esq., L. C.

F. K. Tapping, Esq., M. P.

E. D. Bacon, Esq.

M. P. Castle, Esq.

D. Garth, Esq.

J. A. Tilleard, Esq.

Charles Colman, Esq., Honorary Secretary

Exhibition Offices

4, Lombard Court, E. C.

M. P. CASTLE, Esq.

DOUGLAS GARTH, Esq.

J. A. TILLEARD, Esq.

E. D. BACON, Esq.



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LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.



4, LOMBARD COURT,
GRACECHURCH STREET,
LONDON, E.C.,

June 13th, 1890.

DEAR SIR,

I regret to inform you that the expenditure in connection with the recent Exhibition has so considerably exceeded the receipts, that the Committee are necessitated to call up the Guarantee Fund, and I shall be glad therefore if you will forward to me, as soon as possible, the amount, *viz:* £ 10 : - : - which you kindly promised.

The Committee used every endeavour to act as economically as possible, compatible with a due regard to the success of the Exhibition, which end, they venture to think, was accomplished. I am also desired to inform you the special expenses, attending the Opening of the Exhibition and the entertainment of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, were defrayed by the Exhibition Committee personally.

The accounts may be inspected at any time at the above office, and a full statement of the same, and a Balance Sheet, will be presented at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Philatelic Society at an early date.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES COLMAN,

Honorary Secretary.

F. A. Philbrick Esq, 2c





LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1890. *The Times*

LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1890.—
In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Introduction of Postage Stamps.

PATRONS.
H.R.H. the DUKE of EDINBURGH, K.G.
Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.

The Exhibition will be opened at the Portman Rooms, Baker-street, W., by H.R.H. the DUKE of EDINBURGH, on Monday, 19th May, at noon.

Admission to the opening ceremony by season ticket only, price 5s., but a season ticket-holder can obtain ladies' tickets at 2s. 6d. each for the opening ceremony.

Admission on opening day after 3 o'clock 2s. 6d.

Admission on subsequent days 1s.

The exhibition will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and will close at 8 p.m. on Monday, 24th May.

Offices, 4, Lombard-court, E.C., and Portman Rooms, Baker-street, W.

LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1890.—
In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Introduction of Postage Stamps.

PATRONS.
H.R.H. the DUKE of EDINBURGH, K.G.
Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.

Open, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday and Monday, and from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, at the Portman Rooms, Baker-street. Admission, 1s.; season tickets, 5s.; schools half price.

All countries represented. Specimens of almost every postage stamp produced during the past 50 years on view. Interesting exhibits from the General Post Office, Somerset-house, and the British Colonies.

The Exhibition closes Monday, 26th May (Bank Holiday), at 8 p.m.

LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1890.—
In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Introduction of Postage Stamps.

PATRONS.
H.R.H. the DUKE of EDINBURGH, K.G.
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All countries represented. Specimens of almost every postage stamp produced during the past 50 years on view. Interesting exhibits from the General Post Office, Somerset-house, and the British Colonies.

The Exhibition closes Monday, 26th May (Bank Holiday), at 8 p.m.

FRENCH EXHIBITION.
JOHN R. WHITLEY, Chairman.

LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1890.—
In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Introduction of Postage Stamps.

PATRONS.
H.R.H. the DUKE of EDINBURGH, K.G.
Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.

Open daily, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Portman Rooms, Baker-street. Admission, 1s.; season tickets, 5s.; schools half price.

All countries represented. Specimens of almost every postage stamp produced during the past 50 years on view. Interesting exhibits from the General Post Office, Somerset-house, and the British Colonies.

The exhibition closes Monday, 24th May (Bank Holiday), at 8 p.m.

WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.—STANLEY and
AFRICAN EXHIBITION

LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 1890.
In celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Introduction of Postage Stamps.

PATRONS.
H.R.H. the Duke of EDINBURGH, K.G.
Her MAJESTY'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

Open from 11 A.M. to 8 P.M. on Thursday and Monday, and from 11 A.M. to 10 P.M. on Friday and Saturday, at the Portman Rooms, Baker-street. Admission, 1s.; season tickets, 5s.; schools, half-price. All countries represented. Specimens of almost every postage stamp produced during the past fifty years on view. Interesting exhibits from the General Post Office, Somerset House, and the British Colonies. Books of curious addresses shown and Explained by Post Office Officials. Old Colonial and other stamps perforated in the building by Perkin, Brown, and Co.'s first-hand machine, and sold for benefit of a Post Office Charity. A limited number only will be issued.

The Exhibition closes Monday, 26th May (Bank Holiday), at 8 P.M.

To-day the Duke of Edinburgh will open the Philatelic Exhibition at the Portman Rooms, Baker-street. It is to be a marvellous affair altogether, and to eclipse the exhibition of a similar kind which took place very recently in Vienna. The committee include the names of several enthusiasts in postage stamp collecting—Mr. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P., Mr. M. P. Castle, and Mr. J. A. Tilleard, and others. Some of the rarest postage stamps in existence will be shown, and several collections from the Antipodes and other distant regions have been brought to England expressly. A number of gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded for the most meritorious exhibits in the various sections. The exhibition is for the benefit of a charity connected with the Post-office, and should be successful, for "philatelists" are numerous; and considering that £25,000 has been paid for a single collection of postage stamps, some idea of the value placed upon them may be formed.

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Mr. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., the Recorder of Colchester, has long been an authority on stamps, of which he had formerly a large and very valuable collection. He is the President of the Philatelic Society, which is now holding "The Philatelic Exhibition" in London, partly in commemoration of the jubilee of the first issue of postage stamps. The exhibition was opened on Monday by the Duke of Edinburgh. Mr. Philbrick, who is a member of the Committee, was present.

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The display is almost unique, comprising every variety of stamp from the Mulready to the present issues. The official exhibits of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue consist of a number of frames containing imperforate specimens from each plate from which the issues of Great Britain have been printed, being in effect an historic exhibit of the adhesive stamps from their introduction in 1840. The Postmaster-General has lent a number of specimens of the rare black penny stamp with the initial V.R. in the upper corners, which were intended for official correspondence, but which were never brought into use, as well as a number of curiosities and objects of interest in connection with the postal service. The exhibits of the Duke of Edinburgh include rare specimens of Cuba, Fernando Po, Gibraltar, and Iceland, and the Duke of Leinster, the Earl of Kingston, the Secretary of State for India, and Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P., are also among the exhibitors.

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LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1890.—
In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Introduction of Postage Stamps.

PATRONS.
H.R.H. the DUKE of EDINBURGH, K.G.
The Right Hon. Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.

The Exhibition will be opened at the Portman Rooms, Baker-street, W., by H.R.H. the DUKE of EDINBURGH, on Monday, 19th May, at noon.

Admission to the opening ceremony by season ticket only, price 5s., but a season ticket-holder can obtain ladies' tickets at 2s. 6d. each for the opening ceremony.

Admission on opening day after 3 o'clock 2s. 6d.
Admission on subsequent days 1s.

The exhibition will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and will close at 8 p.m. on Monday, 22nd May.

Offices, 4, Lombard-court, E.C., and Portman Rooms, Baker-street, W.



LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1890. *The Times.*

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Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.

Open, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday and Monday, and from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, at the Portman Rooms, Baker-street. Admission, 1s.; season tickets, 5s.; schools half price. All countries represented. Specimens of almost every postage stamp produced during the past 50 years on view. Interesting exhibits from the General Post Office, Somerset-house, and the British Colonies. The Exhibition closes Monday, 26th May (Bank Holiday), at 8 p.m.

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FRENCH EXHIBITION.
JOHN E. WHITLEY, Chairman.

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WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.—STANLEY and
AFRICAN EXHIBITION *Re-arranged*

LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 1890.
In celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Introduction of Postage Stamps.

PATRONS.
H.R.H. the Duke of EDINBURGH, K.G.
Her MAJESTY'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

Open from 11 A.M. to 8 P.M. on Thursday and Monday, and from 11 A.M. to 10 P.M. on Friday and Saturday, at the Portman Rooms, Baker-street. Admission, 1s.; season tickets, 5s.; schools, half-price. All countries represented. Specimens of almost every postage stamp produced during the past fifty years on view. Interesting exhibits from the General Post Office, Somerset House, and the British Colonies. Books of curious addresses shown and Explained by Post Office Officials. Old Colonial and other stamps perforated in the building by Perkin, Brown, and Co.'s first-hand machine, and sold for benefit of a Post Office Charity. A limited number only will be issued.

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OPENING OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

At noon yesterday his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh opened at the Portman Rooms, Baker-street, the exhibition of postage stamps, which the London Philatelic Society has collected by way of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the invention of the postage stamp. Among those present, in addition to the Duke of Edinburgh, were the Duke of Teck, the Duke of Leinster, the Earl of Kingston, Viscount Bangor, the Postmaster-General, Viscount Barrington, Sir Saul Samuel, the Agent-General for Tasmania, Woods Pasha, and Mr. Purcell. The exhibition committee, all of whom were present, consisted of Messrs. Philbrick, Q.C., Tapling, M.P., E. D. Bacon, M. P. Castle, Douglas Garth, J. A. Tilleard, and Mr. Charles Colman, the honorary secretary. His Royal Highness arrived at the appointed hour, and, having been saluted by a guard of honour appropriately supplied by the Post Office Rifles (24th Middlesex), was received by the committee and proceeded to a dais in the centre of the room in which the exhibits were displayed. By way of inaugurating the proceedings Mr. Tapling, M.P., read an address to his Royal Highness, in which special emphasis was laid upon the facts that the postage stamp was introduced on the 6th of May, 1840, that gratitude was due to the Duke of Edinburgh for allowing certain of his stamps collected from Uruguay, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Heligoland, the Ionian Islands, Malta, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden to be exhibited, and that the surplus profits would be handed over to various charities connected with the Post Office. In reply,

The DUKE OF EDINBURGH said,—Having myself for some time been interested in the subject to which this exhibition is devoted, I was glad to receive an invitation to open it and to have the opportunity of inspecting the highly interesting collection which is now to be displayed to the public. The 50th anniversary of the introduction of the postage stamp has certainly been well chosen for the inauguration of the exhibition. I congratulate you upon the assistance and co-operation so kindly bestowed by the postal authorities both of this country and of the colonies, as well as by the numerous private individuals who have placed at your disposal their valuable collections, and I need hardly say how much pleasure it afforded me to do what lay in my power to assist you. I heartily wish all success to your efforts, and trust that the results will very materially conduce to the advantage of the charitable institutions connected with the General Post Office which have been so appropriately selected to receive benefit therefrom. The exhibition is one of great interest not only to stamp collectors and to those who follow the science of philately, but also to the general public. It remains for me to declare this exhibition to be now open.

His Royal Highness then, in the company of the members of the committee, proceeded to make a detailed examination of what is certainly the finest and most valuable collection of stamps ever exhibited. Particular attention was paid to the British Guiana collection, in which a pink specimen, bearing the resemblance of a rude post mark upon a piece of pink paper, is said to be worth 100 guineas. The Hawaiian stamps, the collection of Mr. Douglas Garth, and the exhibits of Major Evans, which comprise almost, if not quite, all the varieties of local stamps in British India, the original sketches for the Mulready envelopes, the caricatures received by the Post Office after the issue of those envelopes, and a hundred curiosities besides were noticed. Some idea of the value of the exhibits may be gathered from the fact that the whole exhibition is insured against fire and burglary to the value of £100,000 or thereabouts. In a word, this exhibition contains everything that the heart of the stamp collector could possibly desire.

The tour of investigation being completed, the company adjourned to luncheon in the room which was once the Chamber of Horrors. After luncheon Mr. Tapling, M.P., as the Postmaster-General afterwards observed, struck the keynote of the occasion by proposing the health of "The Queen and Empress." The next toast was that of "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," in reply to which

The DUKE OF EDINBURGH said,—On behalf of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family, and on my own behalf, I return you sincere thanks for the kind manner in which you have drunk to their healths and to mine. I also assure you of the great pleasure which it gives to the Prince of Wales and to all of us to assist in anything which is calculated to tend towards the pleasure and the good of our fellow-countrymen. The Prince of Wales is now, probably at this moment, engaged at Chatham in unveiling the statue which has been erected in memory of General Gordon. I need not now allude further to the great Englishman whom we all lament; but it is one of the great duties and one of the privileges of Royal Princes to do honour to the great men who have been their fellow-countrymen. It has also been our custom to take close interest in the Services, as they are called, and to-day Prince George of Wales starts in the Thrusah, to which command he has been appointed. I am sure you will join with me in wishing him a prosperous and pleasant cruise. He also is a stamp collector, and ought to return with a good collection from America and the West Indies. He is interested in the subject, and his collection ought to be worth having. I will now propose you the toast of "Success to the Exhibition."

Sir Saul Samuel having spoken The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that the chairman (Mr. Tapling, M.P.) had struck the keynote of the place by proposing the health of the Queen and Empress, thus calling attention to the Imperial scope of the exhibition. The society had discovered the poetic and the artistic element in a very prosaic matter. For his own part he could not claim that during his tenure of office he had made many contributions towards philately or, as he preferred to call it, philately, but he might mention, without breach of official confidence, that the design of the threepenny postcard, which was his latest contribution, had been submitted to her Majesty, that her Majesty had expressed approval of it, and that he had little doubt that the Duke of Edinburgh had inherited his taste for postage stamps.

Before the company broke up an interesting, if desultory, conversation took place concerning the meaning of "philately." Certain enthusiasts of the committee maintained that they were right and Mr. Raikes was wrong, seeing that the word they intended to reproduce was *φιλατελία*, which would mean "a love for freedom from taxation." Mr. Raikes's word, on the other hand, would be *φιλοτελία*, which may be interpreted into a species of official fondness for taxation, and it may safely be asserted that unless philately had obtained the mastery over philately, the exhibition which is our subject matter could never have come into existence.

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POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION

10.5.90. In the buildings once associated with Madame Tussaud and the Cattle Show, but now changed not only in appearance but in name, and known as the Portman Rooms, there has been opened the most splendid collection of postage stamps ever gathered together. It is the first of its kind in England, but nevertheless it transcends in quantity and quality any similar show which has been held at Vienna and other Continental capitals. The Jubilee of the Penny Post suggested the undertaking to Mr. M. P. Castle, a well-known collector, and his ideas were warmly taken up by the Philatelic Society, which promptly formed an executive committee, consisting of Mr. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P., Mr. Douglas Garth, Mr. E. D. Bacon, Mr. J. A. Tilleard, and Mr. Castle, with Mr. Charles Colman as honorary secretary. As the number of entries soon convinced these gentlemen that large premises would have to be secured for their display, the Portman Rooms were secured, and when the Duke of Edinburgh, himself an ardent collector, consented to open the Exhibition, the success of the enterprise seemed to be a foregone conclusion. It may at once be stated that this happy augury has been amply fulfilled. When it is stated that the accumulated stamps are valued at over £100,000, that a heavy insurance has been effected at Lloyd's, and that guardians watch the cases day and night, it may readily be imagined that visitors can enjoy a long afternoon at this wonderful museum with a keen sense of the value of that which they are inspecting. There was a time when stamp collecting was scoffed at as the aimless amusement of schoolboys and very young ladies, but actual experience has shown that it has become an art in its development, and one of the most valuable aids to geographical knowledge. Last year the first stamp auction was held in London, and since then sales have been frequent, great prices being realised. For instance, last month a Bolivar small green 10 cent stamp of the first issue sold for £95, a Bolivia 500 cent black for £40, a British Guiana 1853 4 cent blue for £21, a 4d vermilion, 1d Venetian red, and 2d rose of Great Britain for £22 6s, a laureated 1d Sydney with an error in the impression for £46, a Victoria beaded oval 6d orange for £27 6s, a Confederate States (used) 5 cent blue for £34, a West Australia first issue 2d bronze for £57 6s, a ditto 6d for £80, and a Providence black (unused) 10 cent for £34. These sums give unmistakable evidence of the keen competition which exists among philatelists. Small wonder, then, that nowadays bundles of old letters are carefully overhauled by searchers after the forgotten treasures of the envelopes, and that the names of collectors such as M. Ferrari, of Paris, and Mr. Tapling, M.P., enjoy a world-wide fame. At the Portman Rooms the cases positively swarm with rarities. There is the only joined pair of the unprepossessing pink first issue of British Guiana alongside its yellow, green, and blue brethren, all the property of Mr. E. B. Luard; there is Major E. B. Evans's splendid lot of Afghans, some so scarce that only disfigured specimens are known to exist. Then, again, there is Lord Kingston's nearly complete set of unused English issue; there is Mr. E. D. Bacon's vast assemblage of Japanese stamps, all native made and of endless variety; there are Mr. Tapling's Réunions, valued at £60 to £70 a pair, and his Mauritius, of which he boasts some examples to be found in no other English collection, and of which some fourteen or fifteen others only are known to exist elsewhere. The same amateur's Hawaiian are probably unique, one sheet of twelve being appraised at £400; and his New South Wales, including an uncut sheet of the first penny stamp, must fill the spectator with envy as they lie alongside of the fine assortment belonging to Mr. Castle and Mr. W. B. Thornhill. Possibly no one but a connoisseur would gauge the value of those Japanese postcards at £5 a piece, or care to expend £30 on the yellow shilling label of Mauritius, or £200 on an unused 2d stamp of the same colony. Who but he could guess that a set of eight Austrian envelopes would fetch £50, or imagine a 3d "green" of New South Wales represented cash to the extent of from £10 to £15? Look, too, at the Duke of Edinburgh's fine row of Greek "errors," Dr. Mallman's American "locals," Mr. Tapling's Pacific Steam Navigations, and Major Evans's splendid group of native Indians, including those of Bhopal, Thind, Soruth, Kashmir, Nowanugger, Poonch, Sirmoor, Jannaghar, Pattialia, Gwalior, Faridkot, Nabha, Chamba, and other Eastern States, whose names are certainly not household words in Europe. There are such curiosities as uncut sheets

of Philippines, Mulready's original design for his envelope, belonging to Miss Jaffray; the Duke of Leinster's inverted "Black Swan"; James Chalmers's first adhesive; Sir Rowland Hill's unrivalled group of models, specimens, and trophies, including the first Albert medal ever given by the Royal Society; and last, but not least, the large trophy of forgeries, nearly all of which are believed to be the work of one Italian engraver, some of whose imitations are very nearly perfect. Again, there is the ingenious perforating machine of Messrs. Perkins and Bacon, and the great show of reprints displayed by the Tasmanian Government. Those of New South Wales are on their way, and will add greatly to the interest of the exhibition. The exhibits of such firms as Lincoln, Maury, Stafford Smith, Pemberton and Wilson, and Stanley Gibbons show that the great dealers have not neglected their opportunity, and there is Mr. J. Leighton, F.S.A., with his simple and original method of voting at elections by post. Indeed, it is almost impossible to give a satisfactory idea of this novel and historical collection.

Punctually at noon the Duke of Edinburgh, who was received by a guard of honour of the 24th Middlesex (Post Office) Rifles, entered the building, and was received by Mr. Tapling and the committee. Among those present were the Duke of Teck, the Duke of Leinster, Lord Bangor, Lord Barrington, Lord Kingston, Sir Saul Samuel, Mr. Braddon (Agent-General for Tasmania), Admiral Woods, and Sir S. A. Blackwood, who were joined later on by Mr. Raikes (Postmaster-General). Mr. Tapling, when his Royal Highness had taken his stand on the flower-decked dais, welcomed the Duke in a brief address, in which he pointed out the interest which had been aroused by the Postage Jubilee. His Royal Highness said in reply:

"Ladies and Gentlemen—Having myself for some time been interested in the subject to which this exhibition is devoted, I was glad to receive an invitation to open it, and to have the opportunity of inspecting the highly interesting collection which is now to be displayed to the public. The fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of postage stamps into the world has certainly been well-chosen for the inauguration of the exhibition. I congratulate you upon the assistance and co-operation so kindly bestowed by the Postal department, both of this country and of the Colonies, as well as by the numerous private individuals who have placed at your disposal their valuable collections, and I need hardly say how much pleasure it afforded me to do what lay in my own power to assist you. I heartily wish all success to your efforts, and trust that the results will very materially conduce to the advantage of the charitable institutions connected with the General Post Office which have been so appropriately selected to receive benefit therefrom. I have now only to declare this exhibition open."

The Royal party then made a tour of the exhibits, the Duke of Edinburgh frequently stopping to discuss the technicalities of some of the specimens with Mr. Tapling and others. At one o'clock luncheon was served to some fifty guests in what was once the Chamber of Horrors, but which was now devoted to more appetising occupation. A word of praise must be given to Messrs. Maclure for the menus devised and executed by them. The covers, illustrative of the progress of penny postage, were decorated with "Queen's beads," real and unused, dating from 1840 onwards. After lunch Mr. Tapling rose, and, having given the toast of "The Queen and Empress," which was drunk with all honours, added that of the "rest of the Royal family, coupled with the name of the Duke of Edinburgh." His Royal Highness, who was greeted with long-continued applause, said,

"My Lords and Gentlemen—I return you my sincere thanks for the kind manner in which you have drunk my health. I also assure you that it gives the greatest pleasure to the Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal family to visit any exhibition which tends to the good of our fellow-countrymen. I may tell you that the Prince is engaged almost at this very moment in unveiling the statue of General Gordon at Chatham. I need not now allude to the merits of that great Englishman whom we all mourn, but it is one of the duties and privileges of the Royal Princes to do honour to the famous men whom they are proud to call their fellow-countrymen. It is, moreover, also our privilege to be connected with the public services. To-day Prince George of Wales starts—nay, probably has started—from Chatham in the Thrusah, to the command of which he has been appointed. I am sure you will join with me in wishing him a prosperous and pleasant cruise. He also is a stamp collector, and I hope that he will return with a goodly number of additions from North America and the West Indies. I am a collector, too, and I have been only too glad to contribute specimens to this fine exhibition. I need not detain you longer, for, no doubt, you are all anxious to resume your inspection of the treasures in the other room." The Duke resumed his place amid loud cheers.

Mr. Tapling then proposed "The Postal System of Great Britain and the Colonies." The Postmaster-General, in responding, said that Mr. Tapling had very happily given her Majesty the title of Queen-Empress, thereby alluding to the Greater Britain, which owned her away. He might without indiscretion state that the Queen took the greatest interest in things postal, and in evidence he related how interested she had been in the development of the threepenny Australian post-card, which bore a full-length portrait of herself on it. Sir Saul Samuel also replied, and, referring to the charges that had been made of disloyalty against those who had substituted the emu, the platypus, the kangaroo, and the lyre bird for the sovereign's head on the stamps of the Antipodes, asserted that he might say that the last-named bird possibly typified these calumniators. Great laughter followed the worthy Agent-General's caustic remark, and then the Royal party again circulated through the exhibition, the Duke of Teck frequently stopping to speak to those Post Office riders who had served in Egypt. The Duke of Edinburgh before leaving intimated his intention of again visiting this marvellous proof of civilisation and progress.

An exhibition promoted by the Philatelic Society was opened yesterday at the Portman Rooms, Baker-street. The first suggestion of such an exhibition was made by Mr. Castle, and was taken up by the Philatelic Society, who determined that it should take place in the present year as a suitable commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the first issue of postage stamps. An influential committee was appointed, and they issued appeals for co-operation to the postal authorities of our Colonies and of foreign countries. These appeals were warmly responded to, especially by the Colonies, and the collection is by far the best ever brought together. Many private collectors have largely contributed from their stores, to fill up any blanks that might occur in the continuity of the various series of stamps, the Duke of Edinburgh (who is an enthusiastic collector) lending a large number of specimens from his collection. The stamps are arranged in eleven rows of glass cases extending the entire length of the great hall, and other cases are affixed to the walls. Many of the stamps exhibited have a large money value from their extreme scarcity; and there are some which have never been issued, the whole series having been cancelled before they had been placed at the public disposal.

At twelve o'clock the Duke of Edinburgh took his place on the platform; and Mr. T. K. TAPLIN, M.P., Vice President of the Society and Chairman of the Executive Committee, read an address. In the course of this he sketched the history of the exhibition, and expressed the thanks of the Society to the postal authorities of our own and other countries, and to the Duke and other private collectors, who had greatly aided, by the loan of rare stamps, to render the Exhibition as complete as possible. He hoped that the interest of the public in the Exhibition would be sufficient to enable a considerable sum to be placed at the disposal of the charities connected with the Post Office.

The Duke of EDINBURGH replied:—Gentlemen,—Having myself been for some time interested in the subject to which this exhibition is devoted, I was glad to receive an invitation to open it, and to have the opportunity of inspecting the highly interesting collection which is to be displayed to the public. The fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of postage stamps into the world has certainly been well chosen for the inauguration of the exhibition. I congratulate you upon the assistance and co-operation so kindly bestowed by the postal departments of this country and of the Colonies, as well as by the numerous private individuals who have placed at your disposal their valuable collections; and I need hardly say how much pleasure it afforded me to do what lay in my power to assist you. I heartily wish all success to your efforts, and trust that the result will very materially conduce to the advantage of the charitable institutions connected with the General Post Office. I now declare the exhibition open.

The Duke then proceeded to examine the contents of the cases, and appeared greatly interested in the many rare specimens, and was particularly pleased with the pencil drawings of the Queen's head for the various series of stamps, giving, in fact, a chronological series of portraits. These were executed by Mr. Castle. At a quarter to one o'clock the band of the Post Office Volunteers arrived and took their place in the ante-room between the great hall and that in which luncheon was laid, and at one o'clock some thirty-five gentlemen sat down to luncheon. Among those present were the Duke of Teck, the Duke of Leinster, the Earl of Kingston, Viscount Barrington, Viscount Bangor, Mr. Raikes, Sir Arthur Blackwood, Sir Saul Samuel, Agent General for New South Wales, Mr. Braddon, Agent General for Tasmania, Admiral Woods, and others.—Mr. TAPLIN, who took the chair, is the owner of one of the finest collections of stamps in the kingdom, the money value of which is estimated at 50,000*l.*—The toasts of the Queen and the Prince of Wales and all the Royal family were duly honoured, and, in answer to the last toast, the Duke of EDINBURGH returned thanks, and assured his hearers of the pleasure taken by the Prince of Wales, by himself, and other members of the Royal family in doing anything in their power to add to the pleasure as well as the good of the public. He alluded to the fact that the Prince of Wales was present that day inaugurating at Chatham the statue of General Gordon, while his son sailed that day on board the Thrush, his first command.—In returning thanks for the toast of "Success to the Exhibition," proposed by the Duke of EDINBURGH, the CHAIRMAN said the postal improvements, as typified by the postage stamp, were scarcely inferior in their benefits to the poorer classes to the benefits effected by the discovery of printing.—The Duke proposed "The English and Colonial Stamps Departments," coupled with the names of Mr. Raikes and Sir Saul Samuel.—Mr. RAIKES, in returning thanks, alluded to the fact that the present exhibition specially called to mind the extent and variety of the dominion over which the Queen rules.

The exhibition will remain open to the public for some time. The arrangements are all complete, and reflect great credit upon the Committee, consisting of Messrs. Philbrick, Q.C., Taplin, M.P., Douglas Garth, C. Colman, J. A. Tilleard, M.P., Castle, and E. D. Bacon, who have for some time been working night and day to get through the difficult task of classifying all the exhibits, and getting all in perfect order for the opening day.

10 May 1890.

LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

Daily Graphic TION. 20.5.90.10

The Duke of Edinburgh, himself an enthusiastic collector, opened yesterday, at the Portman Rooms an exhibition of postage stamps, which has been got together under the auspices of the Philatelic Society of London, and which is the finest exhibition of the kind ever held. The Duke, on arriving at the rooms, was received by the exhibition committee, with Mr. T. K. Taplin, M.P., at their head, who conducted his Royal Highness to a dais, and then read an address, in which it was stated that the exhibition was held in connection with the 50th anniversary of the introduction of postage stamps on the 6th May, 1840, an event which had proved a blessing second to none of the reforms of the past fifty years. On no previous occasion had so large and important a collection of postal issues and curiosities been brought together, and it appeared appropriate that the capital of England, where postage-stamps were first introduced, should thus be chosen for the inauguration of such an exhibition. The society had to thank the postal authorities at home and in the colonies for their ready co-operation, and special thanks were due to his Royal Highness for permitting the use of stamps from his own collection. Stamps from all the countries in the world were here represented.

The Duke, in replying, said:—"Gentlemen, I thank you very much for having invited me to come and open this Exhibition, one which will be of great interest, not only to stamp collectors and those who follow the science of philately themselves, but to the general public also; and you could not have selected a more suitable time than this—the fiftieth anniversary of the first introduction of postage-stamps. It is very fortunate that you have had such assistance from the postal departments of this country and of the colonies, and I am also very gratified to think that certain charities connected with the postal department will be benefited by the proceeds of the Exhibition. I have now, ladies and gentlemen, only to declare this Exhibition open."

The Duke was then conducted through the Exhibition, spending a considerable time in viewing the exhibits. The Duke of Teck, who had arrived in the interval, and Mr. Cecil Raikes, M.P. (Postmaster-General), together with Sir S. A. Blackwood (Secretary of the Post Office), also inspected the exhibition. A guard of honour of the 24th Middlesex (Post Office) Rifle Volunteers, under the command of Major MacGregor, and the drum and fife band of the regiment, were in attendance.

When the jubilee anniversary of uniform penny postage was being celebrated in January last, the occasion was frequently incorrectly referred to as the postage-stamp celebration, but, as a matter of fact, that humble though most useful agent in the social economy of modern life was not introduced until May 1840, being five months later than the inauguration of penny postage. It may be remembered that prepayment was of the essence of the postal reform of 1840, but there was considerable difficulty in carrying out this part of the plan, until Rowland Hill availed himself of the plan, which he attributed to his friend Mr. Charles Knight, the publisher, to use "bits of paper large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash, which might, by applying a little moisture, be attached to the letter without a wafer." The idea commended itself to the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry in 1837, before whom it was brought, and a clause providing for the use of such stamps was inserted in the Penny Postage Act. Some delay occurred in bringing the proposed stamps into use owing to the process of selecting suitable designs, a matter that caused considerable competition. The Government decided at first to try both the proposed adhesive label and a stamped cover, and a proclamation was issued inviting "all artists, men of science, and the public in general to offer proposals as to the manner in which the stamp may be best brought into use," prizes of £200 and £100 respectively being offered for the proposals which should be deemed most deserving of attention. Some three thousand proposals were sent in, and as regards the envelopes the well-remembered but ill-fated Mulready envelope was selected, the brief career of which is already matter of history. The postage-label, on the other hand, proved entirely successful. The design selected was that sent in by Messrs. Bacon and Petch, being engraved on a steel die by Mr. Charles Heath, the portrait of the Queen having been taken from a drawing by Mr. Henry Corbould from Wyon's City medal. The first issue in black, which two years later was altered to brown, so as to perfect the process of obliteration, and the more easily to detect the dishonest use of old stamps, is well remembered by most persons, and specimens are cherished by stamp-collectors. Since that period postage-stamps have undergone many changes that need scarcely be dwelt on here, the last alteration being made in 1887, when the Jubilee set which are now in use were introduced.

It is curious to note that at first some considerable opposition was manifested to the scheme for using postage-labels; and among many objections to their use urged by the Post-Office Secretary of that day was a remarkable one, to the effect that they would not be available for "half-ounce letters weighing an ounce or above"; which was met by Rowland Hill with the naïve reply that "letters exhibiting so remarkable a peculiarity might present difficulties with which he was not prepared to deal." The "small stamped detached labels," however, as of course we know, at once became a marked popular success, and in the first fifteen years after their introduction more than 3,000,000,000 stamps were manufactured in order to meet the general demand, and this notwithstanding that in the early years of penny postage prepayment by stamps was not compulsory. The number of postage-stamps used at the present time for ordinary correspondence may be gathered from the fact that the total number of letters, packets, &c., passing through the post to which stamps are affixed now averages over 2,000,000,000 in the year, which number is exclusive of 200,000,000 postcards.

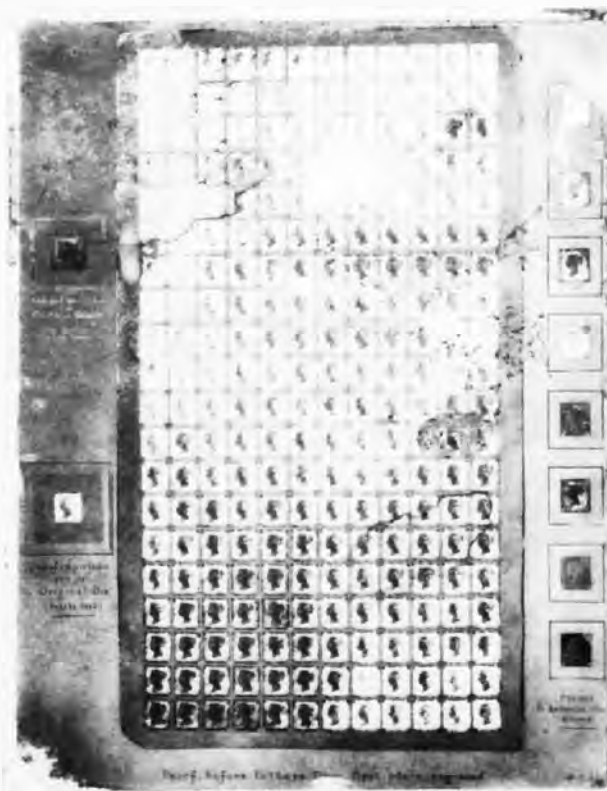
As may be imagined, it was not long before other uses were discovered to which postage-stamps could be put, and for many years they were freely used for the purpose of making small remittances, postmasters being allowed to purchase them from the public at a small rate of discount. The subsequent expansion of the money-order system and reduction of the money-order rates, as well as the reduction of the fee for registered letters, greatly lessened the use of stamps in this respect, and the practice has since always been strongly condemned by the authorities. The introduction of postal orders for small fixed amounts in 1881 almost wholly removed the necessity for making use of stamps in this manner, but they have played a most useful part in conjunction with that system, as, to the extent of fivepence, they are allowed to be used if affixed to the face of the postal order to make up odd sums not provided for by the system. Their utility in this respect has been most marked, and the value of the stamps so used is represented by a marvellously large amount.

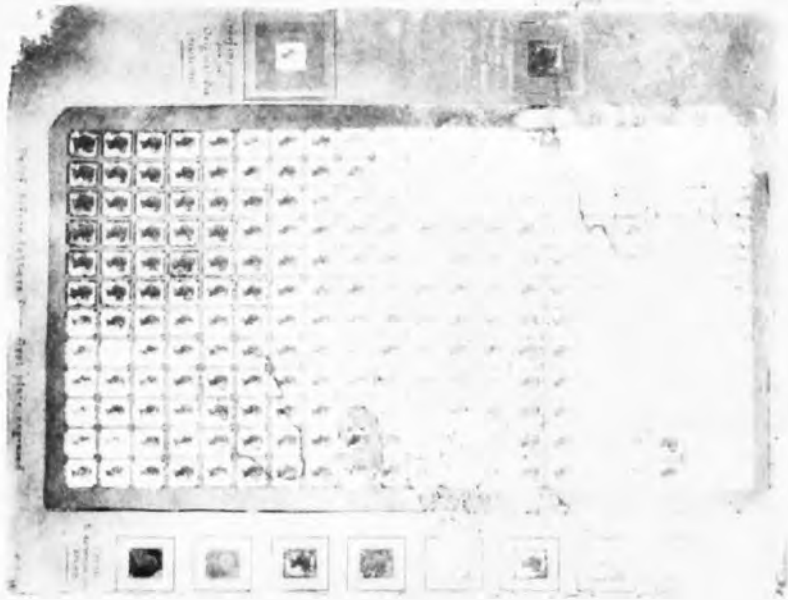
In the matter of thrift postage-stamps play a very active part. The minimum limit of a deposit in the Post Office Savings Bank is one shilling; but there are many persons to whom even this limit is too high, and to encourage providence among this class it was arranged some years ago that slips should be issued containing spaces for twelve penny stamps, and that any such slip having unused postage-stamps affixed to it to the value of a shilling should be received as an ordinary deposit of that amount. The plan has proved enormously successful, and more than half a million of money has been saved in the Post Office through the simple agency of postage-stamps.

In telegraphic matters, as we know, stamps have been found extremely useful, and when, in 1870, the Government took over the electric wires of the country it was at once apparent to the authorities that this would be the most ready and convenient method of prepaying telegrams. At first, as may be remembered, distinctive stamps were used with the object of distinguishing between postal and telegraph revenue, but other means of doing this have since been devised, and the introduction of a unified stamp which is applicable for postal, telegraph, and Inland Revenue purposes has much simplified matters.

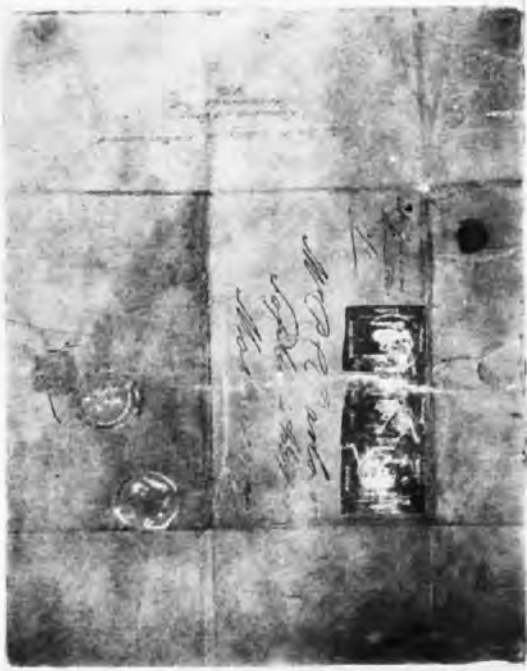
An interesting feature in the history of postage-stamps is the new science to which it has given birth, known as Philately, which deals with the collection and examination of postage-stamps of all countries. Stamp-collecting set in very soon after the introduction of the adhesive label, and at one time the mania was so great that, as one chronicler tells us, crowds nightly congregated in Birchin-lane, to the great annoyance and wonder of the uninitiated, "where ladies and gentlemen of all ages and ranks, from Cabinet Ministers to crossing-sweepers, were busy with album and portfolio in hand, buying, selling, or exchanging." These scenes were the germs of what has since developed into a new and prosperous trade. Excitement in this direction does not now probably run so high, for the mania has been reduced to a dignified science which is represented by several societies; and the Philatelic Exhibition, which was opened by the Duke of Edinburgh on May 19 in celebration of the postage-stamp jubilee, has been made highly interesting by the comparison of the results of the many enthusiasts in this direction. But in its ordinary influence the collection of stamps probably affects the younger portion more than the adult section of the community. The fever is one from which few schoolboys escape, and, if it tends to a greater geographical and topographical interest on their part, it must be admitted that even in this respect the postage-stamp is not without practical value.

A. G. B.











London Philatelic Exhibition,

PORTMAN ROOMS,
BAKER STREET, W..

MAY, 1890.

STALL NO. 4.
CHAS. J. PHILLIPS,
BIRMINGHAM.

Cut with Perkins, Bacon & Co. first perforating

*Machinés, at the
Exhibition
21. May 1890
P. 11 1/2.*



*Philatelic Society's
20 May 1890*

The recent Philatelic Exhibition reminds the *Feathered World* how great a part birds play in what stamp collectors call "philately." In heraldry the eagle, the great emblem of empire, is of the most frequent occurrence. As in heraldry, so in the science of postage stamps. Naturally enough, it is the empires which have chiefly adopted the eagle for this purpose. The Austrian stamps bear a representation of the Emperor, but they formerly sported the double-headed eagle, therein resembling the Russians and the people of Lubeck. The same device was used in the original stamps of the French colonies. The single-headed eagle has been used for Russia, for the German Empire, and for Venezuela, and, in rare instances, in the land of the Stars and Stripes. The United States have issued far more postage-stamp varieties than any other country—even Great Britain; but, almost invariably, their stamps represent the heads of various Presidents, from Washington to Garfield. To the rule of the eagle for the empire, China forms the proverbial exception, and uses the dragon in place of the king of birds. The stamps of Great Britain and of our colonies as a general rule use female heads, which are more or less unlike her Majesty; but far more worthy attempts to represent the Queen have been made in Newfoundland and Canada. Some of our colonies have, however, shown a little variety. Trinidad and Barbadoes, which are now sadly commonplace, formerly used pretty little pictures of Britannia; whilst in Canada we have seen a beaver and also the Prince Consort, and in Newfoundland a seal. An emu is shown on one of the new series of New South Wales stamps; but, from the bird-lover's point of view, this must give way to Western Australian stamps. The single swans there are admirable, and possess the "grace and art" of one of Congreve's nymphs. The only other stamps bearing the mark of the bird, which we can at present recollect, are the gentle doves on the embossed stamps of Switzerland and the attractive green parrots on those of Guatemala.

123

*London Philatelic Exhibition
 1890
 Commemorative of the
 Fifty Years of the
 Postage Stamp
 1840 to 1890 inclusive
 at a special letter with a postage
 2 times the usual*

124

29.5.90 ANOTHER POSTAL JUBILEE CELEBRATION. 126

The success of the evening at the Guildhall on behalf of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund has encouraged the Post Office authorities to further effort. Arrangements have now been completed for another far vaster festival to be held at South Kensington Museum on an early day in July. The Queen having consented to become the patron of the movement, the Postmaster-General feels himself at liberty to heartily co-operate, and it is intended to make the event memorable in the history of the Post Office. The day will be one of general holiday in the Post Office. The Privy Council have lent the Museum for the purpose, and an influential committee of officers of the Post Office is being formed with the intention to make the meeting a success. The railway companies of the United Kingdom have been approached on the subject, and have consented to issue to all officers of the Post Office able to obtain leave of absence return tickets to and from London at a cost which in most cases will be less and in no cases more than an ordinary single fare. The same privilege will be extended to their wives and children.

125

In Celebration

OF

FIFTY YEARS OF PENNY POSTAGE.

LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.



MENU DU DINER,

May 21st 1890.

1840 to 1890.

JUBILEE OF UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE.—The following notice has been issued from the General Post Office to branch post-offices:—" *Conversazione* at South Kensington Museum on Wednesday, July 2, 1890, under the most gracious patronage of her Majesty the Queen.—Special postal jubilee envelope.—An envelope bearing a postage stamp of the value of 1d. has been specially designed in commemoration of the jubilee of uniform penny postage. The envelopes can be obtained at this office on July 2 next. Each envelope will contain an appropriate correspondence card, and will be sold for a shilling. The proceeds, after deducting the cost of production and the value of the postage stamp, will be devoted to the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund for the relief and assistance of Post Office servants or their widows and children. The plate of the envelope will be broken up immediately, and no further issue will be made. Orders in advance will be taken here, as it is not improbable that the strictly limited supply will be exceeded by the demand." 4.6.90 127

ROWLAND HILL BENEVOLENT FUND.—We understand that the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Mr. William Lidderdale, and Alderman Sir James Whitehead, D.L., are about to unite in an appeal to the public for funds to increase the invested property of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund. That fund amounts to about £17,000, from which an income is derived of a little more than £600 a year. The fund is designed to meet circumstances which the Superannuation Act cannot provide for, especially in affording assistance to widows and orphans of Post Office servants. There are probably about 100,000 officials in the Post Office; and it is thought that the jubilee year of the adoption of uniform inland penny postage affords a favourable opportunity of appealing for support to a public always so generous and considerate towards servants of the Post Office. In anticipation of this appeal some liberal donations have been received. Her Majesty the Queen is already the patron of the society, and a contributor to its funds. Lord Rothschild has promised £100, the Philatelic Society £50, and the firm of Messrs. De la Rue and Co. have sent to the Post Office the handsome donation of £200. 20.6.90 128



DINÉR.

Consommé à la Brunoise.
Surtée de Tomates.

Saumon, Sauce Hollandaise.
Blanchailles.



Chaud-froid de Mauviettes en
Belle Vue.



Quartier d'Agneau.
Salade à la Française.

Canetons aux Petits Bois.
Sommes de Terre Nouvelles.

Baba à la Stanley.
Suédoise d'Abricots à la Crème.

Pouding Glacé au Marasquin.





LIST OF TOASTS.

—*—
The Queen.



—*—
*The Prince and Princess of Wales
and the rest of Royal Family.*

—*—
Success to our Exhibition.
Proposed by F. A. PHILBRICK, Esq., Q.C.

—*—
Our Foreign Guests.
Proposed by T. K. TAYLOR, Esq., M.P.
Responded to by HERR P. ESCHERACH.

—*—
The Ladies.
Proposed by CHARLES COLMAN, Esq.
Responded to by DOUGLAS GARTH, Esq.

—*—
The Chairman.
Proposed by M. P. CASTLE, Esq.
Responded to by F. A. PHILBRICK, Esq., Q.C.



MESSRS KEITH, PROWSE & CO.'S
BAND, UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF SIGNOR CURTI, WILL PER-
FORM DURING THE EVENING.



Concertina Solo
Accompanist

Signor Olsepi.
Mr. Edwin Holmes.

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, located in the upper left corner of the page. The text is faint and difficult to read, but appears to be written in cursive.

Small handwritten mark or signature located below the main block of text.

Telegraph. 57

There is an error here

Paper is list of 57

Wells Stamp

So is the 10/

THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST.

16.6.90. 129

The celebration of 50 years' successful working of the uniform penny post of Sir Rowland Hill is to be completed by the fête to take place, as already announced in our columns, at South Kensington on July 2. The programme of this entertainment has now been settled in its main outlines, and it may fairly be said that it does credit to the ingenuity of the Post Office officials who have arranged it. The jubilee has already been celebrated by an official dinner, over which Mr. Raikes presided, and at which two past Postmasters-General were among the speakers. It has further been commemorated by the recent entertainment at the Guildhall, an entertainment honoured by the presence of the Prince of Wales, and presenting many unusual features. In organizing this entertainment the members of the Corporation had the assistance of a Post Office committee, and the interesting exhibition of the methods and apparatus of the department which was to be seen at the Guildhall on the 16th, 17th, and 19th of May must have rendered it difficult to hit upon any further novelty. It has, however, been the wish of the Postmaster-General and his staff that all ranks of the service should have the opportunity of participating in the commemoration of the Penny Post. With this object the third and concluding fête to take place at South Kensington has been arranged; and the inventiveness of the Post Office seems to have risen to the occasion.

The entertainment takes place under the express patronage of the Queen, and the Duke of Edinburgh (who will be accompanied by the Duchess) will be the President of the *conversations*. Amongst the Vice-Presidents, in addition to Mr. Raikes, are the Prime Minister, the First Lord of the Treasury, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and a long list of past Postmasters-General.

After the arrival of the President a procession, headed by the Lord Mayor's silver trumpeters of the City, attending by kind permission, will be formed, and will proceed to a dais constructed at the extremity of the north court of the museum. At a signal, a retired officer of the Post Office will then deliver to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh a letter of congratulation and thanks, signed by the sole surviving brother of the late Sir Rowland Hill, and by officers of the Post Office still in the full activity of life, some of whom date their entry into the service so far back as 1829. The signatures, which will be very numerous, will, with a single exception, be those of officers who entered the Post Office service not later than the year 1840. Meantime, the South Kensington Museum will have been placed in direct telegraphic communication with the Continent of Europe, and it is anticipated that the next event will be the arrival of a telegram direct from Russia, the receipt of which will illustrate in a very marked way the marvellous agency which the telegraphic side of the Post Office controls, and which admits of an almost instantaneous exchange of language between points perhaps thousands of miles apart. When this telegram is delivered, there will be yet another letter, which, signed by the Postmaster-General and the Secretary of the Post Office, will thank her Royal Highness in the name of all the present servants of the Post Office for her condescension and kindness. Then will be given three cheers for her Majesty the Queen, not merely by those assembled in the museum, but by Post Office servants stationed at the extreme points of the British Isles. A telegraphic apparatus will be put in motion, which will transmit an electric signal to towns selected as representative of the geographical extremities of the United Kingdom; Lerwick, for example, in the Shetland Islands, in the north; Edinburgh and Glasgow in the north-east and north-west; Penzance, Portsmouth, and Dover in the south, Galway in the west, and Yarmouth in the east. On the signal so transmitted being received at these distant parts, cheers will break forth simultaneously with the cheers of the visitors at South Kensington. At other offices not telegraphically connected, by concerted arrangements cheers will be given as near as may be at the same time, so that throughout the length and breadth of the United Kingdom a like tribute of loyalty will be paid at the same moment of time. It need hardly be said that these simultaneous cheers will not be given by virtue of an official order, but as the result of an invitation from the officers composing the executive committee to their brother and sister officers throughout the service.

In the architectural court a thorough going post-office will be established, at which all the duties proper to a branch post-office and to a district sorting-office will be performed; and in another part of the building, a telegraphic circuit, communicating direct with Berlin or some other Continental city, will be set in motion. Other branch offices for the sale of the new jubilee envelope will be established, and the old Guildhall office of 1790 will be reproduced. But the most remarkable feature of departmental business will

probably be found in an ambitious attempt to anticipate the next hundred years and to forecast the facilities likely to be realized in 1990. It will certainly tax the inventive power of the Post Office to the utmost, not only to devise, but to carry out with any measure of success so highly imaginative a project; but its authors will be safe in the knowledge that the most severe critic will be unable to convict them of error.

The quadrangle of the museum will probably be lighted by electricity, and the bands of the Grenadiers and the Royal Artillery will be in attendance; while Madame Valleria, Mr. Sims Reeves, and many other artists have generously promised to aid a Post-office choir in the concert room.

JUBILEE OF UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE.—
POST OFFICE CONVERSAZIONE at South Kensington Museum, under the most gracious patronage of Her MAJESTY THE QUEEN, on Wednesday, July 2, 1890, in AID of the ROWLAND HILL BENEVOLENT FUND.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh have graciously signified their intention of being present. President of the Conversation—His Royal Highness the DUKE of EDINBURGH, K.G. Vice Presidents. The Right Hon. Henry Cecil Raikes, M.P., Her Majesty's Postmaster-General. The Most Hon. the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G. The Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P. The Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P.

And the following ex-Postmaster-Generals:—His Grace the Duke of Argyll, K.G., K.T., his Grace the Duke of Rutland, G.C.B., the Right Hon. Lord Emly, the Right Hon. the Marquis of Hartington, M.P., the Right Hon. G. J. Shaw-Lefevre, M.P., the Right Hon. Sir Lyon Playfair, K.C.B., M.P. Also his Grace the Duke of Abercorn, G.C.B., his Grace the Duke of Marlborough, his Grace the Duke of Portland, his Grace the Duke of Wellington, the Marquis of Ripon, K.G., the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Earl of Ashburnham, the Earl of Bradford, the Earl of Clarendon, the Earl of Derby, K.G., the Earl of Gainsborough, the Earl Grey, K.G., the Earl of Jersey, the Earl Spencer, K.G., the Earl Waldevra, Sir James Whitehead, Bart., D.L., Sir Arthur Blackwood, K.C.B., Pearson Hill, Esq.

The Committee have the pleasure of announcing that with great liberality and kindness the following distinguished artists have generously given their services for the occasion:—
Madame Valleria
Madame Annie Marriott
Miss Alice Gomez
Miss Nellie Levey
Mr. Sims Reeves
Mr. Ben Davies
Mr. Percy Palmer
Mr. Fredk. King
Mr. Sydney Beckley
Mr. J. E. Payne (violin)
Mr. Leo Stern (violin)
Madame Frickehaus (piano)
Mr. Alfred J. Caldwell, Mus. Bac.
Mr. Arthur Faure

The Band of the Grenadier Guards (conducted by Lieut. Dan Godfrey), by permission of Colonel Trotter, and the String Band of the Royal Artillery (conducted by Cavalier Zaverlari), by permission of the Officer Commanding, will play during the evening.

Special Stamp Collections.—An extensive collection of British stamps will be kindly lent by the Board of Inland Revenue, and will be shown in the Crikshaw's Gallery. The collection belonging to the Government of New South Wales has also been lent for the occasion; and the Post Office collection will likewise be shown.

The Post Office Choir (under the direction of Mr. Sydney Beckley) will sing a selection of part songs.

Branch post offices, a sorting office, and telegraph offices will be established in the Museum.

Telegraphic communication with the Continent will be maintained, as at the Jubilee at the Guildhall, under the eyes of the visitors. It is possible that while post offices of 1790 and 1890 will be at work, some attempt will be made to forecast the progress likely to be obtained in 1990.

Tickets may now be obtained, price 7s. 6d. each, on application to the Hon. Secretary, Jubilee Committee, General Post Office, and at the several district and branch post offices in London; also at the usual libraries and agents.

Uniform. Levée or evening dress.

The doors of the Museum will be opened at 7 p.m., and carriages may be ordered for 12 o'clock.

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Also
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
The Earl of Gainsborough
The Earl Grey, K.G.
The Earl of Jersey
The Earl Spencer, K.G.
The Earl Stanhope
The Earl of Strafford
The Earl Waldevra
Sir James Whitehead, Bart., D.L.
Sir Arthur Blackwood, K.C.B., Pearson Hill, Esq.

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Madame Annie Marriott
Miss Alice Gomez
Miss Nellie Levey
Mr. Sims Reeves
Mr. Ben Davies
Mr. Percy Palmer
Mr. Fredk. King
Mr. Sydney Beckley
Mr. J. E. Payne (violin)
Mr. Leo Stern (violin)
Madame Frickehaus (piano)
Mr. Alfred J. Caldwell, Mus. Bac.
Mr. Arthur Faure

The Band of the Grenadier Guards (conducted by Lieut. Dan Godfrey), by permission of Colonel Trotter, and of the Royal Artillery (conducted by Cavalier Zaverlari), by permission of the Officer Commanding, will play during the evening.

Special Stamp Collections.—An extensive collection of British stamps will be kindly lent by the Board of Inland Revenue, and will be shown in the Crikshaw's Gallery. The collection belonging to the Government of New South Wales has also been lent for the occasion; and the Post Office collection will likewise be shown.

The Post Office Choir (under the direction of Mr. Sydney Beckley) will sing a selection of part songs.

Branch post offices, a sorting office, and telegraph offices will be established in the Museum.

Telegraphic communication with the Continent will be maintained, as at the Jubilee at the Guildhall, under the eyes of the visitors. It is possible that while post offices of 1790 and 1890 will be at work, some attempt will be made to forecast the progress likely to be obtained in 1990.

Tickets may now be obtained, price 7s. 6d. each, on application to the Hon. Secretary, Jubilee Committee, General Post Office, and at the several district and branch post offices in London; also at the usual libraries and agents.

Uniform. Levée or evening dress.

The doors of the Museum will be opened at 7 p.m., and carriages may be ordered for 12 o'clock.

POST OFFICE JUBILEE CONVERSAZIONE.
At SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM, 2nd July, 1890.
Under the Patronage of HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.
Tickets, price 7s. 6d. each, can now be had on application to the Honorary Secretary, Jubilee Committee, G.P.O., London, E.C. F. E. BAINES, Chairman of Executive Committee. W. G. GATES, Principal Honorary Secretary. General Post Office, 7th June, 1890.

POSTAL JUBILEE ENVELOPE.

Encouraged by the extraordinary demand which attended the introduction, on the occasion of the recent Penny Postage Jubilee at the Guildhall, of a special post-card sold only on that occasion, the Post Office have resolved on issuing a specially designed postage envelope as a principal feature of the celebration by the Department on the 2d of July of the Jubilee of Uniform Penny Postage. At this moment Messrs. De la Rue and Co. are busily engaged in producing, from the design of Mr. F. E. Baines, C.B., Assistant Secretary at the Post Office, a postal envelope of original and attractive character. This design—says the *Times*—is printed in a fine tint of blue on white paper, and the envelope is of a larger size than ordinary postal envelopes. It is impressed in the usual place with a postage stamp of the value of 1d., and in the opposite corner with the same indication of the symbols of Royalty, together with the rose, the shamrock, and the thistle, which were so much admired on the Guildhall post-card. A few lines of print at the head of the envelope refer to the jubilee, and the date of the pending conversations at South Kensington. Then come two sets of illustrations, one implying a centenary and the other a jubilee. In the former case, a mail coach drawn by four horses is assumed to be making for Highgate, in 1790, with the North Mail in its lockers, and is travelling at a speed of eight miles an hour. As a contrast to this, at the foot of the envelope is represented the special mail train, composed exclusively of Post Office carriages, which leaves Euston-square every night at half-past eight o'clock for the North.

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The jubilee is indicated by two postmen—one in the garb of 50 years ago, when the rates of postage were various and high, and the other in the garb of the present day, when letters not over an ounce in weight pass at the uniform postage of 1d.

Although it is yet more than three weeks before these envelopes will be sold to the public, the demand, we understand, is already very great, and the estimates formed of the total number likely to be absorbed by the public are already greatly in excess of the quantity proposed to be printed. There is, consequently, every probability of the jubilee envelopes—which, by the way, will enclose a correspondence card of original design—rising in a few months, or possibly weeks, to the same high premium of a guinea which has already been obtained for the Guildhall post-cards.

The chief feature of the correspondence card is a medallion portrait of Sir Rowland Hill in the upper left-hand corner, under which is printed the legend, "He gave us Penny Postage." These words originated, we understand, with the late Lord Mayor, Sir James Whitehead, who has for some years taken a deep interest and active part in the administration of the "Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund," to assist which the special postal envelope has been devised.

THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST.

16.6.90.

The celebration of 50 years' successful working of the uniform penny post of Sir Rowland Hill is to be completed by the *fête* to take place, as already announced in our columns, at South Kensington on July 2. The programme of this entertainment has now been settled in its main outlines, and it may fairly be said that it does credit to the ingenuity of the Post Office officials who have arranged it. The jubilee has already been celebrated by an official dinner, over which Mr. Raikes presided, and at which two past Postmasters-General were among the speakers. It has further been commemorated by the recent entertainment at the Guildhall, an entertainment honoured by the presence of the Prince of Wales, and presenting many unusual features. In organizing this entertainment the members of the Corporation had the assistance of a Post Office committee, and the interesting exhibition of the methods and apparatus of the department which was to be seen at the Guildhall on the 16th, 17th, and 19th of May must have rendered it difficult to hit upon any further novelty. It has, however, been the wish of the Postmaster-General and his staff that all ranks of the service should have the opportunity of participating in the commemoration of the Penny Post. With this object the third and concluding *fête* to take place at South Kensington has been arranged; and the inventiveness of the Post Office seems to have risen to the occasion.

The entertainment takes place under the express patronage of the Queen, and the Duke of Edinburgh (who will be accompanied by the Duchess) will be the President of the *conversazione*. Amongst the Vice-Presidents, in addition to Mr. Raikes, are the Prime Minister, the First Lord of the Treasury, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and a long list of past Postmasters-General.

After the arrival of the President a procession, headed by the Lord Mayor's silver trumpeters of the City, attending by kind permission, will be formed, and will proceed to a dais constructed at the extremity of the north court of the museum. At a signal, a retired officer of the Post Office will then deliver to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh a letter of congratulation and thanks, signed by the sole surviving brother of the late Sir Rowland Hill, and by officers of the Post Office still in the full activity of life, some of whom date their entry into the service so far back as 1829. The signatures, which will be very numerous, will, with a single exception, be those of officers who entered the Post Office service not later than the year 1840. Meantime, the South Kensington Museum will have been placed in direct telegraphic communication with the Continent of Europe, and it is anticipated that the next event will be the arrival of a telegram direct from Russia, the receipt of which will illustrate in a very marked way the marvellous agency which the telegraphic side of the Post Office controls, and which admits of an almost instantaneous exchange of language between points perhaps thousands of miles apart. When this telegram is delivered, there will be yet another letter, which, signed by the Postmaster-General and the Secretary of the Post Office, will thank her Royal Highness in the name of all the present servants of the Post Office for her condescension and kindness. Then will be given three cheers for her Majesty the Queen, not merely by those assembled in the museum, but by Post Office servants stationed at the extreme points of the British Isles. A telegraphic apparatus will be put in motion, which will transmit an electric signal to towns selected as representative of the geographical extremities of the United Kingdom; Lerwick, for example, in the Shetland Islands, in the north; Edinburgh and Glasgow in the north-east and north-west, Penzance, Portsmouth, and Dover in the south, Galway in the west, and Yarmouth in the east. On the signal so transmitted being received at these distant parts, cheers will break forth simultaneously with the cheers of the visitors at South Kensington. At other offices not telegraphically connected, by concerted arrangements cheers will be given as near as may be at the same time, so that throughout the length and breadth of the United Kingdom a like tribute of loyalty will be paid at the same moment of time. It need hardly be said that these simultaneous cheers will not be given by virtue of an official order, but as the result of an invitation from the officers composing the executive committee to their brother and sister officers throughout the service.

In the architectural court a thorough going post-office will be established, at which all the duties proper to a branch post-office and to a district sorting-office will be performed; and in another part of the building, a telegraphic circuit, communicating direct with Berlin or some other Continental city, will be set in motion. Other branch offices for the sale of the new jubilee envelope will be established, and the old Guildhall office of 1790 will be reproduced. But the most remarkable feature of departmental business will

probably be found in an ambitious attempt to anticipate the next hundred years and to forecast the facilities likely to be realized in 1990. It will certainly tax the inventive power of the Post Office to the utmost, not only to devise, but to carry out with any measure of success so highly imaginative a project; but its authors will be safe in the knowledge that the most severe critic will be unable to convict them of error.

The quadrangle of the museum will probably be lighted by electricity, and the bands of the Grenadiers and the Royal Artillery will be in attendance; while Madame Valleria, Mr. Sims Reeves, and many other artists have generously promised to aid a Post-office choir in the concert room.

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JUBILEE OF UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE—POST OFFICE CONVERSAZIONE at South Kensington Museum, under the most gracious patronage of Her MAJESTY THE QUEEN, on Wednesday, July 2, 1890, in AID of the ROWLAND HILL BENEVOLENT FUND.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh have graciously signified their intention of being present. President of the *Conversazione*—His Royal Highness the DUKE of EDINBURGH, K.G.

Vice Presidents.

The Right Hon. Henry Cecil Raikes, M.P., Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.

The Most Hon. the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G.

The Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P.

The Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P.

And the following ex-Postmaster-Generals:—His Grace the Duke of Argyll, K.G., K.T., His Grace the Duke of Rutland, G.C.B., the Right Hon. Lord Emly, the Right Hon. the Marquis of Hartington, M.P., the Right Hon. G. J. Shaw-Lefevre, M.P., the Right Hon. Sir Lyon Playfair, K.C.B., M.P.

Also His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, G.R., His Grace the Duke of Marlborough, His Grace the Duke of Portland, His Grace the Duke of Wellington, the Marquis of Ripon, K.G., the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Earl of Ashburnham, the Earl of Bradford, the Earl of Clarendon, the Earl of Derby, K.G., the Earl of Gainsborough, the Earl Grey, K.G., the Earl of Jersey, the Earl Spencer, K.G., the Earl Waldegrave, Sir James Whitehead, Bart., D.L., Sir Arthur Blackwood, K.C.B., Pearson Hill, Esq.

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The Band of the Grenadier Guards (conducted by Lieut. Dan Godfrey), by permission of Colonel Trotter; and the String Band of the Royal Artillery (conducted by Cavalier Zaverthal), by permission of the Officer Commanding, will play during the evening.

Special Stamp Collections.—An extensive collection of British stamps will be kindly lent by the Board of Inland Revenue, and will be shown in the Crutchebank's Gallery. The collection belonging to the Government of New South Wales has also been lent for the occasion; and the Post Office collection will likewise be shown.

The Post Office Choir (under the direction of Mr. Sydney Beckley) will sing a selection of part songs.

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Uniform, Lavée, or evening dress.

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F. E. BAINES, Chairman of Executive Committee.

W. G. GATES, Principal Honorary Secretary.

General Post Office, 7th June, 1890.

135

POSTAL JUBILEE ENVELOPE.
Encouraged by the extraordinary demand which attended the introduction, on the occasion of the recent Penny Postage Jubilee at the Guildhall, of a special post-card sold only on that occasion, the Post Office have resolved on issuing a specially designed postage envelope as a principal feature of the celebration by the Department on the 2d of July of the Jubilee of Uniform Penny Postage. At this moment Messrs. De la Rue and Co. are busily engaged in producing, from the design of Mr. F. E. Baines, C.B., assistant secretary at the Post Office, a postal envelope of original and attractive character. This design—says the *Times*—is printed in a fine tint of blue on white paper, and the envelope is of a larger size than ordinary postal envelopes. It is impressed in the usual place with a postage stamp of the value of 1d., and in the opposite corner with the same indication of the symbols of Royalty, together with the rose, the shamrock, and the thistle, which were so much admired on the Guildhall post-card. A few lines of print at the head of the envelope refer to the jubilee, and the date of the pending conversations at South Kensington. Then come two sets of illustrations, one implying a centenary and the other a jubilee. In the former case, a mail coach drawn by four horses is assumed to be making for Highgate, in 1790, with the North Mail in its lockers, and is travelling at a speed of eight miles an hour. As a contrast to this, at the foot of the envelope is represented the special mail train, composed exclusively of Post Office carriages, which leaves Euston-square every night at half-past eight o'clock for the North.

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The chief feature of the correspondence card is a medallion portrait of Sir Rowland Hill in the upper left-hand corner, under which is printed the legend, "He gave us Penny Postage." These words originated, we understand, with the late Lord Mayor, Sir James Whitehead, who has for some years taken a deep interest and active part in the administration of the "Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund," to assist which the special postal envelope has been devised.

On Saturday the stamp factory of Messrs. De La Rue and Co., in Bunhill-row, was the scene of an interesting little ceremony in connexion with the specially-prepared Jubilee envelope, a description of which has already appeared in *The Times*. Only a limited number of these envelopes have been printed, and they will be issued for sale at one shilling each at all the post-offices in the United Kingdom, and at the *conversazione* to be held at South Kensington on Wednesday next. The authorized number having been duly printed, the plate was broken up on Saturday in the presence of Sir Arthur Blackwood, K.C.B. (Secretary of the Post Office), Sir James Whitehead (chairman of the Guildhall Jubilee Committee), Mr. F. E. Baines, C.B. (Assistant Secretary of the Post Office, and chairman of the South Kensington Jubilee Executive Committee), Mr. Robert Hunter (solicitor to the Post Office), Mr. James J. Cardin (Receiver and Accountant-General), Mr. J. S. Purcell, C.B. (Controller of Stamps), Colonel S. Raffles Thompson, Mr. W. T. Shaw (of the firm of Messrs. De La Rue), Mr. Alexander Richardson (head of Messrs. De La Rue's Stamp Department), and Mr. Page (Inland Revenue officer in charge of the stamping operations at the factory). Mr. W. H. Preece, F.R.S. (Chief Electrician to the Post Office) and Mr. Toombs (Controller of the London Postal Service) were unavoidably prevented from being present.

Before proceeding to the actual ceremony of breaking up the plate, the company were conducted over the factory by Mr. Shaw, and inspected the various interesting operations by which the postage stamps, post-cards, wrappers, and embossed envelopes are manufactured. The privilege of inspecting these processes and the machinery by which they are effected is one which is most jealously guarded, the most minute precautions being taken by the Government controlling staff, as well as by Messrs. De La Rue, to secure secrecy with regard to their methods, as well as safety for the enormous quantities of stamps which are always in process of manufacture. When it is stated that more than two thousand millions of adhesive stamps are now issued annually, and that of this number more than fifteen hundred millions are penny stamps, some idea may be formed of the vastness of the interests which are involved in the proper administration of this important department of the State. All the dies and plates are produced under the immediate control of the Inland Revenue officers, and when finished are retained by them, and only handed out to the firm for use under the authority of warrants received from the Inland Revenue Department. Even when they are in use by the firm an officer is present where the work is carried on, and controls the operations. All the adhesive stamps are printed on water-marked paper, which is supplied by the Government, and counted out to Messrs. De La Rue, who have to give a strict account of it, either in the form of perfect sheets of stamps or by way of spoilage. Should a sheet of paper by any chance be lost, the firm is held responsible for the value of the stamps which should have been printed upon it, and it says much for the management of the factory that the loss of a sheet of paper is practically unknown. All the finished work is subjected to most careful examination by a highly-trained staff, and stamps are rejected for the most minute fault. Even the destruction of such rejected stamps is the subject of the solicitude of a responsible officer, who presides over a specially constructed crematorium connected with the works. Considerable astonishment was evinced by the visitors on Saturday at the remarkable expertness of the women whose duty it is to examine the stamps. So trained does the eye become to the detection of the slightest flaw in the printing or perforation of the sheets, that the process of inspection is carried on with a rapidity which to the casual spectator appears little short of marvellous.

The printing plates used for printing adhesive stamps are of a bright metal, and each contains as many stamp-pieces as there are to be stamps upon the sheet. Every stamp exactly resembles the others, and they are all absolute facsimiles of the die from which the plate was made. The die consists of a block of steel upon which all the work has been most carefully engraved. The embossing of stamps upon envelopes, the gumming of adhesive stamps and wrappers, the processes of glazing and perforation, the cutting of post-cards, the counting, boarding, and packing are all processes of the most interesting character, and serve to impress the spectator with a sense, not only of the magnitude of the operations carried on, but also of the perfect discipline which is everywhere enforced. The factory is admirably constructed with a view to the comfort and health of those employed in it,

and the most perfect system of protection against fire and of fire extinguishing appliances has been adopted. After the visitors had made a tour of the factory, they were conducted to the room where the destruction of the plate of the Jubilee envelope was to take place. Here three of the *employés* were instructed to proceed with the work of demolition, and in a few minutes the beautiful engraving was hopelessly defaced by heavy blows from iron hammers. It should be mentioned that all disused or worn-out dies are similarly destroyed. After the operation had been completed, Sir Arthur Blackwood made a few observations, in the course of which he said that it was rather sad to have to destroy so beautiful a work of art as that produced by Messrs. De La Rue. They had, however, only destroyed the seed, and the fruit would remain, "a thing of beauty and a joy for ever." They were glad, as public officials, to express their acknowledgments to Messrs. De La Rue for their aid in the production of that beautiful envelope, which would henceforward be famous throughout the British Empire. Sir Arthur Blackwood then proceeded to attach his signature, as one who had witnessed the destruction of the plate, to a certificate to be published for general information. Sir James Whitehead also signed the document, and, after doing so, expressed his satisfaction at being present on that occasion, and said that the destruction of the plate would give a special value to the envelopes, which would be disposed of on July 2 on behalf of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund. All the officials present then signed the certificate, and after this had been done Mr. Baines called for three cheers for the firm of De La Rue and Co. These were heartily given, and Mr. Shaw having briefly acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings in connexion with the ceremony came to an end.

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1840.

POST OFFICE JUBILEE
UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE

AT SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM, 2ND JULY, 1890.



THE GREAT MAIL MAKING FOR HIGHWAYS 1838 AT 10 MILES PER HOUR.



1870.



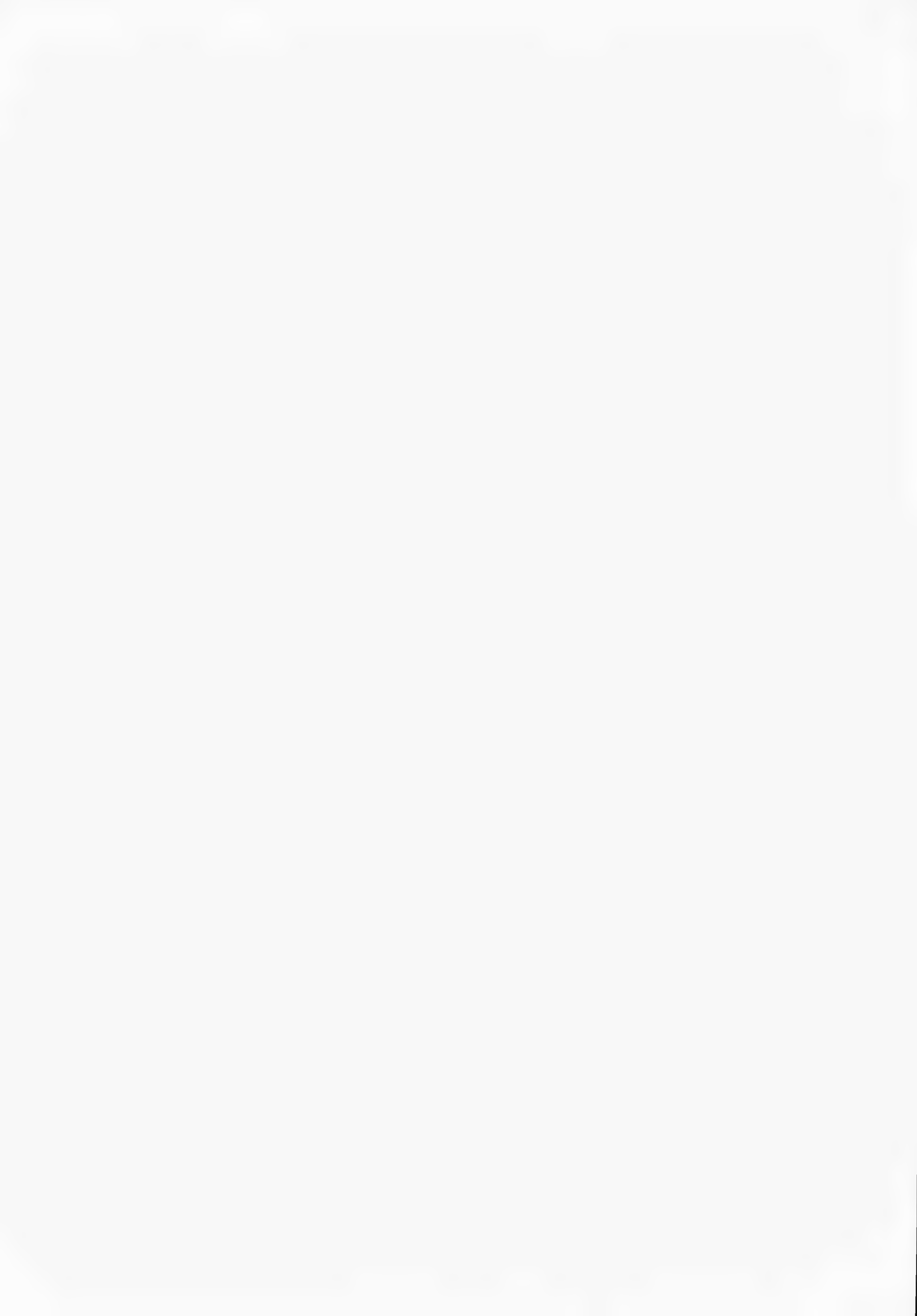
THE GREAT MAIL TRAIN, WITHDRAWING, 1862 AT 45 MILES PER HOUR.



THE EARL OF PLYMOUTH 1839



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PENNY POSTAGE JUBILEE
1890
TEN JUBILEE ENVELOPES
AND
TEN CORRESPONDENCE CARDS



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Post-Office Jubilee Conversazione

AT THE

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM,

ON

WEDNESDAY, the 2nd JULY, 1890.

UNDER THE MOST GRACIOUS PATRONAGE OF
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

*Their Royal Highnesses the DUKE and DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH have
graciously intimated their intention of being present.*

President of the Conversazione—

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G.

Vice-Presidents—

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY CECIL RAIKES, M.P., HER MAJESTY'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL,

THE MOST HON. THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, K.G.

THE RIGHT HON. W. H. SMITH, M.P.

THE RIGHT HON. G. J. GOSCHEN, M.P.

And the following ex-Postmasters-General—

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.G., K.T.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF RUTLAND, G.C.B.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD EMLY.

THE RIGHT HON. THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, M.P.

THE RIGHT HON. G. J. SHAW-LEFEVRE, M.P.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR LYON PLAYFAIR, K.C.B., M.P.

Also

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, C.B.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF PORTLAND.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

THE MARQUIS OF RIPON, K.G.

THE MARQUIS OF BREADALBANE.

THE EARL OF ASHBURNHAM.

THE EARL OF BRADFORD.

THE EARL OF CLARENDON.

THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

THE EARL OF GAINSBOROUGH.

THE EARL GREY, K.G.

THE EARL OF JERSEY.

THE EARL SPENCER, K.G.

THE EARL STANHOPE.

THE EARL OF STRAFFORD.

THE EARL WALDEGRAVE.

SIR JAMES WHITEHEAD, BART., D.L.

SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD, K.C.B.

PEARSON HILL, Esq.

PROGRAMME.

THE doors of the Museum will be open at 7 p.m.

The usual Cloak Room accommodation will be afforded at the entrance to the Museum in Cromwell Road.

Royal Mail Vans, horsed and the lamps alight, will be stationed at various points between the Museum and Cromwell Road.

A Guard of Honour of the 24th Middlesex (Post-Office) Rifle Volunteers, with the Band of the Regiment, will, with the kind permission of the Colonel commanding, be mounted.

The sale of the Jubilee Envelope (price 1s.) will take place at the General Post-Offices in the Architectural Court and Art Library; and at the branch Post-Offices which will be found in various parts of the building. At the General Post-Offices, all kinds of business—postal and telegraphic—will be transacted.

In the Architectural Court too will be established the Sorting and Stamping processes, and the Stampers will be prepared to impress dated stamps of unique design on the special envelope, or on postal cards presented with that object.

In the Library there will be established two Post and Telegraph Offices—one of 1790, where there is reason to expect the old rates of postage will still prevail; and one of the present time. In the Textile Gallery there may possibly be met with a Telegraph Office of 1990, where special facilities for the transaction of new developments of Post-Office business will be provided, and where, by means of contrivances which are certainly not as yet publicly known, the expectation will be held out of instantaneous communications passing between London and all parts of the world by sight and speech, and not by the old-world contrivances of the nineteenth century, and its so-called Electric Telegraph. Moreover, the greatest invention of the age—the Electrophonoscope, will be shown there for the first time.

The bands of the GRENADIER GUARDS (conducted by Lieut. Dan Godfrey), by permission of Colonel Trotter; and of the ROYAL ARTILLERY (conducted by Cavalier Zaverfal), by permission of the Officer commanding, will play during the evening.

The Quadrangle will be lighted by the electric light.

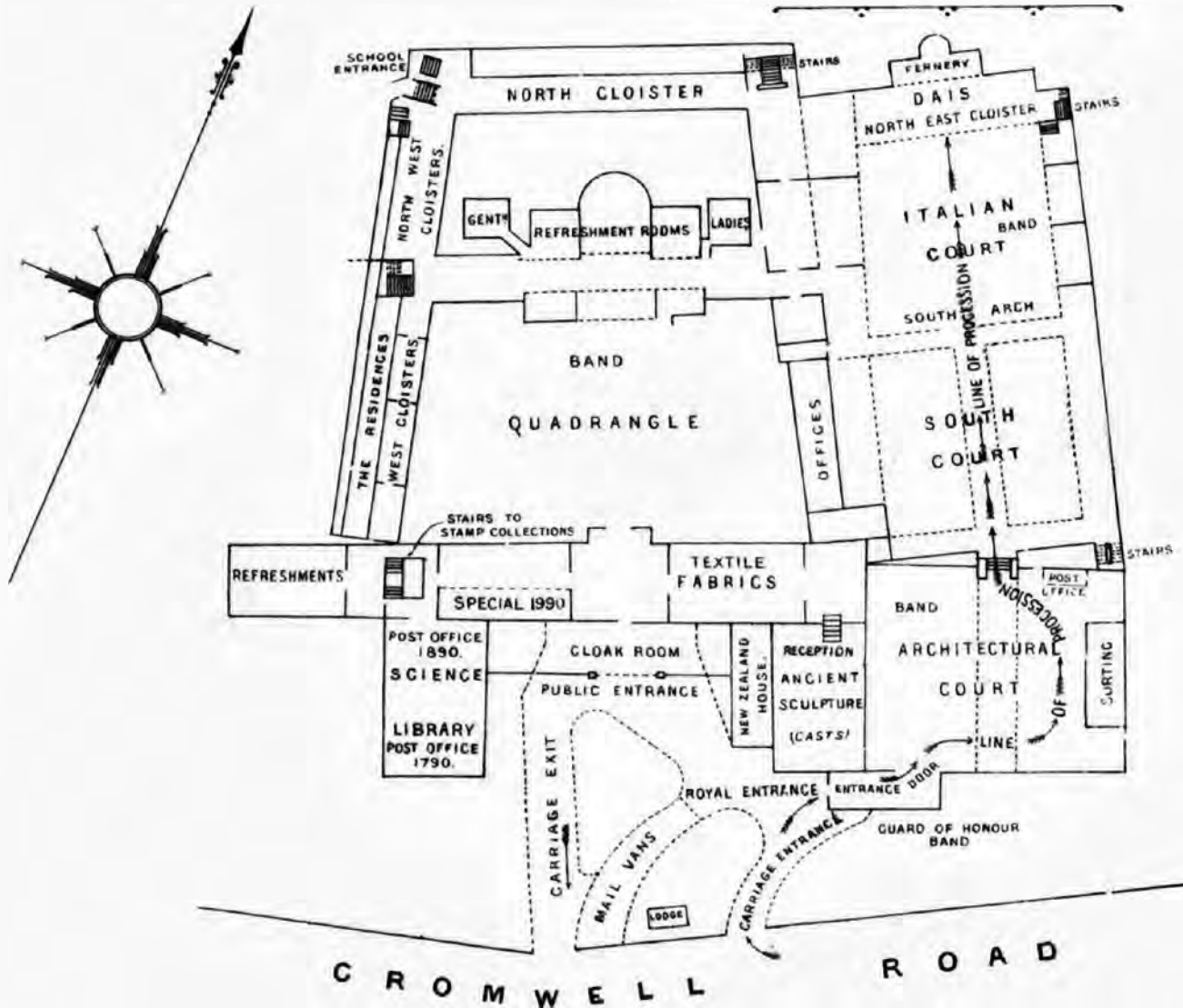
The Committee have the pleasure of announcing that with great liberality

JUBILEE OF UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE,

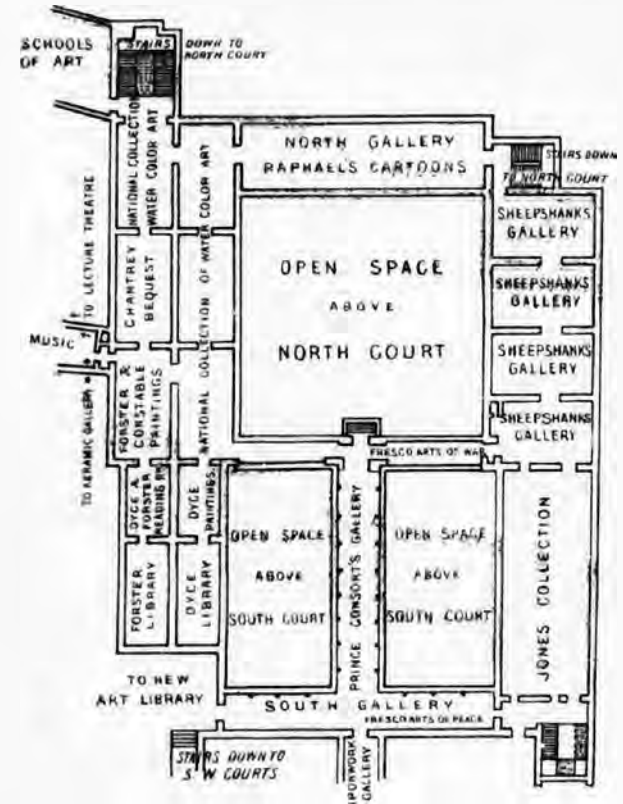
Conversazione

on 2nd July, 1890: at the

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.



GROUND PLAN.



PLAN OF GALLERIES.

and kindness the following distinguished artistes have generously given their services for the occasion :—MADAME VALLERIA, Madame Annie Marriott, Miss Alice Gomez, Miss Nellie Levey, Mr. SIMS REEVES, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. Percy Palmer, Mr. Fredk. King, Mr. Sydney Beckley, Mr. J. E. Payne (Violin), Mr. Leo Stern (Violoncello), Madame Frickenhaus (Piano), Mr. Alfred J. Caldicott (Mus. Bac.), and Mr. Arthur Fagge.

Part songs will be sung by the Post-Office Choir.

The line of procession, and order generally, will be maintained by the Gentlemen Marshals, who will be distinguished by wands of office and rosettes.

At 8.30 P.M. the Royal Parcel Mail Coach for Brighton will be despatched ; at 8.40 the Coach for Watford and at 8.50 the Coach for Oxford.

An extensive Collection of British Stamps, kindly lent by the Board of Inland Revenue, will be shown in the Cruik-shank's Gallery. The Collection belonging to the Government of New South Wales has also been kindly lent for the occasion ; and the Post Office Collection will likewise be shown.

Telegraphic communication with the Continent will be maintained, as at the Jubilee at the Guildhall, under the eyes of the Visitors.

Her Royal and Imperial Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh, accompanied by the President of the Conversazione, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, will arrive at the Royal entrance. The Guard of Honour will give a Royal Salute, and the band will play the National Anthem.

The Royal and distinguished party will be received by the Postmaster-General, the Vice-Presidents of the Conversazione, and by the Executive Committee.

A bouquet will be presented to Her Royal and Imperial Highness by Miss Raikes.

Some Presentations will be made to Her Royal and Imperial Highness by His Royal Highness the President.

A procession will then be formed :—A Gentleman Usher, followed by Four City Trumpeters (by special permission) in scarlet uniforms, with silver trumpets, will lead the way.

Her Royal and Imperial Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh will be conducted by the Postmaster-General, and Mrs. Raikes by His Royal Highness the President.

On the signal being given for the procession to start, the Trumpeters will sound a Fanfare, and the procession will move slowly along the line of march indicated by a crimson carpet.

On the Fanfare being concluded, the Band of the Guards will play. The Trumpets, on the procession entering the South Court, will again sound a Fanfare. On the procession reaching the Southern Arch of the Italian Court, the Band of the Royal Artillery will play the National Anthem.

On reaching the dais at the end of the main avenue, the Postmaster-General and the Secretary of the Post-Office will take up a position right and left of the dais ; the remaining gentlemen ranging themselves right and left of the open space.

Their Royal Highnesses being seated, a letter will be delivered to Her Royal and Imperial Highness, containing a respectful welcome and appreciation of Her Royal and Imperial Highness's kindness, signed by old officers of the Post-Office—the first signature being that of Mr. Frederic Hill, the sole surviving brother of the late Sir Rowland Hill, K.C.B.

An officer of the Post-Office will then deliver a letter. This letter is from present servants of the Post-Office, expressing their thanks to Her Royal and Imperial Highness; signed on their behalf by the Postmaster-General and the Secretary of the Post-Office.

A telegraph-wire and apparatus will then be brought on to the dais, and on Her Royal and Imperial Highness touching the key, an electric signal will be sent inviting Post-Office officials in various parts of the British Isles to unite with their colleagues assembled at South Kensington in giving simultaneously three cheers for Her Majesty THE QUEEN.

Her Royal and Imperial Highness will probably visit the Music Room and then proceed to the Quadrangle. The Guards' Band will play a selection of airs.

There will be a Reception from 7 to 9 P.M., and Carriages may be ordered for 12 o'clock.

Light Refreshments will be provided.

Uniform, Levee, or Evening Dress will be worn.

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POST CARD

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



143

POST CARD

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



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POST OFFICE JUBILEE OF UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE

AT SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM, 2ND JULY, 1890.

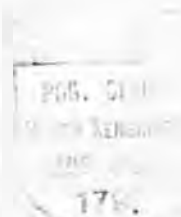


THE NORTH MAIL MAKING FOR 1840, AT 8 MILLS AN HOUR.



RATES.
4d
8d
1 1/2d
2 1/4d

1840.



1890.



THE NORTH MAIL 1890, APPROACHING CARLISLE AT 48 MILES AN HOUR.

THE POST OFFICE JUBILEE CONVERSAZIONE. 3.7.90. 145

In connexion with the jubilee of uniform penny postage, which is this year celebrated, a monster *conversazione* was last night held at the South Kensington Museum, under the patronage of her Majesty the Queen, in aid of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund, for the relief and assistance of Post-Office servants or their widows and children. His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh was president of the *conversazione*, and among the vice-presidents were Mr. Cecil Raikes, M.P., the Postmaster-General, the Marquis of Salisbury, Mr. W. H. Smith, Mr. G. J. Goschen, and the following ex-Postmasters-General:—The Duke of Argyll, the Duke of Rutland, Lord Emly, the Marquis of Hartington, Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, and Sir Lyon Playfair. Among the guests invited were the Duke of Abercorn, the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Portland, the Duke of Wellington, the Marquis of Ripon, the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Earl of Ashburnham, the Earl of Bradford, the Earl of Clarendon, the Earl of Derby, the Earl of Gainsborough, Earl Grey, the Earl of Jersey, Earl Spencer, Earl Stanhope, the Earl of Strafford, Earl Waldegrave, the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, and Sir Robert Rawlinson.

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh had announced their intention of arriving at the Museum at half-past 9, but between 7 o'clock and that hour ample and varied entertainment was provided for the guests. There was music in plenty; concerts were given at intervals during the course of the evening in the theatre leading out of the galleries of the north cloister, and in those concerts Mme. Valleria, Mme. Annie Marriott, Miss Alice Gomez, Miss Nellie Levey, Messrs. Sims Reeves, Percy Palmer, and Frederick King, Mmo. Frickenhaus, Mr. Alfred G. Caldicott, and other well-known artists gave their services. Then the Post Office choir, under the direction of Mr. Sydney Beckly, performed a selection of glees and part songs. In addition to this the band of the Grenadier Guards, under the direction of Lieutenant Dan Godfrey, played throughout the evening, first in the architectural court, and afterwards in the quadrangle, while the string band of the Royal Artillery, under Cavalier Zavertal, discoursed Gounod and Schubert, Strauss and Verdi, in the Italian court. Apart from the musical programme, which, as has been shown, was extensive, there was much amusement, and even instruction, to be found in entertainments and exhibitions which, in keeping with the special occasion celebrated, were more or less of a postal character. In the architectural court had been established a general post-office, at which all kinds of business, postal and telegraphic, might be transacted. Here, as, indeed, at the branch post-offices, established in various parts of the building, were to be found the commemorative jubilee envelope and Rowland Hill correspondence card. This envelope has already been described in the columns of *The Times*. It will be sufficient, therefore, to recall how it shows in appropriate and artistic design the North Mail in 1790, with four horses and a guard with a blunderbuss, making for Highgate at eight miles an hour, and beneath it the North Mail in 1890, approaching Carlisle at 48 miles an hour, with all the perfections of sorting offices, nets for catching mail bags *en route*, and other conveniences nowadays carried on an express train. The correspondence card sold with this envelope bears on it a portrait of Sir Rowland Hill, beneath which is the legend, "He gave us penny postage." The envelope and card, which have been specially produced for this occasion and the die of which has already been broken up, were sold for a shilling; the proceeds of the sale to go to the benevolent fund, in aid of which the *conversazione* was given.

In the architectural gallery also, and close to the general post-office, was a sorting office, where sorting clerks were actively at work, and where, on payment of a small fee, stamps of a unique design might be impressed on the jubilee cards or envelopes. There were three of these stamps, each of a different design and bearing respectively the dates of July 2, 1790, 1890, and 1990.

In the textile gallery had been placed a telegraph office, in which a great number of instruments were exhibited illustrating the latest improvements and perfections made in the construction of telegraphic machinery. Among these instruments were two which typified the very last developments of telegraphic science. They are the Edison quadruplex instrument, by means of which four messages, two from each end, can be transmitted upon one wire at one and the same time. The other marvel of telegraphy is the synchronous multiplex, an instrument which is the invention of Professor Delaney, and by means of which six messages can be transmitted upon one wire, either all from one station or in opposed directions. This instrument was not fixed for working last night; but by the quadruplex, which was connected with the telegraphic office at Bristol, messages were despatched and received all through the evening.

Close to these scientific exhibits was an entertainment arranged by Mr. W. H. Preece which attracted great crowds of visitors throughout the night. This was a telegraph office of the period 1990, where was to be seen the latest invention of Mr. Preece and Professor Hughes, the electrophonoscope, by means of which the operators at either end of the wire while speaking by means of the telephone are by an electric flash revealed to each other throughout their conversation. In the science library a variety of post offices had been established. One of these represented a post office of a hundred years ago, and, considering the small amount of postal correspondence of the time, was provided with a more than ample staff of specially selected officials, among them being Mrs. Dion Boucicault, well remembered as the original "Colleen Bawn." The officers of this post office were all dressed in the costume of the period and seemed in the course of the evening to transact a very considerable amount of business. There was also close to the 1790 post office, and only separated from it by a branch post office of the present day, an office of the period of 1990, where, as was announced by a placard, business was conducted on entirely new principles, and letters (open) of all kind sent by the new patent electrotubular-lightning express. Among other amusements was the phonograph, which as usual attracted many admirers, while at various hours in the evening the Royal parcel mail coaches for Brighton, Watford, and Oxford were despatched from the main entrance of the museum.

Very soon after half-past 9 the band of the guard of honour, formed by the 24th Middlesex (Post Office Corps of Volunteers), announced the arrival of the Royal party. Their Royal Highnesses, who were accompanied by Lady Emma Osborne, Colonel Colville, and Lieutenant-Colonel Poore, were received by the Postmaster-General, the vice-presidents, and the members of the Executive Committee in the architectural court; and, a bouquet having been offered to the Duchess of Edinburgh by Miss Raikes, Mr. F. E. Baines, Mr. J. J. Cardin, Mr. W. H. Preece, Mr. S. Raffles Thompson, and Mr. R. C. Tombs were presented by the Postmaster-General. A procession was then formed, the master of the ceremonies, Mr. Alan Chambers, followed by four City trumpeters, leading the way; and the Duchess of Edinburgh was conducted by the Postmaster-General, and Mrs. Raikes by his Royal Highness the President, to a dais erected at the end of the north-east cloister. Here a programme, hand-painted on vellum and enriched with a picture of the old General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, was handed to her Royal Highness; and, the Royal guests being seated, the ex-guard of the London and Exeter mail coach, who began his duties in the year 1836, presented to the Duchess a letter signed by old officers of the Post Office who entered the service more than 50 years ago, the first signature being that of Mr. Frederic Hill, the sole surviving brother of the late Sir Rowland Hill, and another signature being that of an officer of the Post Office, Mr. R. S. White, who entered the service in the year 1818. This letter was as follows:—

May it please your Royal and Imperial Highness, we, the undersigned, who are old officers of the Post Office, desire to welcome your Royal and Imperial Highness to this, the celebration of the jubilee of uniform penny postage.

We desire to thank your Royal and Imperial Highness for your condescension in coming amongst the

officers of the Post Office and in lending approval to the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund by your gracious presence.

An officer of the Post Office then delivered a letter of a similar character from present officers of the Post Office, and signed on their behalf by the Postmaster-General and the Secretary of the Post Office.

The Duke of Edinburgh, in reply, expressed, on behalf of the Duchess and himself, his warm thanks for the kind terms in which the old and present officers of the Post Office had addressed the Duchess, and said that he felt very deeply the honour conferred on him by making him the president of this *conversazione*.

A number of telegrams containing congratulatory addresses were then handed in and read by Mr. Raikes, from the President of the United States, and from the Postmaster-General in Washington, and from the Governors of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, New Zealand, and Tasmania. Telegrams were also received from the Premier of the Cape of Good Hope, Sir John Gordon Sprigg, from the Postmaster-General of Newfoundland, and, lastly, from the telegraph office at Balta Sound, in the Shetland group, the northernmost point of telegraphic communication in the British Isles, 715 miles distant from London. All these messages having been read and the Duke of Edinburgh having expressed his satisfaction at their reception, a telegraph wire and apparatus was brought up on to the dais, and, on her Royal Highness touching a key, a signal was transmitted to the post offices in all parts of the British Isles inviting the post office officials to unite with their colleagues at South Kensington in giving simultaneously three cheers for her Majesty the Queen.

The cheers, which in South Kensington were very heartily given, brought the ceremonial of the evening to a close. The Royal party adjourned to the concert-room, where the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh heard Mr. Sims Reeves, who was in excellent voice, sing Lindsay Lennox's "Dream Memories," "Tom Bowling," and, as a final encore, "Come into the Garden, Maud." Their Royal Highnesses then visited the old post office, where a youthful son of Major Conyers d'Arcy presented a letter in Russian to the Duchess, and before leaving inspected a number of the other postal exhibits on view. The proceedings terminated soon after midnight.

The Press Association states that last night the staff on duty at the Central Telegraph Office, which numbered upwards of 400, assembled in the central gallery at 10 o'clock, awaiting the signal for cheering the Queen, which was to be received from South Kensington. On the signal being received, the superintendent in charge called for three cheers for the Queen. Silence was steadfastly maintained for some moments, and then the whole staff of clerks burst out into a groan. Three cheers for Mr. Raikes were then asked for, and this was also met by groans, still louder than before. The men state that they have no feeling whatever of disloyalty to her Majesty, but refused to cheer as a protest against the treatment the staff are now receiving at the hands of the heads of the departments in the Post Office.

The celebration of the jubilee of the penny post was carried out in Edinburgh last night in accordance with the instructions of the Postmaster-General. Loud cheers were heartily given for the Queen by the sorters in front of the post-office. The female operators and the telegraph message boys sang the "National Anthem" in the instrument room.

Kidderminster, the birthplace of Sir Rowland Hill, the postal reformer, joined enthusiastically in the jubilee celebrations yesterday. Sir Rowland Hill's statue and the post-office were adorned with flowers. In the evening the mayor despatched a telegram to the Postmaster-General thanking her Majesty the Queen for patronising the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund, and thus honouring one of Kidderminster's sons. The mayor, at the same time, congratulated the Postmaster-General on the ever-extending progress of the postal service.

THE POST OFFICE JUBILEE.

Standard 3 July 1890

The highly successful Reception and Exhibition held at Guildhall a few weeks ago to commemorate the Jubilee of the Penny Post will be still fresh in the recollection of all who took part in the proceedings. But it was primarily a City undertaking, although the Post Office authorities rendered invaluable assistance, and it was only natural that the staff at St. Martin's-le-Grand should desire to hold a celebration of their own. Arrangements were accordingly begun some time ago, and last night a most successful *conversazione*, attended by a large number of guests, was held, under the presidency of the Duke of Edinburgh, at the South Kensington Museum. There was no idea of making so elaborate a display, technically and historically, as that at Guildhall, but every branch of the postal and telegraphic systems at work at the present day were represented with remarkable completeness, and there were even tentative illustrations of the methods of communication which electrical science has already foreshadowed, and which, there is little doubt, will be developed in a startling manner in the future. For example, amongst the many scientific curiosities exhibited was one called the "Electrophonoscope," representing one of the possibilities of the Post Office arrangements a hundred years hence. Some years ago the late Robert Sabine and others experimented in a crude way with selenium in the transmission of sunlight pictures; and since then electricians have worked earnestly to solve the problem of the transmission of sights as well as of sounds. In what way they have accomplished the result put forward last evening, Professor Hughes and the electrician of the Post Office, Mr. Preece, and their aids and abettors, Mr. Strot and Mr. Martin Roberts, may some day explain. The novel apparatus was placed in a small temporarily-curtained room, not much bigger than a very large sentry box, holding an audience of three at a time and the attendant who demonstrated the novelty. There before you on the wall was a funnel-shaped disc, brightly illuminated by four electric incandescent lights. You put the telephone to your ear, and ring your correspondent up. His face is seen immediately in the centre of the disc. You speak, and he replies. His countenance changes its expression. He laughs, looks solemn, grave and gay by turn. And all the unscientific—and more than a few of the scientific—went away declaring the electrophonoscope to be marvellous indeed. The features of the person at the other end, whether or not they were transmitted by electricity, could not have been more distinct had they been looked at, from a short distance, through the object lens of a spy-glass.

In the domain of archaeology and history we have a working Post-office of 1790, with ladies in wigs and dainty gowns, the more prosaic but business-like office of 1890, with young ladies serving with more or less suavity, and a Post-office of 1990, according to the ideal of Mr. Chambre, who hopes that at that distant date a machine with the astonishing name of the "Electro-tubular-lightning Express" will enable people to hold almost instantaneous communication all over the world. The special Jubilee envelope, which was on sale, was not a triumph of art, but as a memento of the occasion it was eagerly bought up. Printed in blue ink, it bore well-executed engravings of the Royal and Imperial arms, the ordinary penny stamp, pictures of the North Mail making for Highgate in 1790 at the rate of eight miles an hour, and of the North Mail in 1890 approaching Carlisle at the rate of 48 miles an hour. Then, too, the envelope was inscribed with portraits of the postman of 1840, and of the letter carrier of the present day, and those who chose to incur the extra expense could have it marked with three special stamps, one bearing the date 1790, another with the Imperial Crown struck in the present year, and a third post-dated by a hundred years. All these, and the minor feature of the display of Post-office resources, were extremely interesting and popular, but at the same time the characteristics of the evening were chiefly social. No little interest was taken in the splendidly-horsed mail coaches, which were drawn up at various points in the grounds of the Museum, and which were subsequently despatched to Brighton, Watford, Chelmsford and Ipswich, and Oxford. Of music there was no stint. The 24th Middlesex (Post Office) R.V., with their band, furnished a mounted Guard of Honour when the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh arrived, and during the evening excellent performances were given by the bands of the Grenadier Guards and the Royal Artillery. At intervals during the evening concerts were given, at which Madame Valleria, Madame Annie Marriott, Miss Alice Gomez, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Percy Palmer, Mr. Fred. King, Mr. Sydney Beckley, Madame Frickenhaus, Mr. J. E. Payne, Mr. Leo Stern, and other artists assisted, and were supplemented by the efforts of the Post Office Choir, which performed very pleasingly a selection of part songs and glees.

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh arrived at half-past nine, and were received by Mr. Raikes, M.P. (Postmaster General), Sir Arthur Blackwood (Secretary to the Post Office), Mr. Tombs (Comptroller), Mr. F. E. Barnes, Colonel Thompson, Mr. A. Pamphilon, Mr. J. J. Cardin, Mr. A. M. Cunynghame (Surveyor General for Scotland), Mr. H. Joyce, Mr. Algernon Turner, and many other officials of the Postal service and members of the Executive Committee. At the entrance a bouquet was handed to the Duchess by Miss Raikes, and the principal members of the Executive were then presented. Next followed the one picturesque feature of the evening—a procession headed by scarlet-uniformed trumpeters with silver bugles, who heralded the approach to the dais of the Duchess, who was conducted by the Postmaster General, and of Mrs. Raikes, who was escorted by the Duke of Edinburgh. All along the red-carpeted line their Royal Highnesses received a most cordial welcome, and before they took their seats on the dais the audience heartily took up the strains of the National Anthem, played by the Royal Artillery Band. What followed it was not easy, in the tremendous crush, to understand. What was seen was the delivery to the Duchess, by a Post Office official, of a letter, which was understood to convey an address of welcome and thanks, the first signature being that of Mr. Frederick Hill, the sole surviving brother of Sir Rowland Hill. Another letter was delivered, the contents having a similar purport, signed by the Postmaster General and Sir Arthur Blackwood, on behalf of the present servants of the Post Office. To these missives the Duke of Edinburgh, on behalf of his wife, returned a suitable reply. A telegraphic wire and apparatus were then brought on to the dais, and the Duchess, by touching a key, sent an electric signal to Post Office officials in various parts of Great Britain inviting them to unite with their colleagues at South Kensington in giving simultaneously three cheers for the Queen. Their Royal Highnesses afterwards visited the Exhibition, and remained till after eleven o'clock, congratulating, before they left, the chief organisers of the *conversazione* on the decided success they had achieved.

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POST OFFICE JUBILEE. 151

The *conversazione* of the Post Office Penny Postage Jubilee, which was held last evening at the South Kensington Museum, was a highly successful and brilliant event, and was attended by their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh. About 4,000 guests from all parts of the United Kingdom were present, and were received by Sir S. A. Blackwood, Secretary of the Post Office, Mr. F. E. Barnes, C.B., the Inspector-General of Mails, and chairman of the executive committee, and by other officials. Sir James Whitehead, one of the promoters of the fund, was also present. The other members of the committee included Mr. J. J. Cardin, Accountant-General, Mr. Preece, Electrician of the General Post Office, and Mr. R. C. Tombs, Controller of the London District Postal Service. Their Royal Highnesses arrived at half-past nine o'clock, and were attended by Lady Emma Osborne, Colonel Colville, and Lieutenant-Colonel Poore. They were received by Mr. Raikes, the Postmaster-General, and by the members of the committee, a guard of honour being formed by the Post Office Rifle Volunteers. A bouquet was presented to the Duchess by Miss Raikes. Preceded by a gentleman usher, Mr. Cambré, and by four City trumpeters in scarlet uniforms, the Royal guests passed through the Architectural Court, where were stationed some very largely patronised sorting, stamping, and special *conversazione* post-offices, into the South Court, and thence across the Italian Court, which was thronged with people, to the dais in the north-east cloister. The Duchess of Edinburgh was conducted by the Postmaster-General, and Mrs. Raikes by his Royal Highness the President. On the way the band of the Grenadier Guards played, and the National Anthem was struck up by the band of the Royal Artillery as the procession reached the southern arch of the Italian Court. At the dais an interesting ceremony was performed. An old officer, Mr. Nobbs, who has been fifty-four years at the General Post Office, clad in his red coat, delivered to their Royal Highnesses a letter, which was read. It conveyed a respectful welcome to the Duke and Duchess, and expressed the hearty appreciation of their kindness which was felt by eighty-three old servants of the Post Office, all of whom had joined between the years 1818-1840, and by Mr. Frederic Hill, the sole surviving brother of the late Sir Rowland Hill, K.C.B. Mr. Stewart, a young postman in the uniform of 1890, next handed in a similar letter, which was also read. It is signed, on behalf of the present servants of the Post Office, by the Postmaster-General, the Secretary of the Post Office, and by the Inspector-General of Mails. The Duke of Edinburgh, in reply, expressed the pleasure which the Duchess had in receiving these letters, and he thanked them in his own behalf for having invited him to attend the *conversazione* as its president. He added that a telegram had been sent to his house, and it was from the Governor of Cape Colony. He was glad to have received this message early, which conveyed the congratulations of the colonists, from this part of her Majesty's Empire, for it happened that this colony was the first that he had visited. A telegraph lad, Morrish, then handed in several telegrams, the first coming from the postmaster of an office at the extreme northern point of the service, being 700 miles distant from London. A succession of despatches were received and read, amongst them being one from the Postmaster-General at Washington to the Duke, and one from the Governor of Newfoundland addressed to the Duchess, in which the hope was expressed that the Newfoundlanders might soon enjoy the benefits of penny postage, a wish which created some laughter. The Viceroy of India, the Postmaster-General of Canada, the Premier of Quebec, and others sent despatches to the Postmaster-General. The reading of these messages having concluded, the Duchess was requested to touch the key of an electric instrument, by means of which a signal was sent all over the British Isles, as an intimation that all should join with their colleagues assembled at South Kensington in three cheers for her Majesty the Queen. Hearty cheering thereupon resounded, and the names of the Duke and Duchess were also warmly applauded. The ceremony coming thus to an end, the Royal party was escorted first to the Quadrangle, and then upon a tour of inspection.

In the Textile Gallery, as part of a highly interesting collection of telegraphic instruments, illustrative of the various systems in use for the last hundred years, there was a most remarkable apparatus on view. It is the joint invention of Professor Hughes, F.R.S., and Mr. Preece, F.R.S., and carried out by Mr. Stroh and Mr. Martin Roberts, of the Post Office. It solves the question of visual telegraphy. The sender of a message from a distant station appears in person before his correspondent, and with a telephone it is possible, not only to speak to him, but to see him, and to watch the ex-

pression of his features. It is a perfect complement to the telephone, and will illustrate what telegraphy is likely to be in 1990. There is hardly any need to say that the liveliest curiosity was manifested to view this electro-phonoscope, as it was called, and the dark rooms were besieged by visitors. On entering a little cabinet one was confronted with a large dark mirror, having a telephone at the side and a pair of strong lamps overhead. Directly communication was made it was possible to talk over the telephone in the ordinary way; but whilst talking the speaker could observe the expression upon his correspondent's face at the other end of the wire. Like an animated coloured photograph the image of this gentleman was seen, perfectly and clearly, and at the same moment this individual, whilst addressed by the speaker, could watch his face as he spoke. The effect was really marvellous, and appeared almost like witchcraft. Of course the two instruments were at no great distance apart—perhaps 30ft—but they were not in a direct line of vision. It still remains to be seen to what distance light can be transmitted by means of electricity. The programme also included the provision of three postal offices in the Science Library—one dated 1790, being a quaint reproduction of the office of a century ago, attended by bewigged ladies and clerks in full-skirted coats. The modern office was in the charge of Mrs. Dion Boucicault, the original "Colleen Bawn," and the office of 1990 was typical of electricity, and the ladies behind the counter were attired respectively in black, scarlet, and yellow. Postal cards were despatched, not by tube, as might be supposed, but by boy messengers to the Poste Restante in the Architectural Court, where answers of a jocular kind were forthcoming. There was a great demand for special Jubilee envelopes, enclosing cards, which were obtainable at a shilling each. The design displayed the contrasts between the men and methods of 1840 and those of 1890—the slow coach being depicted as compared with the mail to the North, approaching Carlisle at forty-eight miles an hour, whilst the reduction of postal rates from 4d, 8d, 1s 2d, and 2s 6d to the uniform penny was also commemorated. The card bore a portrait of Sir Rowland Hill, with the quotation beneath it, "He gave us penny postage." The other items in the programme included the despatch of four-horse parcel coaches to Brighton, Ipswich, and to Oxford, carrying parcel mails which had been made up in the Museum. A large amount of general postal business was transacted, for which Miss Parsons and Miss Turner were largely responsible. In the concert theatre there was a succession of musical programmes, the artistes who had generously given their services including the following: Madame Valleria, Madame Annie Marriott, Miss Alice Gomez, Miss Nellie Levey, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Percy Palmer, Mr. Fredk. King, Mr. Sydney Beckley, Mr. J. E. Payne (violin), Mr. Leo Stern (violin), Madame Frickenhaus (piano), Mr. Alfred J. Caldicott (Mus. Bac.), and Mr. Arthur Fagge. Part songs were sung by the Post Office Choir. Mr. Sims Reeves had an especially hearty reception. During the evening the stamp collections lent by the Board of Inland Revenue, the Government of New South Wales, and the Post Office were inspected by many people, and visitors also availed themselves of the opportunity of using the Hughes telegraph instrument, which was in communication with Brussels and also Berlin. It is expected that the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund will largely benefit by the proceeds of the *conversazione*.

The Central News says: "In connection with the Jubilee celebration of the Penny Post, held this (Wednesday) evening at South Kensington, an official intimation was sent to all post and telegraph offices, stating that at ten o'clock work should cease for a few moments, and a "spontaneous" cheer be given at that hour for the Queen. At the Central Telegraph Office in London, where the relations between the clerks, numbering over 2,000, and the head officials are becoming severely and seriously strained, a singular scene was witnessed at the appointed hour. When the signal came, instead of cheers there was a storm of howls, hisses, and groans and epithets of execration from a staff heretofore completely loyal. The demonstration, it is understood, was intended to mark the deep feeling of indignation which prevails among the staff at the vexatious delays interposed by certain high officials to the consideration of the grievances under which the clerks have suffered."

A *conversazione*, under the patronage of the Queen, was held last evening at South Kensington Museum to celebrate the Jubilee of the uniform Penny postage. From 4,000 to 5,000 visitors attended, and were much interested in the reproduction of a post-office as in the year 1790, to compare with one of the present day, as well as by other illustrations of the advance in the postal system.

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FARRINGTON HOUSE,
 WARWICK LANE,
 LONDON, E.C.,
 July 18th, 1890.

**Caricature of the Jubilee Envelope and Card,
 by Harry Furniss.**

Dear Sir,

We have the pleasure to inform you that,
 on Wednesday next, the 23rd inst., we shall issue copies
 of the Caricature of the Jubilee Envelope and Card, by
 HARRY FURNISS.

The price will be One Shilling per copy, and as
 the edition will be limited it will be necessary to order early
 should you wish any copies.

Yours truly,

JOHN WALKER & Co.

Philbrick Esq 20

St James Gazette. 8 July 1890

It was a happy thought of the postal authorities to take advantage of the present stamp mania and produce a Jubilee imitation Mulready envelope, to be sold for the benefit of the postmen's charities. Its success from a monetary point of view was such that all were disposed of before the day of issue. But what of the artistic success? Never has there been seen anything more damping to the hopes of those who believe that progress in art is just now both rapid and assured. Surely upon an object which had to be compared with a really artistic work (although it did date from the benighted era of 1840), and which will go down to posterity as a specimen of what can be done in 1890, some little pains might have been taken by the monopolists of Government postage-stamp productions. What is the good of a State-aided school of design if on such an occasion its services cannot be called upon, and relied upon to produce something which, at all events, would not irritate, both in colour and composition, the veriest tyro in art knowledge?

Also.

Elliott.

29 Bassworpe h

groups in Pond.

POST OFFICE JUBILEE CON- VERSAZIONE. 156

Daily News 27/90

Last evening the authorities of St. Martin's-le-Grand held their final jubilation in honour of the institution of the Penny Post at the South Kensington Museum, and it was certainly a very interesting and successful fête. The outside of the Museum looked quite as brilliant as the inside, when, as the twilight faded into darkness, the open space in front of the building blazed out not only with the light of a good many lamps, but with the gorgeous colouring of a number of Royal Mail vans drawn up in the avenue, with coachmen rigged up in their best and lamps all alight. A guard of honour was furnished by the 24th Middlesex, the Post Office Volunteers, and outside they made things lively with their band, while within the bands of the Royal Artillery and the Grenadier Guards alternately took up the harmony. Doors were open at seven, and from seven till nine Sir Arthur Blackwood, K.C.B., and two daughters received guests in the court devoted to ancient sculpture. The Secretary to the Post Office in Court array presented a very fine figure, and near him were Mr. F. E. Baines, C.B., one of the assistant secretaries, Mr. Algernon Turnor, C.B., Financial Secretary, both in levee dress, as well as Sir James Whitehead, Bart., who wore in addition to Court dress some of the glittering embellishments pertaining to some of the civic offices, and altogether cut a very handsome and imposing figure. Sir James was accompanied by Lady Whitehead and two of his sons, one of them in scarlet uniform. Thus there was around Sir Arthur Blackwood a very striking party, but on the other side the crimson pathway were the City trumpeters and three or four Post Office officials in their scarlet tunics and shining chimney-pot hats, and it was rather amusing to observe the perplexity of some of the guests as to whether they should turn their deferential attention to the right hand or the left.

Throughout the extensive range of the courts and corridors of the Museum many hundreds of ladies and gentlemen must have been scattered, and as the evening wore on large numbers promenaded in the grassy quadrangle, lighted by electricity and enlivened by one of the two bands. At different points about the building were many displays of interest, consisting of illustrations of the practical working of the Post Office—letter "sorting," and "facing," and stamping, and sealing up in bags and dispatching mails; while in the textile gallery the famous new invention, the electro-phonoscope, was shown for the first time, and attracted a great amount of interest. At 8.30 the Royal Parcel Mail coach was despatched for Brighton: at 8.40 the coach for Watford, and at 8.50 another for Oxford. There were stamp collections on view and telegraphic matters were experimentally explained, and various other curious and interesting matters were on view, affording ample amusement till the time for the arrival of the guests of the evening—the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh. Before their arrival, however, Mr. and Mrs. Raikes had put in an appearance, and Sir Lyon Playfair, Lord Emly, Lord Winchelsea, and several other persons of more or less distinction. About ten o'clock the Duke and Duchess arrived, and were received with a salute by the guard of honour without, while within the Postmaster-General, the secretary, assistant secretaries, and other prominent departmental officials, and Sir James and Lady Whitehead met the illustrious president of the conversazione and the Duchess, to whom a bouquet was presented by Miss Raikes, while the Duke, as president, presented to the Duchess what were understood to be a number of Jubilee mementoes, and a procession was formed, the band in the reception room playing alternately the English and Russian national anthems.

At the head of the procession was a gentleman usher, followed by four City trumpeters in their scarlet uniforms, who gave merry fanfares on their glittering silver trumpets. It was asserted, and very widely believed, that Lord Salisbury was in the procession. The Premier had, indeed, been invited, but was unable to come, and the gentleman who had the honour of being mistaken for the Marquis was in fact Mr. Baines. On reaching the door at the end of the main avenue the Postmaster-General and Sir Arthur Blackwood took up positions right and left of the Duke and Duchess, to whom a letter was delivered welcoming the Royal guests. This was signed by old officers of the Post Office, the first name being that of Mr. Frederick Hill, the sole surviving brother of Sir Rowland Hill, whose son, Mr. Pearson Hill, was among those present last evening, and was one of the signatories. An officer of the Post Office then delivered a letter from the present servants of the Department expressing their thanks also. This was signed by the Postmaster-General and Secretary. After this a telegraph wire was brought on to the door, and the Duchess of Edinburgh was invited to touch a key, by which an electric signal was flashed all over the British Isles, calling for three cheers for her Majesty the Queen, an invitation

right heartily responded to in the Museum, though unfortunately, as it soon came to be known, eliciting something less satisfactory from the General Post Office itself. Altogether this final celebration of Sir Rowland Hill's great work may be said to have proved a brilliant success, and should have aided very materially the Post Office benevolent fund, for which it had been got up. It should be added that at intervals during the evening concerts were given in the theatre, and part songs were very effectively sung by the Post Office choir.

A SCENE AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.—Last night the staff on duty at the Central Telegraph Office, which numbered upwards of four hundred, assembled in the Central Gallery at 10 o'clock, awaiting the signal for cheering the Queen which was to be received from South Kensington. On the signal being received the superintendent in charge called for three cheers for the Queen. Silence was, however, steadfastly maintained for some moments, and then the whole staff burst out into a groan. Three cheers were then asked for Mr. Raikes, the Postmaster-General, which was also met by groans still louder than before. The men state they have no feeling whatever of disloyalty to her Majesty, but refused to cheer as a protest against the treatment the staff are now receiving at the hands of the heads of the department in the Post Office.

CELEBRATION AT KIDDERMINSTER.—Kidderminster, the birthplace of Sir Rowland Hill, the postal reformer, joined enthusiastically in the Jubilee celebrations yesterday. Sir Rowland Hill's statue and the Post-office were adorned with flowers. In the evening the Mayor despatched a telegram to the Postmaster-General thanking the Queen for patronising the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund, and thus honouring one of Kidderminster's sons. The Mayor at the same time congratulated the Postmaster-General on the ever extending progress of the postal service.

POST OFFICE JUBILEE CONVERSAZIONE.

Under the patronage of her Majesty, a conversazione to celebrate the Jubilee of uniform penny postage was held last night at South Kensington Museum, and between 4,000 and 5,000 ladies and gentlemen were present. Numerous features were introduced to illustrate the rise and development of the postal and telegraphic services. In the library were established two post-offices—one of the year 1790, and the other of the present time; and a large sale took place throughout the evening, at other offices established in the Architectural Court and Art Library, of the "Jubilee envelopes" at 1s. each. But perhaps the greatest attraction among the many interesting sights provided for the visitors was in the Textile Gallery, where a bold stroke was made in anticipating the possible character of telegraphic inter-communication a century hence. Humour and ingenuity were here brought into combination to show how people in future generations may perhaps be enabled—by means of an "electro-phonoscope," to be perfected by some inventor yet unborn—not only to carry on a conversation, but to see each other, though separated by hundreds or thousands of miles. Large bodies of visitors also thronged the Architectural Court, where the sorting and stamping processes were established, and dated stamps of unique design were impressed on such special envelopes and post-cards as were presented for that purpose. Several collections of British stamps were on view, the principal being that of the Board of Inland Revenue, of the Government of New South Wales, and of the Post Office. Royal mail vans, horsed and with lamps alight, were stationed at various points between the Museum and Cromwell-road; telegraphic communication with the Continent was maintained, as at the Jubilee at the Guildhall, under the eyes of the visitors; and during the evening the Royal parcel mail coach for Brighton and the coaches for Catford and Oxford were despatched.

The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the conversazione, who was accompanied by the Duchess of Edinburgh, attended; and the Royal visitors were received on their arrival by Mr. C. Raikes, the present Postmaster-General, Sir Lyon Playfair, M.P. (a former Postmaster-General), Sir James Whitehead, Sir Arthur Blackwood, and the vice-presidents and executive committee. A guard of honour was furnished by the 24th Middlesex (Post Office) Volunteers, with the band of the regiment. Her Royal Highness was the recipient of a bouquet from Miss Raikes. After some presentations had been made, a procession was formed, passing, by way of the South Court, to the end of the main avenue, where a dais was placed. As the Royal and distinguished party passed the southern arch of the Italian Court the band of the Royal Artillery played the National Anthem. The proceedings at the ceremony were in complete harmony with the idea of a postal jubilee, for, on their Royal Highnesses being seated, a letter of welcome was delivered to the Duchess of Edinburgh, signed by old Post Office officials, the first signature being that of Mr. Frederick Hill, the surviving brother of Sir Rowland Hill. Then came another letter from present servants of the Post Office, signed, on their behalf, by the Postmaster-General and the Secretary. A telegraph wire and apparatus were next brought on to the dais, and upon her Royal Highness touching the key an electric signal was sent inviting post-office officials in various parts of Great Britain and Ireland to unite with their colleagues assembled at South Kensington in giving simultaneously three cheers for the Queen.

The Duke of EDINBURGH, briefly acknowledging the letters of welcome, said that he had received a telegram from the Governor of Cape Colony—which he first visited nearly 20 years ago—wishing every success to their gathering. Their Royal Highnesses, with Mr. and Mrs. Raikes and the executive, then visited the music room and the quadrangle, where the bands of the Grenadier Guards and the Royal Artillery played selections.

In addition to the performances of the bands, four concerts were given in the lecture theatre. The Post Office Choir, an excellent body of voices, formed from out of the various departments of the service, and skilfully trained by Mr. Sydney H. Beckley, sang several part songs at each concert with good effect, and the committee had the advantage of the kind help of Madame Valleria, Madame Annie Marriott, Miss Alice Gomes, Miss

THE DISAFFECTION AMONG TELEGRAPH CLERKS.

St James Gazette AN EXAGGERATED REPORT. 3-7-90. 158

From information obtained at the General Post Office (the Times says), it appears that the report circulated by a news agency and published yesterday morning as to the conduct of the staff assembled at the General Post Office on Wednesday evening was at once inaccurate and misleading. The staff of clerks present in the Central Telegraph Office at ten o'clock on Wednesday night numbered perhaps, 400. A large proportion of this number were engaged at the time in the instrument rooms, where there was great pressure owing to the Barrow election, the result of which was just then arriving, and therefore took no part, one way or another, in the demonstration. Of the remainder of the clerks, many engaged in different parts of the building had expressed a desire, which was complied with, to join their comrades in the central gallery for the purpose of giving an united cheer. Their strength was augmented by a number of clerks who were going off duty at ten o'clock, but who waited for the cheering. At ten o'clock, but before the signal was received from South Kensington, three very hearty cheers were given for the Queen, and a few moments later, when the signal arrived, these cheers were repeated, all present appearing to join. The last cheer was, it is true, followed by a certain amount of hissing, groaning, and other discordant noises; but the authors of this disturbance were so much in the minority that their identity could not be detected by the superintendents in charge. No cheers were called for for the Postmaster-General, so that the statement that this appeal was answered by still louder groans falls at once to the ground.

ALLEGED INQUIRY BY THE CONTROLLER-GENERAL.

A news agency states that the first intimation which Mr. Raikes received of the extraordinary scene at the Central Telegraph Office on Wednesday night was contained in the newspaper accounts of the affair. He at once caused inquiries to be made, and in the course of the day Mr. Fischer, the Chief Controller of the Telegraph Department, had an interview with eleven representative male clerks, whom he closely questioned on the subject. The clerks repudiated any intention of disloyalty or disrespect towards her Majesty the Queen, and explained that the demonstration was spontaneously made as a protest against the manner in which their repeated petitions for redress of grievances had been treated by the higher officials of the Post Office. Mr. Fischer said that their explanation was not satisfactory, and that it would be necessary formally to place on record a proper disclaimer from the whole staff. He requested the clerks before him to obtain the signatures of the staff to the following memorandum:—

We have heard with regret that an unseemly scene took place at the Central Telegraph Office last evening, on the occasion of the postal jubilee, when three cheers were called for her Majesty the Queen, and we desire to dissociate ourselves from what took place.

The clerks asked and received permission to discuss the matter among themselves, and ultimately they informed Mr. Fischer that, by eight votes to three, they had decided that they could not accept the memorandum which he had drawn up, but they were willing to obtain signatures of their fellows to the following explanatory statement:—

We, the undersigned members of the staff of the Central Telegraph Office, respectfully beg to assure you that, in our own opinion, the spontaneous expressions of feeling given utterance to when three cheers were asked for the Queen at ten o'clock last night, were not in any way due to want of respect or to disloyalty towards her most gracious Majesty.

Mr. Fischer asked for the names of the eight clerks who had voted against his suggestion; but the clerks unanimously declined to give him the information, and Mr. Fischer thereupon informed them that the three clerks who had accepted his suggestion had better take charge of the memorandum and obtain signatures. During the day a number of signatures were obtained, chiefly from female clerks; but the majority of the staff declined to sign the document. A full official account of the affair has been forwarded to Mr. Raikes, and is now under that gentleman's consideration.

A MESSAGE IN RHYME.

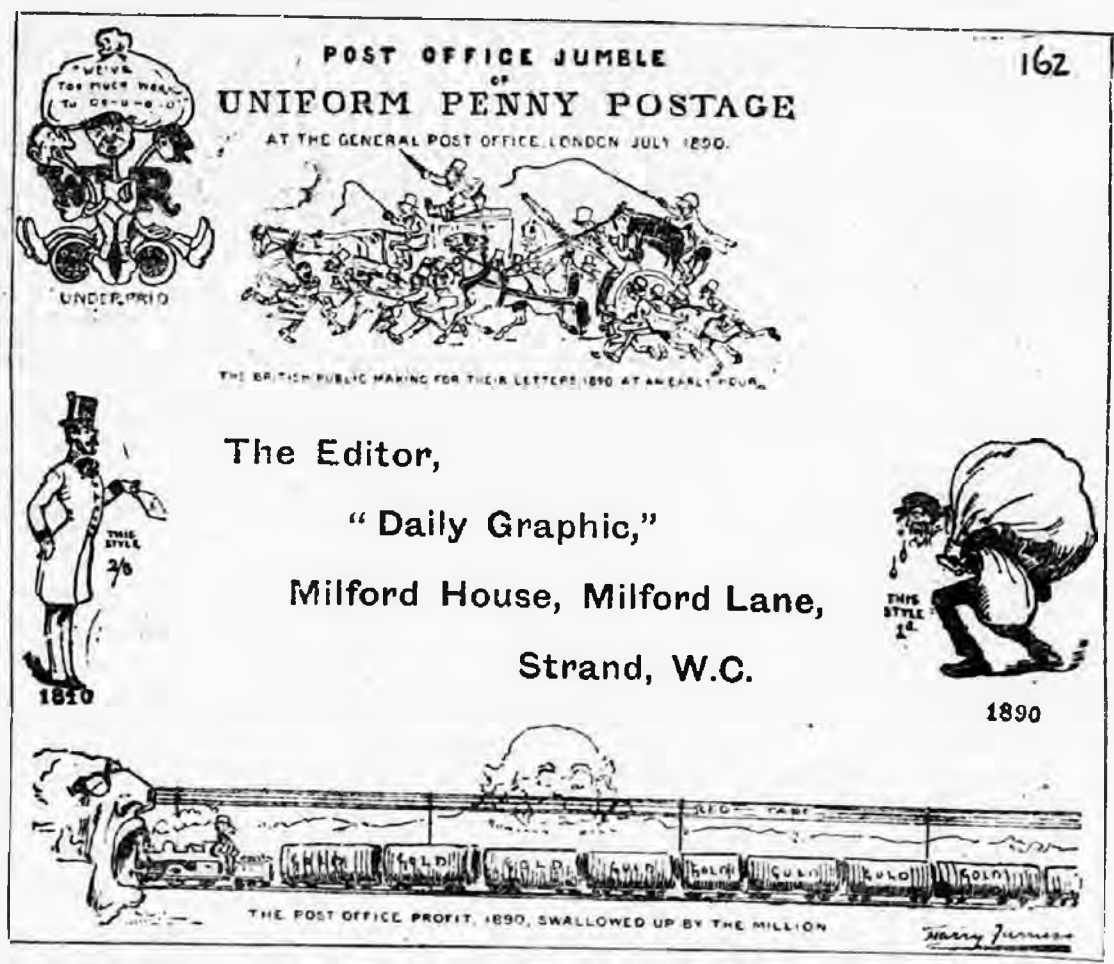
On Wednesday night, among many other telegrams received by Mr. Raikes at the Post Office Jubilee Conversazione at South Kensington Museum, was the following:—

The Swansea Telegraph Staff this Jubilee Day
To the Postmaster-General their respects now pay.
At ten the current was sent about,
And for the Queen we raised a shout,
Such loyal men we are sure you will say
Greatly deserve an increase of pay.

Nellie Levey, Mr. Sims Reeves, whose artistic singing was greatly admired; Mr. J. E. Payne (violin), Mr. Leo Stern (violoncello), Madame Frickehaus (pianoforte solo); Mr. Alfred Caldicott, Mr. Arthur Fagge, and Mr. Twyford accompanists. Mr. Sydney Beckley, the conductor of the choir, and the possessor of a fine baritone voice, also contributed some songs to the programmes, which were heard by relays of auditors, each concert lasting from 30 to 40 minutes.

The staff on duty at the Central Telegraph Office, which numbered upwards of 400, assembled in the central gallery at ten o'clock last night, awaiting the signal for cheering the Queen, which was to be received from South Kensington. On the signal being received, the superintendent in charge called for three cheers for the Queen, but silence was steadfastly maintained for some moments, and then the whole staff of clerks burst out into a groan. Three cheers were then asked for the Postmaster-General, which was also met by groans still louder than before. The men state they have no feeling whatever of disloyalty to her Majesty, but refused to cheer as a protest against the treatment the staff are now receiving at the hands of the heads of the department.

In many towns throughout the country, the Jubilee was celebrated last night, telegrams of congratulation being despatched to the Postmaster-General.



The Editor,
 "Daily Graphic,"
 Milford House, Milford Lane,
 Strand, W.C.

The outward and manifest record of the Post-office Jubilee—or, as Mr. Furniss prefers to call it, "the Post-office jumble"—was the envelope and post-card which were sold at the South Kensington Conversations for a shilling, in aid of the Rowland Hill Fund. Of the pitiful character of the design—from the artistic point of view—every person of taste who has seen it is well aware; and that they have formed the subject of a most ingenious and amusing burlesque by Mr. Harry Furniss will not be surprising to the admirers of that gentleman's humour and omni-adaptive skill. Keeping close to the character of the original—so close that a first glance would hardly betray the caricature—he has satirised the "over-work-and-under-pay" policy of the department and of the Government, while strictly following the lines of the genuine article, and his own ingenuity has been well backed up by Messrs. Walker and Co., the publishers, who have rigidly adhered to the quality, paper, and colour of the ink. *The Standard*, 2 July 1890, 161.
 The first hundred impressions of Mr. Furniss's latest "artistic joke" are all signed by him, and these have been taken up—at 10s. 6d. each—by Mr. Tapling, M.P., and other members of the Philatelic Society. A limited number of unsigned copies will

THE JUBILEE ENVELOPE. 164

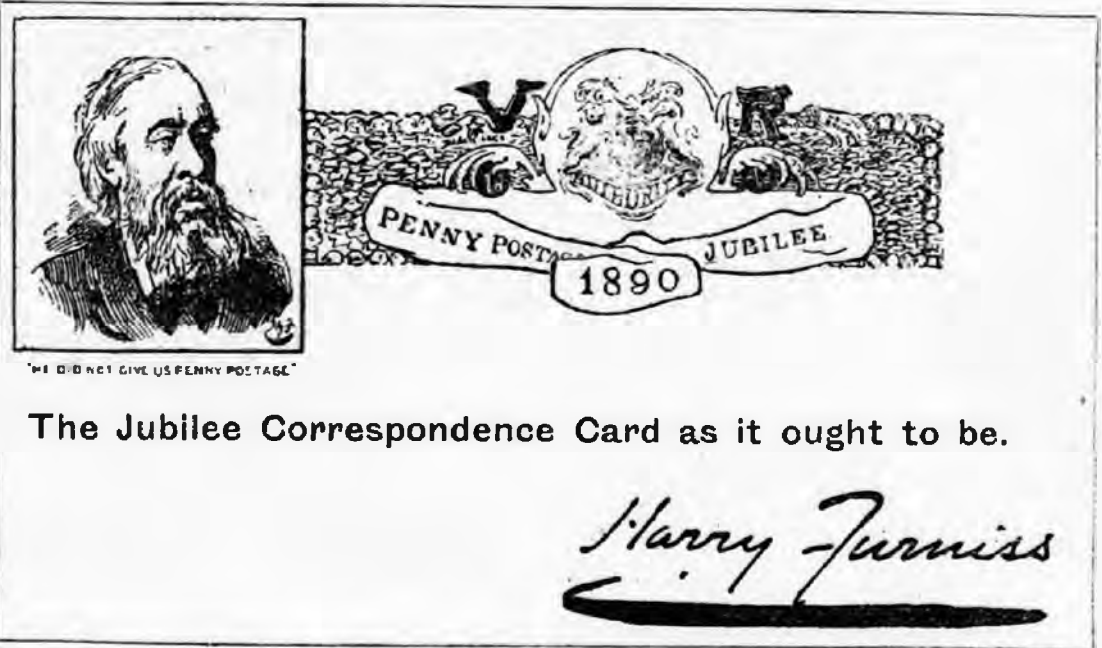
TO THE EDITOR OF THE GLOBE.
 SIR.—Mr. Geo. E. Blanch is clearly wrong in his calculations, as there would be only four spans of 75 yards to five posts, and this gives 300 yards, or 140 yards short of a quarter of a mile. Telegraph posts along trunk railways are, however, rarely 75 yards apart, and frequently not more than 75 feet, so that a train need be of no unusual length to cover five posts.—Yours faithfully,
 Blackheath, July 3. 1890

MR. HARRY FURNISS'S LAST PARODY. 166

Is nothing sacred from the caricaturist's pencil? Is nothing safe from his gall-stepped pen? Poor Douglas Jerrold—one of the main-stays of *Punch*—always believed that the comic artist would rush in where angels feared to tread, and one day met A'Becket's quiet statement that he and Leech were about to collaborate in a "Comic History of England" with a cry of anguish. "Great heavens!" he exclaimed, "what shall we have next? The drollery of Alfred and the fun of Sir Thomas More in the Tower, with the farce in the background of his daughter begging his poor dead head to clasp to a heaving bosom that is convulsed with laughter! We shall have a comic Sermon on the Mount next! and a Humorous Sacrament on a Funny Good Friday!" Such, so far as memory serves, was Jerrold's outburst on hearing of the proposed "profanation"; but the result was a popular success, acceptable in the

eyes of a public less morbidly-sensitive than the *Standard*.
 It must be admitted that Mr. Furniss has been a bold man to seek to parody the "Jubilee Envelope and Correspondence Card." Not that a caricature of Post-office proceedings is likely to be looked upon as a blasphemy outside the walls of that much-talked-of department; for did not Leech and "Phiz," and a score of smaller men, issue travesties of Maclise's well-meant failure in the illustrated envelope line? No. His courage consists, primarily and chiefly, in tackling a subject apparently so barren in good ideas, and in seeking, like the dwarf in the fable, to squeeze water out of a stone. As I write over my own signature, I may be permitted to state it as my opinion that nothing could well be poorer than the much-vaunted card and envelope recently issued at the Jubilee celebration at South Kensington. It is utterly devoid of art and art fitness, and would do no credit to a second-rate bill-head draughtsman away down in the country. The envelope looks like a child's ill-arranged scrap-book—the Queen's head as high as the coach, the postmen twice as tall as the Queen's head, and overtopping by eleven-twelfths of their length the railway carriages that tear across the envelope at the proud rate of "forty-eight miles an hour." Of the design of the correspondence card I say not much that is kinder can be said. A poor invertebrate sort of arrangement—it cannot be called a composition—that any visiting-card engraver might have produced in a week or two, with a not ill-executed portrait of Sir Rowland Hill in the corner. After much labour, the department brought forth this mouse, which would be put to shame for artistic qualities by any tenth-rate State in Europe; and this is the noble work that Mr. Furniss has parodied for Messrs. John Walker and Co.

The chief points of the envelope are really very happily burlesqued. The crown and "V.R." become a clever reference to the recent strikes, in the bar of gold poised on the heads of the three starvelings, across whose bodies appear the legend, "We R. underpaid." The Queen's head is omitted; but is this a sign of respect or a suggestion of —; but, no, that could not be! The spick and span half-crown letter-carrier of 1840 and the wretched, over-worked postman of 1890 show the pathos rather than the fun of humour, while the train of gold that rushes into Mr. Goschen's insatiable maw touches on a broader aspect of internal politics. Then the "Rowland Hill" that rises on the horizon and closes in the view is one of those picture puns which Mr. Furniss produces with so much facility.
 In the correspondence-card our caricaturist continues the parody—the severest point of which is the portrait of the Jubilee, with the legend beneath it, "He did not give us penny postage;" while the skill with which he Royal arms into the appearance of a "Puzzle" of the author of "Puzzle."
 M. H. SPIELMANN.



The Jubilee Correspondence Card as it ought to be.

Harry Furniss

THE JUBILEE ENVELOPE AND CORRESPONDENCE CARD AS MR. HARRY FURNISS THINKS THEY OUGHT TO BE DESIGNED (PUBLISHED TO-DAY).

THE "HARRY FURNISS" JUBILEE ENVELOPE AND CARD.—We have received a specimen of the above, which form a clever caricature of the original card and envelope which was sold to the public on the 2d inst. Both envelope and card are grotesquely elaborated after the manner familiar to admirers of Mr. Furniss's whimsical drawings, but a comparison of the original and caricature is essential to enable one to realize the oddities of the latter. On the envelope the most conspicuous sketch is a figure of a prim postman of 1840, holding a single letter, "This style 2s. 6d.," balanced, as a companion figure by the postman of 1890, bent nearly double beneath an enormous sack of letters, "This style 1d." Beneath is the head of the Chancellor of the Exchequer swallowing a train full of gold, representing the Post Office profit of 1890. The card shows a fair likeness of the Postmaster-General with the legend, "He did not give us penny postage," this being a burlesque on Sir Rowland Hill's likeness on the jubilee card. The first 100 copies of the caricature (signed by the artist) have been privately subscribed for by members of the Philatelic Society and others at half-a-guinea each. 24.7 90.165

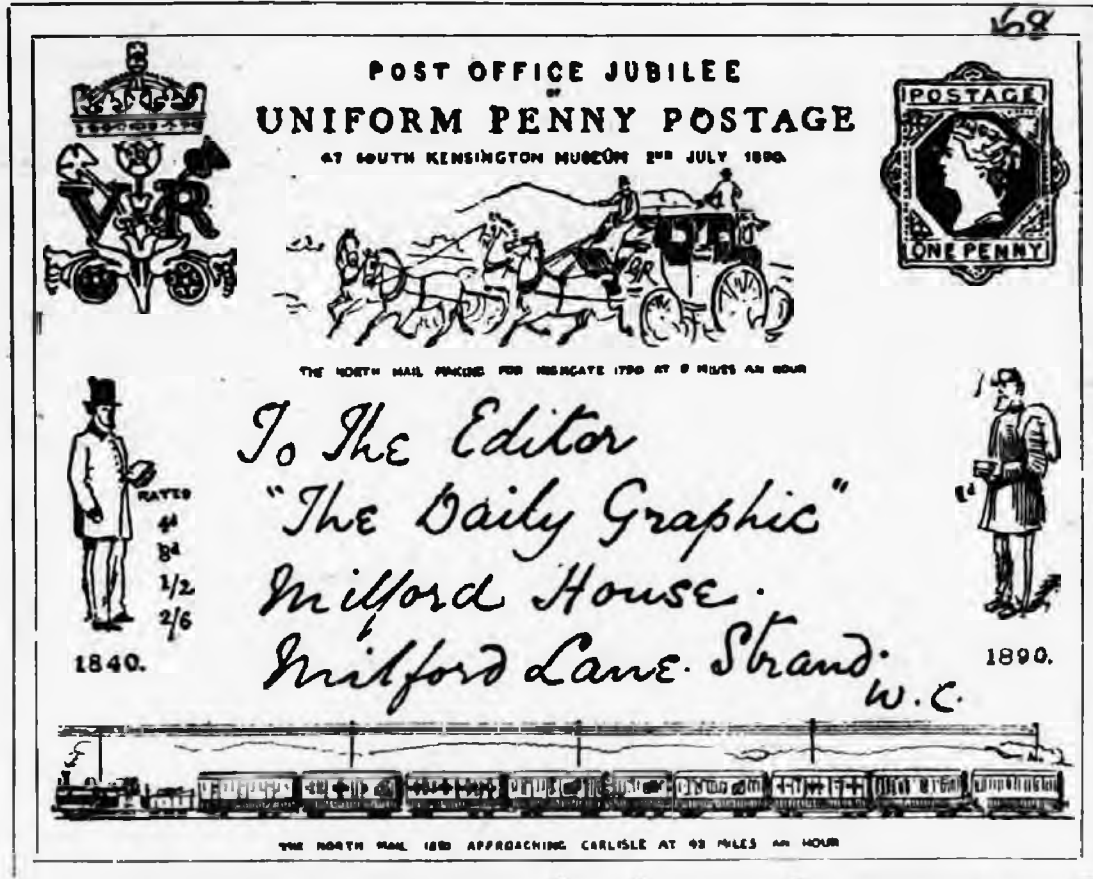
Daily Graphic. 3. 7. 90.

THE POST OFFICE JUBILEE. 70

The jubilee envelope and correspondence card, and the Guildhall postcard, which we illustrate to-day, are three interesting mementoes of the jubilee of penny postage. Since the plates have been destroyed the originals promise to become genuine postal rarities. But, apart from their value to philatelists, they will interest posterity, which will probably enjoy facilities of inter-communication almost as far in advance of those of to-day as these are upon those of fifty years ago. To us the difference between the old mail coach days—and on the Jubilee envelope we have a representation usefully identified as "the North mail making for Highgate at eight miles an hour"—and the mail train, which, it may be remarked, are not fairly represented by that described on the envelope as "approaching Carlisle at forty-eight miles an hour." It would, however, be rash to predict that the future will not witness changes more startling than these. But, be this as it may, it will never be forgotten that Sir Rowland Hill "gave us penny postage," and even in the dim and distant future, whatever its postal facilities may be, the institution of penny postage will be regarded as one of the distinctive features of the Victorian era.

Some thousands of guests attended the conversazione given at the South Kensington Museum last night in celebration of the Post Office Jubilee. The Queen gave her patronage to the gathering, which, towards the end of the evening, was attended by the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, the Duke, indeed, being the President of the conversazione. Their Royal Highnesses were received with a Royal salute by a guard of honour composed of the 24th Middlesex (Post Office) Rifle Volunteers, their band playing the National Anthem. The Royal visitors were received by the Postmaster-General, the Vice-Presidents, and the Executive Committee, a bouquet being presented to the Duchess by Miss Raikes. Some other presentations having then taken place at the hands of the president himself, a procession was formed, and, with a fanfare of trumpets by four of the City trumpeters, who were there by special permission, their Royal Highnesses were conducted to a dais at the end of the main avenue. Here a letter of welcome and appreciation of the Duchess's kindness was delivered, the signatures being those of old officers of the Post Office, the first that of Mr. Frederic Hill, the sole surviving brother of the late Sir Rowland Hill, K.C.B. A letter was also presented from present servants of the Post Office, expressing their thanks to her Highness. A telegraph wire and apparatus having been brought to the dais, the Duchess touched a key, which gave an electric signal to the Post Office officials in various parts of the British Isles to unite with their colleagues assembled at South Kensington in giving simultaneously three cheers for the Queen.

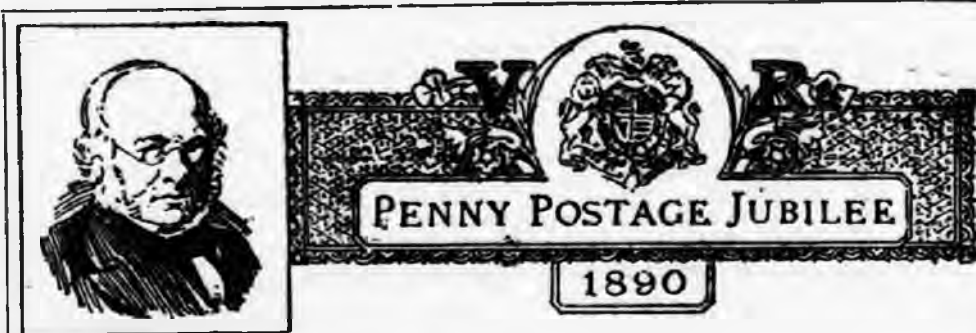
Music was provided by the bands of the Grenadier Guards, under Lieutenant Dan Godfrey, and of the Royal Artillery, directed by Cavalier Zaverthal; and concerts were given in the theatre, to which Madame Valeria, Madame Annie Marriott, Miss Alice Gomez, Miss Nellie Levey, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Percy Palmer, Mr. F. King, Mr. Sidney Beckley, Mr. J. E. Payne (violin), Mr. Leo Stern (Violoncello), Madame Frickenhaus (piano), and Mr. Alfred J. Caldicott and Mr. Arthur Fagge had promised their services, as well as the Post Office Choir. The despatch of the parcel mail coaches to Brighton, Watford, and Oxford also took place from the exhibition. An enormous sale was effected of the Jubilee envelope and cards, and much money was expended in having cards and papers stamped with the old stamp of 1790, the special Jubilee stamp, and the future one of 1890. Phonographs, and a variety of other inventions of the latest kind, served to make the conversazione as complete in novelties and curiosities as it was therefore interesting and instructive.



THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST: CELEBRATION AT SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM, LAST NIGHT.—ENVELOPE ISSUED BY THE POST OFFICE AUTHORITIES AS A MEMENTO OF THE OCCASION. (See page 10.) Daily Graphic. 3. July 1890.

Daily Graphic. 4 July 1890.

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The Editor
Daily Graphic
Milford Lane
Strand
W.C.

THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POSTAGE: CELEBRATION AT SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM LAST NIGHT.—CORRESPONDENCE CARD ISSUED BY THE POST OFFICE AUTHORITIES AS A MEMENTO OF THE OCCASION. (See page 10.)



THE PENNY POST

POST OFFICE JUMBLE
OF
UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE
AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON, JULY, 1890.



FINGER-PAIL



THE BRITISH PUBLIC MAKING FOR THEIR LETTERS, 1850, AT AN EARLY HOUR.



1850



1870



THE POST OFFICE PROFIT, 1890, SWALLOWED UP BY THE MILLION

W. J. L. J. J.



HE DID NOT GIVE US PENNY POSTAGE



POST OFFICE JUMBLE OF UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON, JULY, 1890.



UNDERPAID



THE BRITISH PUBLIC MAKING FOR THEIR LETTERS, 1890, AT AN EARLY HOUR.



1840.

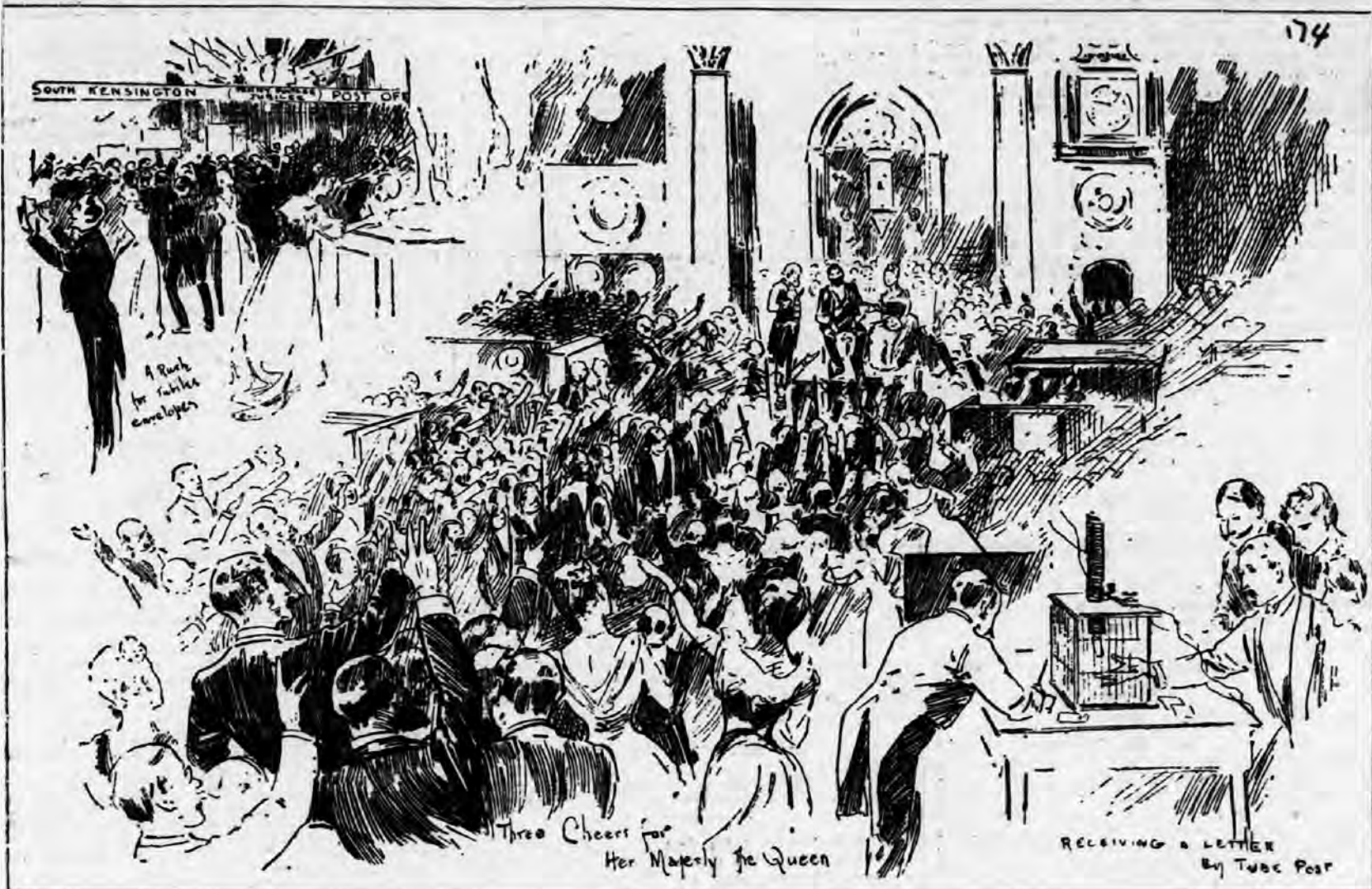


1890



THE POST OFFICE PROFIT, 1890, SWALLOWED UP BY THE MILLION.

Harry James



THE POST OFFICE JUBILEE CONVERSAZIONE AT SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

THREE ERAS OF POST-OFFICE WORK.

Some interesting comparisons were presented at the Penny Postage Jubilee conversazione by the manner in which the wonderful advances made in inter-communication had been divided into sections. There was a representation of a Post-office of 1790, on the front of which were contemporary notices. One painted board of undoubted authenticity conveyed the information that in those days every hawk, news-vendor, dealer, or disorderly person who loitered on the pavement opposite the General Post-office or in any part thereof was liable to a penalty of £5. Numerous reward bills gave indication of the felonious raids to which the mails were often subject. One of these old documents offered no less than £1,000 reward in connection with a robbery of Bank notes

from the Ipswich mail. A resurrection had also taken place of the old stamp of obliteration of 100 years back, a shield with the upper triangular section filled with the crown, flanked by the initials G. R., and the shield proper taken up with the name of the office and the date. As the Jubilee envelope, the supplies of which ran out very early in the City during the day, and which must have been exhausted at night—conveyed, the North Mail used to rumble into Highgate at eight miles an hour at that time. About the year 1840 the rates of postage ranged from 4d. up to 2s. 6d., while Nott and Gamble's ponderous "step by step pointer" was the stage to which the telegraph machine had advanced. The subsequent developments up to 1867 were shown, including the quadruplex and various other systems.

The present year of grace had illustration in a crowd of bustling postmen and telegraph boys, and the less familiar figures of sorters and stampers busy at their work. The men in uniform, who emptied the boxes erected in various parts of the building of the letters and cards

thrust so unceasingly into them were hardly able to display the celerity with which they usually discharge their functions. The postal boxes had been made in imitation of the old fashioned type, in which the wooden tray is too narrow and shallow to at all assist the task of emptying, whereas, in the modern pillar boxes the pan is broad and capacious. In the Cruikshank's Gallery there was a model showing how the exchange of mail bags is effected by means of apparatus, standards, and nets from railway trains. As many as 750,000 bags are dropped annually in this way. The parcel mail coaches to Brighton, Watford, and Oxford were despatched from the museum during the evening, although this style of transport is really not a development so much as a revival from the past. In telegraphy, there was the Wheatstone system in work, and the present wonderful Hughes machine. This contrivance, which has come to be known as "the tape," was working with Brussels during the earlier hours of the evening, and afterwards with Berlin. In each case, however, no sooner had the message been printed off on the band of paper than the reply was

POSTMASTERS' BREAKFAST.

SPEECH BY MR. RAIKES. 3.7.90

Mr. Raikes, the Postmaster-General, was the principal speaker at a breakfast given to-day by the postmasters throughout the United Kingdom at Exeter Hall. The Chairman, after thanking those present for the honour they had done him in inviting him to be their guest, said he believed that was the first gathering of postmasters of the United Kingdom. He did not know with whom the idea originated, but he could not imagine a more proper sequel to the festivities of last night, when the whole postal service of the country was so largely represented at the gathering at South Kensington. He would not abuse their kindness by venturing to dwell upon any of those burning questions which had recently occupied, not only the attention of the service, but also that of the public. He would, however, be very ungrateful if he did not take that opportunity of saying how greatly he and those gentlemen on whose experience and council he had to rely, were beholden to the postmasters of the United Kingdom for the admirable and loyal co-operation which they had invariably received from them. The duties of a postmaster were most exacting, and most responsible. Any one who had held the office that he had had the honour to occupy during the last four years, would know much better than the public how great a strain upon the postmasters was the ordinary discharge of their daily duties, and how greatly that strain had been intensified by recent events, which had called forth as much energy and discretion as could at any time animate any body of public servants. He must say that, without exception, the postmasters of the United Kingdom had shown those high qualities which were necessary for the due discharge of their duties, and had by their cordial assistance and loyal support made it possible for those who in times of considerable strain and difficulty had to conduct the affairs of great departments, to carry them on in a manner worthy of the State and to the advantage of

the public. He spoke of the enormous strides that had been made in every branch of postal work since 1840, and declared that the great demands had been fully met. Such was the patriotism and the esprit de corps which distinguished postmasters that even if too active science or too urgent democracy should cast upon the post-office additional burdens, they would still be willing to do what they could to give effect to the demands, and even to add to that work, which he believed would now over-tax the energies of almost any other class of the public service.—Mr. F. W. Angel, a postmaster in the south-western district of London, having thanked Mr. Raikes for the kind words in which he had spoken of their services, Sir A. Diamond declared that postmasters were the backbone of the postal service. He trusted that the relationship between the heads of the department and the postmasters throughout the United Kingdom would always be characterised by the same friendship that now existed.—Speeches were afterwards delivered by postmasters from various parts of the country.



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Mr. Raikes, replying to a resolution condemning his recent action, states that, so far from attempting to suppress meetings of postmen to discuss matters affecting their official position, he has rescinded the rule maintained by all his predecessors during the last 25 years, under which such meetings were strictly prohibited outside a post-office building, and has left postmen perfectly free to meet when and where they like for such discussions, provided they complied with one or two simple regulations.

instantaneously transmitted, in words which were not always correct English, but which showed the good intentions of the foreign operators at the other end. The phonograph, with its wonderful reproductions of voice and musical sounds, was exhibited, and created the interest it never fails to arouse. At the same time, a message had only that very day been received from Mr. Edison to say that all existing machines might be considered obsolete, as one even more simple in adjustment had been devised.

And now as to the future. There was a prophetic post office of 1900, in which business was conducted on an entirely new principle. Open letters were sent by an electrotubular lightning express to any part of the world, and a reply was found at the Poste Restante. Much more interesting was the electrophonoscope. By means of this contrivance not only could instantaneous communication be obtained by telephone, but the actual face of the interlocutor could be seen. This, the most astonishing invention of the age, was shown for the first time.

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THE JUBILEE of  PENNY POSTAGE.
 1840-1890.

A CURIOSITY FOR STAMP COLLECTIONS AND
 SCRAP ALBUMS.

A Photographic Fac-simile of a used Specimen of
 ENGLAND'S FIRST POSTAGE STAMP.

The Celebrated Mulready Envelope, Designed by W. MULREADY, R.A.
 Issued by SIR ROWLAND HILL, in 1840.

6^D. EACH.

ENDD. STA. HALL.

T H. HINTON, LON.





5. PAULTONS SQUARE, CHELSEA.

Mr. Raikes, the Postmaster-General, was the principal speaker at a breakfast given yesterday by the postmasters throughout the United Kingdom at Exeter Hall. After thanking those present for the honour they had done him in inviting him to be their guest, Mr. Raikes, said he believed that was the first gathering of postmasters of the United Kingdom. He did not know with whom the idea originated, but he could not imagine a more proper sequel to the festivities of last night, when the whole postal service of the country was so largely represented at the gathering at South Kensington. He would not abuse their kindness by venturing to dwell upon any of those burning questions which had recently occupied, not only the attention of the service, but also that of the public. He would, however, be very ungrateful if he did not take that opportunity of saying how greatly he and those gentlemen on whose experience and counsel he had to rely, were beholden to the postmasters of the United Kingdom for the admirable and loyal co-operation which they had invariably received from them. The duties of a postmaster were most exacting and most responsible. Any one who had held the office that he had had the honour to occupy during the last four years, would know much better than the public how great a strain upon the postmasters was the ordinary discharge of their daily duties, and how greatly that strain had been intensified by recent events, which had called forth as much energy and discretion as could at any time animate any body of public servants. He must say that, without exception the postmasters of the United Kingdom had shown those high qualities which were necessary for the due discharge of their duties, and had by their cordial assistance and loyal support made it possible for those who in times of considerable strain and difficulty had to conduct the affairs of great departments, to carry them on in a manner worthy of the State, and to the advantage of the public. He spoke of the enormous strides that had been made in every branch of postal work since 1840, and declared that the great demands had been fully met. Such was the patriotism and the *esprit de corps* which distinguished postmasters that even if too active science or too urgent democracy should cast upon the Post Office additional burdens, they would still be willing to do what they could to give effect to the demands, and even to add to that work, which he believed would now over-tax the energies of almost any other class of the public service.—Mr. Thomas Angell, of the South-Western District, in the name of all the postmasters of the United Kingdom, proposed a vote of thanks to the Postmaster-General.—Sir A. Blackwood (the secretary of the General Post Office) thanked the gathering, and assured the postmasters present that it gave the officials of the department great pleasure to meet them. He said that he had great sympathy with the postmasters of the present day, as they were exposed to great pressure from all sides—from St. Martin's-le-Grand on the one hand, and from the outside world on the other. There was also a pressure from below, as they were living in days of agitation which made it extremely difficult for a postmaster to discharge his duty.—Mr. Walliker (Birmingham) proposed a vote of thanks to the assistant secretaries, which was responded to by Mr. Baines.—Mr. Gregson (Barnley) then proposed a vote of thanks to the surveyors, which was duly acknowledged; and a vote of thanks having been accorded to the committee, on the motion of Mr. Nesbitt (Inverness), the company separated.

In connexion with the celebration of the jubilee of the uniform penny postage, Mr. Raikes, M.P., the Postmaster-General, was entertained at breakfast yesterday morning at Exeter-hall by a large number of postmasters, assembled from various parts of the United Kingdom. Mr. Raikes, who occupied the chair, was supported by Sir A. Blackwood, secretary of the General Post Office, and a number of the leading postal officials. It was the first assembly of the kind ever held, and was termed the Postmasters' Jubilee Breakfast.

After the toast of "Her Majesty the Queen" had been duly honoured by the entire audience rising and singing the National Anthem,

Mr. RAIKES, after thanking those present for the honour conferred upon him in inviting him there as their guest, said that he ventured to avail himself of that opportunity to congratulate them upon what he believed was the first gathering of the postmasters of the United Kingdom. (Cheers.) He did not know with whom the idea originated, but he could not imagine a more proper sequel to the festivities of the previous night, when the postal service of the country was so strongly represented at the gathering at South Kensington, than that the postmasters should have the opportunity of seeing and meeting each other, and that the superior officers of the department, who had been so kindly asked to be the guests, should have an opportunity of seeing face to face so many gentlemen with whom they were in constant correspondence, and of improving the acquaintance which even in the epistolary form was generally so agreeable on both sides. (Cheers.) He would hesitate to abuse their kindness by venturing to dwell upon any of those burning questions which recently had occupied the attention not only of the service, but also of the public; but he should be very ungrateful if he did not take that opportunity of saying how greatly he, and those on whose experience and counsel he had principally to rely, were beholden to the postmasters of the United Kingdom for the admirable and loyal co-operation which they constantly received from the members of the postal service. (Cheers.) That gathering represented not only postmasters from the metropolis and the provincial towns of England, but from the sister kingdom also; some of their visitors having come from as far north, as Inverness and as far west as Mullingar. It was therefore a truly representative gathering. He knew well that the duties of postmasters were most exacting, and that they occupied a most responsible position. The public generally appreciated that to a certain extent; but any one who had filled the office that he had had the honour to occupy during the last four years must know much better than the public how great was the strain upon the postmasters in the ordinary discharge of their daily duties, and how greatly the strain had been intensified by recent events, which had called for all the energy and all the discretion which could at any time animate any official in the public service. He must say that, without exception, the postmasters of the United Kingdom had by their cordial assistance and loyal support made it possible for those who, in times of considerable stress and difficulty, had to conduct the affairs of that great department, to carry them on in a manner advantageous to the public and worthy of the State. (Cheers.) Such was the patriotism, the *esprit de corps*, which distinguished the postmasters of the United Kingdom, that even if too active science or too urgent democracy should cast upon the Post Office additional burdens, they would still be willing to do what they could to give effect to the demands, and even to add to that work, which he believed would now overtax the energies of almost any other class of the public service. So long as the postal servants felt they could render important service to the State and their country, and so long as the performance of that service was recognized and appreciated, as he was sure it was, not only by those who were primarily responsible for the duties of the department, but also by that large public to whom their work was indispensable—so long would they get a brilliant example of all that went to make a man in the highest sense worthy of the title of a citizen of this great Empire. (Cheers.)

After a few remarks from Mr. T. M. ANGEL (South-Western District of London), and from SIR A. BLACKWOOD, the company separated.

A dinner of the Penny Postage Jubilee Committee took place last evening at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Alderman Sir James Whitehead, chairman of the committee, presided, and the guests included the Postmaster-General, Sir A. Blackwood, K.C.B., Mr. F. E. Baines, C.B., Major Cardin, Mr. W. H. Preece, F.R.S., Colonel Raffles Thompson, Mr. R. C. Toms, Mr. W. G. Gates, Mr. Pearson Hill, the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, Mr. Alderman Renals, Mr. Deputy Halse, Mr. J. E. Sly, and Mr. J. Gannon.

After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the chairman proposed that of "Prosperity to the Post Office, and the Health of the Postmaster-General." In the course of his speech he said that every one hoped that the difficulties which had arisen at the present time in connexion with the service of the Post Office might be of only a temporary character, and that for the public good they would be soon settled. If there was due conciliation on both sides, a generous recognition of the just aspirations and the rights of those on the one side, and of what was due to the public service and the taxpayer on the other, he was quite sure that before long the conflict would be brought to a satisfactory conclusion. (Cheers.)

After the toast had been heartily drunk, the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, in responding, said:—Sir James Whitehead and gentlemen, having regard to the fact that the postal jubilee of 1890 had its commencement in the City of London, I think there is a singular appropriateness in the fact that we are gathered here this evening to take part in what I may call its final ceremony, under the same auspices and within the same limits. The Post Office is one of the institutions not only of the country, but also of the City of London, and the singular and generous interest taken in it by the City of London showed itself, in the first place, by the magnificent celebration which took place in the Guildhall in May last, and, not exhausted by that demonstration, has continued to manifest itself until that final ceremony under the auspices of our friend Sir James Whitehead, whom the postal service has long come to regard as almost one of themselves. Continuing, Mr. Raikes said,—I do not wish to say anything which might for a moment chill the enthusiasm of so ardent a sympathizer of postal progress as my friend Sir James Whitehead; but I am bound to say

that his enthusiasm for our progress perhaps in some respects goes ahead of what our experience will warrant. It is true that we earn a very large revenue at the present time, and that on that revenue there is a very considerable surplus to the State. There are a good many claimants for a share in that surplus. There are a good many excellent people who think that their letters ought to be carried not only at cost price, or at less than cost price, but, practically, at a price that would represent no revenue at all; and there are a good many other persons connected with the Post Office who regard the fact that we earn a surplus as one of those damning evidences of capitalistic theory which requires to be defended by its summary dispersion among those persons. ("Hear," and cheers.) Now, although I entirely concur in thinking that the Post Office exists for the benefit of the country, and at the same time I think the Post Office should set an example of liberal treatment of its employees, I am not prepared to accept in their entirety either the doctrine that the public is entitled to have its letters carried at a ruinous loss to the revenue, or that the servants of the Post Office should be remunerated for their services at a price far exceeding the value of their labour. Sir James Whitehead has referred to one of the unsatisfactory features in the position of this department in the face of the present jubilee. I do not wish to speak of that in any detail or at any length; but, as he has mentioned it, I do not wish to appear to shirk it. I am perfectly satisfied that, in dealing with its subordinate officers, the department of which I happen to be for the moment the head has practised a wise liberality. I think that, when you are satisfied that you have done what is right and what is just, you should not be moved by any clamour or by any form of intimidation into doing more than what is right or just. The relations between the Post Office and those who serve it have been until the present moment, I think I may say, of especial and happy unanimity. If persons unconnected with the service have chosen to find a happy hunting ground within our walls, and if they have perverted and misguided those whose interests we have always had at heart into a position antagonistic to their superiors, we have only this to consider—that we trust to the support of the country to resist any such invasion and usurpation of that authority which properly belongs to the constituted authority. (Cheers.) And you may be sure that first and foremost of those who wish to improve and to maintain the position of the Post Office servant are those who are charged by their responsibilities to the Queen and the country with the delicate and difficult duty of holding the balance between the servants of the public and the public, who, after all, are our masters. (Cheers.) The Postmaster-General concluded his speech by an expression of hope that there might long be a continuance of that cordial sympathy and friendship which existed between the Post Office and its nearest and most appreciative neighbour, the City of London.

The other toasts included "The Lord Mayor and Corporation," "The health of Mr. Pearson Hill," "The Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund," "The Post Office Jubilee Committee," "The Sheriffs," and "The Chairman," the last being proposed by the POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

THE POST OFFICE JUBILEE. 181

A considerable number of postmasters and postmistresses from all parts of the United Kingdom assembled yesterday morning at breakfast, held in the Lower Room, Exeter Hall, under the presidency of Mr. Raikes, the Postmaster-General, and Sir S. A. Blackwood, the Secretary of the General Post Office. There were also present Mr. F. E. Baines, C.B., Inspector-General of Mails, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Lamb, and Mr. Yeld, of the chief office, Mr. H. M. Cunynghame, of Edinburgh, Mr. Walliker, of Birmingham, Mr. Angel, of Oxford, Mr. Raiton, of South Shields, and many others. In proposing the health of her Majesty, which was drunk with enthusiasm, the Postmaster-General referred to the presence of the ladies as being especially appropriate, having regard to important part the fairer sex plays in the work of the Post Office.

Mr. RAIKES then said that as they had done him the honour of inviting him not only to be their guest, but also their chairman, he would avail himself of the opportunity to congratulate them upon this the first social gathering of postmasters of the United Kingdom. (Cheers.) He did not know with whom the idea originated—"Raiton"—but he could not imagine a more fitting sequel to the festivities of the previous night, when the whole postal service of the country was so largely represented at South Kensington, than that the postmasters should have their own pleasant gathering on the following day. He must say without exception the postmasters of the United Kingdom had shown those high qualities which were necessary to the due discharge of their duties. They had celebrated the Jubilee of Penny Postage, and, greatly as the public had reason to laud and extol the name of Sir Rowland Hill—(cheers)—for his great discovery and for the rare ability which he displayed in giving practical effect to it, it required all the generosity even of a postmaster to join in glorifying the memory of a man who had so enormously added to their responsibilities. (Cheers.) When they saw what the Post Office was in 1790, and when they recalled, as many present no doubt could, what it was like in 1840, and noted the enormous strides which had been made in every direction of postal work. When they recollected how to ordinary postal duties had been superadded all the anxieties and labours connected with an enormous telegraph department; when they remembered that upon the willing backs of public servants was piled by Mr. Fawcett the additional burden of the parcel post, and when they bore in mind how glad other departments of the State, as, for instance, the sister branch of the Inland Revenue, was to add to the responsibilities of postmasters by entrusting to them the delicate duties connected with the administration of their department—(laughter and cheers)—when they considered, also, that not only was the postmaster now a postman and a telegraph superintendent, but a public carrier and the dispenser of licences for almost every function in life; and, further, he was more and more becoming the banker of the poor—(cheers)—he thought they all of them must understand how of the gentleman who filled any such position was demanded a combination of qualities greater than those which went to make up almost any other public functionary, and cer-

tainly greatly exceeding the standard which was generally supposed to fit a man for a seat in Parliament. (Laughter and cheers.) These great demands had been met by an unequalled supply, and the service had shown that when an essentially all-round man was wanted one was always forthcoming. (Cheers.) He believed that such was the patriotism and the *esprit de corps* which distinguished postmasters of the United Kingdom that even if a too-active science or a too-ardent democracy should cast upon the post office yet additional burdens that they would still be willing to do what they could to give effect to these demands, and even to add to that work which now would overtax the energies of almost any other class of public servant. (Laughter and cheers.)

Mr. ANGEL, of Oxford, then thanked the Postmaster-General for his presence.

Sir S. A. BLACKWOOD afterwards expressed his pleasure in meeting so many postmasters, who were, he said, exposed to pressure from above, outside, and below. There was now a new danger—they were in danger of being blown up. They were living in days of agitation, which made it extremely difficult for the postmasters to discharge their duties to all concerned.

Mr. RAILTON, the promoter of the gathering, expressed his gratification at its success, and hoped that it would become an annual event.

Mr. WALLISER gave the healths of Messrs. Joyce, Baines, and Lamb.

Mr. BAINES, replying, ventured to take the compliment as an expression of their belief that the welfare and interests of their metropolitan brethren were as dear—nay, dearer—to the officials named than their own. (Cheers.)

Other toasts followed, Mr. YELD replying for the surveyors, and Mr. URAN for the committee, the latter declaring his opinion that never in the history of the service was patriotism more necessary; and, speaking for himself and colleagues, he assured the Postmaster-General that they would do their best to uphold the discipline and maintain the conditions of the department to which they belonged.

Three cheers were given for Mr. Raikes, and, the chairman and vice-chairman having briefly replied, the company separated.

As Mr. RAIKES is not generally

with a keen sense of the humorous, we

conclude that he was quite unconscious of the

drollery of the situation when he rose at the

jubilee breakfast given by the postmasters

and to thank them for the honour

conferred on him by inviting him to take his

place at the table. It was no doubt a con-

siderable proceeding on the part of the officials

concerned not to leave the POSTMASTER-

GENERAL out in assessing their programme,

but no one, surely, could have been prepared

for so flattering a speech from their distin-

guished guest. If Mr. RAIKES fails to appreciate

the services of postmen and of

telegraphists, if he is even slow to recognise

the claims of the underpaid Post Office clerk,

he is at any rate eloquent in his acknowledgment

of the work daily done and "the

strain" endured by postmasters. He seems

to have been much gratified to see gathered

at Exeter Hall yesterday many of the London

and provincial postmasters. It is "really

a representative assembly," said the autocrat

of St. Martin's-le-Grand. Possibly it was;

but representative of whom? Certainly not

of the postal service generally. He told

those gathered round him that the postmaster

in these days is also a telegraph superintendent,

a public carrier, the banker of

the poor, and so forth. Indeed, he

declared that it required "a combination

of qualities greater" than

is usually demanded in any other public func-

tionary for the efficient discharge of duties of

this kind. Mr. RAIKES aims, he says, at

carrying on the postal service in a manner

"advantageous to the public and worthy of

the State." But the public, as he ought to

have discovered by this time, do not want all

the advantages to be on their side. They refuse,

in order to swell the profits of that depart-

ment of the State over which Mr. RAIKES

presides, to oppress either the telegraphists or

the postmen. It may appear to Sir ARTHUR

BLACKWOOD that it "helps to smooth over

many difficulties when the postmasters shake

hands with their chief," but that view will

not be shared by the generality of people.

When the telegraphists or when the postmen

invite Mr. RAIKES to breakfast, it will show a

much smoother state of things than exists at

present. The right hon. gentleman was asked

yesterday afternoon in the House of Commons

a question about the telegraphists, and he was

obliged to admit that the feeling among these

officials is still the reverse of satisfactory.

Last night at the dinner given by Sir JAMES

WHITHEAD, the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, talked

of "a wise liberality." The sooner he gives

proof of his intention to exercise it the more

quickly will the antagonistic feeling which has

been engendered by the contrary policy sub-

sided, and the affairs of the department be

conducted without dangerous friction.

THE POST OFFICE JUBILEE. 1870.

The public, or at any rate a representative portion of it, having already celebrated from its point of view the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the penny post, it was natural that St. Martin's-le-Grand should desire to do the same thing from its own. The points of view do not always coincide with the precision of a skilful piece of dovetailing; but on such occasions what is not exhibited must always be a considerable portion of an exhibition. The show at Guldhall very kindly left out all visible signs of public grievances, and that at St. Martin's-le-Grand as considerably omitted illustrations of the worries which the officials of a department in touch with every inhabitant of the country, almost, indeed, of the whole world, have daily to undergo. This is unquestionably an interesting period of postal history, when the penny post itself, with its foreign and colonial applications, is getting to be regarded as scarcely less obsolete than the working Post Office of 1790, exhibited yesterday evening, and when zealots for correspondence are already dreaming of the reign of the halfpenny throughout the civilised universe. It may take more than another century to establish M. Chambre's exhibit—the "Electro-Tubular-Lightning Express"—calculated to convert the whole of human life into a whirlpool of correspondence, in which having to answer sudden questions all day and all night will become almost the sole occupation of man. But it may be that less than a century will suffice for the result; and there are more people than is officially assumed who in their hearts, though they dare not give their sentiments expression, anticipate further facilities for receiving communications, and further obligations to answer them, with the reverse of enthusiasm. One feature of yesterday's celebration was especially gratifying—the expressions of official loyalty from all parts of the country in which, it is to be trusted, the spirit of insubordination of which the lower ranks of the service have been giving evidence was merged. It was right to remind the humblest officials that they are units in a vast system capable of unlimited development by which all concerned a view of the whole machine.

POSTMEN'S GRIEVANCES.—TELEGRAPHISTS' "LOYALTY" 1870.

A document protesting against Wednesday night's disturbances, when the telegraphists declined to cheer the Queen, was circulated among the operators at the Central Telegraph Station yesterday for signature. Many refused to sign. Excitement still prevails there.

A News Agency says:—The first intimation which Mr. Raikes received of the extraordinary scene at the Central Telegraph Office on Wednesday night was contained in the newspaper accounts of the affair. He at once caused inquiries to be made, and in the course of yesterday Mr. Fischer, the Chief Controller of the Telegraph Department, had an interview with 11 representative male clerks, whom he closely questioned on the subject. The clerks repudiated any intention of disloyalty or disrespect toward her Majesty the Queen, and explained that the demonstration was spontaneously made, as a protest against the manner in which their repeated petitions for redress of grievances had been treated by the higher officials of the Post Office. Mr. Fischer said that their explanation was not satisfactory, and it would be necessary formally to place on record a proper disclaimer from the whole staff. He requested the clerks before him to obtain the signatures of the staff to the following memorandum:—"We have heard with regret that an unusual scene took place at the Central Telegraph Office last evening, on the occasion of the Postal Jubilee, when three clerks were called for her Majesty the Queen, and we desire to dissociate ourselves from what took place." The clerks asked and received permission to discuss the matter among themselves, and ultimately they informed Mr. Fischer that by eight votes to three they had decided that they could not accept the memorandum which he had drawn up, but they were willing to obtain signatures of their fellows to the following explanatory statement:—"We, the undersigned members of the staff of the Central Telegraph Office, respectfully beg to assure you that in our own opinion the spontaneous expressions of feeling given utterance to when three clerks were asked for the Queen at ten o'clock last night, were not in any way due to want of respect or to disloyalty towards her Most Gracious Majesty." Mr. Fischer asked for the names of the eight clerks, who had voted against his suggestion, but the clerks unanimously declined to give him the information, and Mr. Fischer thereupon informed them that three clerks who had accepted his suggestion had better take charge of the memorandum and obtain signatures. During the day a number of signatures were obtained, chiefly from female clerks, but the majority of the staff declined to sign the document. A full official account of the affair has been forwarded to Mr. Raikes, and is now under that gentleman's consideration.

The Liverpool postal clerks were called upon to give three cheers for the Queen at ten o'clock on Wednesday night, in connection with the Rowland Hill celebration, but, as was the case also in London and some other parts of the country, they declined to do so, and a significant and somewhat gloomy silence prevailed in response to the energetic appeals of the superintendent. It is pretty well understood, however, that this action of the clerks was in no way inspired by any feeling of disloyalty, but was simply a protest against what is considered to be their unjust and arbitrary treatment by the department.

JUBILEE of the UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE.—

BOWLAND HILL BENEVOLENT FUND.

Patron—Her MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

President of the South Kensington Jubilee Conversazione—His Royal Highness the DUKE of EDINBURGH, K.G.

Vice-Patrons of the Fund—

Her Royal Highness the DUCHESS of TECK.

His Serene Highness the DUKE of TECK, G.C.B.

Special effort to increase the Investments of the Trustees.

Extract from a letter from the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, William Lidderdale, Esq., and Sir James Whitehead, Bart., dated November, 1870:

"We think that, having regard to the benefits which have accrued to the public from the adoption of penny postage, and to the faithful services rendered by the servants of the Post Office, an effort might properly be made during this the Jubilee year to raise the invested property of that fund from £17,000, its present amount, to such higher amount as the liberality of the public will allow."

As the Jubilee year will shortly come to a close, further donations will be thankfully received and acknowledged.

Cheques in aid of the fund (re-accumulated London and Westminster Bank) may be sent to Sir James Whitehead, Bart., or to F. E. Baines, Esq., C.B., General Post Office, who will be happy to receive them on behalf of the promoters of the fund. The Bank of England; Messrs. Cox and Co., Charles-cross; Sir O. R. McGreggor, Bart., and Co., Charles-street, S.W.; Messrs. Coutts and Co., Strand; Messrs. C. Hoare and Co., Fleet-street; Messrs. Cox, Biddulph, and Co., Charles-cross; Messrs. Dimdale, Cornhill; the London and Westminster Bank; the City Bank, the National Provincial Bank of England, the Union Bank, and the Consolidated Bank have also kindly offered to receive donations.

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The Lord Mayor elect, Mr. Alderman Savory, has kindly consented to the Annual Meeting of the Trustees and others interested in the Fund being held in the Mansion-house, on Tuesday, 11th November, when the Executive Committee of the South Kensington Conversazione will report the results of their efforts. Meanwhile the undersigned Bankers have kindly consented to receive DONATIONS:

The Bank of England, Messrs. Cox and Co., Sir O. R. McGreggor, Bart., and Co., Messrs. Coutts and Co., Messrs. Hoare and Co., the London and Westminster Bank, the City Bank, the National Provincial Bank of England, the Consolidated Bank, the Union Bank of London, Messrs. Cox, Biddulph, and Co., Messrs. Dimdale, Fowler, Barnard, and Dimdale, the same in aid of the Fund may also be sent to Alderman Sir James Whitehead, Bart., Buckingham-street, E.C.; or to F. E. Baines, Esq., C.B., General Post-office, E.C. 25/10 70

JUBILEE of UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE

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SECOND LIST of DONATIONS.
The Jubilee Celebration Committee desire gratefully to ACKNOWLEDGE the liberal CONTRIBUTIONS which have been made to this Fund. Amongst the principal donations received since the 22d November last are the following:—

LONDON LIST. *6 12 90, 189*

The Bank of England	£200 0 0	Messrs. Debenham and Freebody	£10 10 0
London and County Banking Co., Ltd. .. .	52 10 0	The Zealand Steamship Co. (Royal Dutch Mail)	10 0 0
Donation from the Borough of Hampstead	45 0 0	Messrs. Currey, Holland, and Currey .. .	5 5 0
Messrs. Ralli Brothers ..	20 0 0	Messrs. Allatini Bros. ..	5 5 0
Messrs. Cassell and Co., Ltd.	10 10 0	P. P. Rodocanachi, Esq. ..	5 5 0
Indo-European Telegraph Co., Ltd. .. .	10 10 0	James T. Chance, Esq. ..	5 5 0
Messrs. Trower and Sons	10 10 0	Messrs. Blades, East, and Blades	5 5 0
Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons, and Co.	10 10 0	Miss Bell	5 0 0
		Messrs. J. R. Jaffray and Co.	6 0 0

COUNTRY LIST.

Aberdeen—		Messrs. Smith, Edwards, and Co.	£5 0 0
W. Mitchell, Esq. ..	£5 0 0	Bent's Brewery Co., Ltd.	5 0 0
Campbeltown—		Mrs. W. Fowler	5 0 0
P. Mackinnon, Esq. ..	5 0 0	Messrs. Andrew, Bell, and Co.	5 0 0
Chertsey—		A. Friend	5 0 0
J. A. Tuik, Esq. ..	5 0 0	Robert Gladstone, Esq., J.P.	5 0 0
Edinburgh—		Messrs. Weight, Crossley, and Co.	5 0 0
Messrs. W. McEwan and Co.	10 10 0	W. J. Hartley, Esq. ..	5 0 0
Guisborough—		Messrs. Muir, Duckworth, and Co.	6 0 0
J. T. Wharton, Esq. ..	5 0 0	Messrs. James Moss and Co.	6 0 0
Hereford—		Messrs. Blesig, Braun, and Co.	5 0 0
Charles G. Martin ..	6 5 0	Mrs. Holt	5 0 0
Lincoln—		Minchinhampton—	
Messrs. Clayton and Shuttleworth	10 10 0	Mrs. Frith	6 0 0
Eight Rev. the Bishop of Lincoln	5 0 0	Rutlin—	
Messrs. Smith, Ellison, and Co.	6 0 0	Mrs. Owen	5 0 0
Rev. W. Spranger White	5 0 0	Sunderland—	
Liverpool—		C. M. Webster, Esq. ..	10 10 0
Messrs. W. Johnston and Co., Ltd.	10 0 0	The Echo	5 0 0
Messrs. Alfred Booth and Co.	10 0 0	Swansea—	
Mrs. Charles Turner	10 0 0	E. H. Oakden, Esq. ..	6 0 0
J. B. Smith, Esq. ..	5 5 0	Tunbridge Wells—	
J. P. C. O.	5 5 0	Thomas Scott, Esq. ..	5 0 0
Messrs. David Sassoon and Co.	5 5 0	Brenton H. Collins, Esq.	5 0 0
William Carter, Esq., M.D.	5 0 0	Wakefield—	
Messrs. Roberts Alexander and Co.	5 0 0	J. Rowley, Esq. ..	5 0 0

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There are certainly 50,000, and counting those employed during only a portion of their time, probably 100,000, servants of the Post Office. In comparison with the number of cases needing relief, which may arise, the income at the disposal of the Trustees of the Fund is wholly inadequate.

It is thought that the Jubilee year of the adoption of uniform inland penny postage affords a favourable opportunity of appealing for support to a public always so generous and considerate towards servants of the Post Office.

It is sought to secure to the trustees a permanent income of not less than £1,000 a year, the equivalent of an investment of £30,000, raised as follows:—Already invested, \$17,000; estimated probable result of recent efforts, £10,000; remaining to be raised, £3,000—total, £30,000.

Extract of a letter from the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Wm. Lidderdale, Esq., and Sir James Whitehead, Bart., D.L., dated 30th June; 1890:—

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President of the South Kensington Conversation in aid of the Fund—His Royal Highness the DUKE of EDINBURGH, K.G.
VICE-PRESIDENTS.

- The Right Hon. Henry Cecil Raikes, M.P., Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.
The Right Hon. the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G. *189*
The Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P.
The Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P.
And the following ex-Postmasters-General:—
His Grace the Duke of Argyll, K.G., K.T.
His Grace the Duke of Rutland, G.C.B.
The Right Hon. Lord Emly
The Right Hon. the Marquis of Hartington, M.P.
The Right Hon. G. J. Shaw-Lefevre, M.P.
The Right Hon. Sir Lyon Playfair, K.C.B., M.P.
Also
His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, C.B.
His Grace the Duke of Marlborough
His Grace the Duke of Portland
His Grace the Duke of Wellington
The Marquis of Ripon, K.G.
The Marquis of Breadalbane
The Earl of Ashburnham
The Earl of Bradford
The Earl of Glarendon
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
The Earl of Gainsborough
The Earl Grey, K.G.
The Earl of Jersey
The Earl Spencer, K.G.
The Earl Stanhope
The Earl of Strafford
The Earl Waldegrave
The Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham
Sir James Whitehead, Bart., D.L.
Sir Arthur Blackwood, K.C.B.
Pearson Hill, Esq.

- FIRST LIST of VICE-PATRONS.
The Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G.
The Right Rev. the Bishop of London
The Lord Tweedmouth
The Viscount Weymouth
The Very Rev. the Dean of Peterborough
Lord Alfred Churchill
The Lady Lyveden
Lady Broke-Middleton
The Hon. Mr. Fellowes

- Edw. Anderson, Esq.
Usher Bach, Esq.
Rayd. Wm. Baker, B.D.
W. M. Bell, Esq.
Albert Banister, Esq.
Wm. Botler, Esq., R.A.S.E.
Mrs. A. C. Bryant
Geo. Burr, Esq.
Dr. Albert J. Bernays
Thos. B. Callard, Esq.
Amos Cave, Esq., F.R.G.S.
Saml. Cawston, Esq.
James Chadburn, Esq.
Alexr. Christie, Esq.
Mrs. Richard Cockerton
John Collett, Esq.
Messrs. Cox and Co.
J. Markham Dean, Esq.
Miss Tyrwhitt Drake
Thomas Drew, Esq.
Mrs. Frances E. Drew
Eustace Eriebach, Esq.
Miss Few
Frosland Fuller, Esq.
Samuel French, Esq.
Alexr. Fraser, Esq.
Henry Grey, Esq.
Henry Harben, Esq.
Wm. Harrison, Esq., J.P.
Messrs. Hurst and Son
Donald W. O. Hood, Esq., M.D.
Mrs. Thompson Jackson
Colonel Kingston
T. Bayler Lewis, Esq.
Sir C. R. McGregor, Bart., and Co.
The Mayor of Andover
The Mayor of Eastbourne
The Mayor of Oxford
The Mayor of Stratford-on-Avon
The Rev. Mother of Homerton Convent
B. Hope Morley, Esq.
Messrs. Paterson, Laing, and Bruce
Miss Ridley
Mrs. Edward Smith
G. Mence Smith, Esq.
Mrs. H. A. Smith
Mrs. C. Southgate
Philip F. Walker, Esq.
Fred. A. White, Esq.

Preliminary List of Donations.

Her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen	£25	The Earl Waldegrave ..	£1 0 0
The Lord Rothchild ..	£100 0 0	E. H. Carbutt, Esq. ..	1 10
The Philatelic Society ..	50 0 0	Messrs. Brown, Shipley, and Co.	25 0 0
M. Berkeley Hill, Esq., M.D.	5 5 0	E. Rawlinson, Esq. ..	3 3 0
Messrs. De La Rue and Co.	200 0 0	Wm. List, Esq.	2 2 0
The Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington	5 0 0	D. M.	1 0 0
The Misses Davenport Hill	2 2 0	Augustus A. Stenger, Esq.	5 5 0
O. Parsons, Esq., Dorchester (collected by) ..	13 0 0	J. Thewlis Johnson, Esq., Manchester ..	5 5 0
Alexander Fraser, Esq. ..	5 5 0	Mrs. A. C. Bryant ..	2 2 0
J. M. Lloyd, Esq.	1 10	Miss Ann F. Fowler ..	2 0 0
		Messrs. Cox and Co. ..	50 0 0

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THE ROWLAND HILL MEMORIAL AND BENEVOLENT FUND,
FOR THE RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE OF
POST OFFICE SERVANTS AND THEIR WIDOWS & CHILDREN.

The Trustees beg the favour of your attendance at the EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING to be held at the Egyptian Hall, Mansion House, on Tuesday, November 11th, 1890, at 3.30 p.m., when a report of the proceedings of the Trustees and of the Executive Committee of the Penny Postage Jubilee Celebration will be submitted.

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor will Preside.



The relatives of Rowland Hill, author of Penny Postage, in commemoration of its Jubilee, request the pleasure of Miss P. ... company at the Drill Hall, Hampstead, on Monday, April 7th, 1890, at 7 p.m. An answer will oblige, addressed "Hon. Sec., 101, South Hill Park, Hampstead."

POSTAGE ONE PENNY.

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ROWLAND HILL MEMORIAL and BENEVOLENT FUND.
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Chertsey—	J. A. Tulk, Esq.	5 0 0	Mrs. W. Fowler	5 0 0	
Edinburgh—	Messrs. W. McEwan and Co.	10 10 0	Messrs. Andrew, Bell, and Co.	5 0 0	
Guisborough—	J. T. Wharton, Esq.	5 0 0	A Friend	5 0 0	
Hereford—	Charles G. Martin	5 5 0	Robert Gladstone, Esq., J.P.	5 0 0	
Lincoln—	Messrs. Clayton and Shuttleworth	10 10 0	Messrs. Wright, Crossley, and Co.	5 0 0	
Right Rev. the Bishop of Lincoln	5 0 0	W. P. Hardley, Esq.	5 0 0		
Messrs. Smith, Ellison, and Co.	5 0 0	Messrs. Muir, Duckworth, and Co.	5 0 0		
Rev. W. Spranger White	5 0 0	Messrs. James Moss and Co.	5 0 0		
Liverpool—	Messrs. W. Johnston and Co., Ltd.	10 0 0	Messrs. Blessig, Braun, and Co.	5 0 0	
Messrs. Alfred Booth and Co.	10 0 0	Mrs. Holt	5 0 0		
Mrs. Charles Turner, J.P., C.C.	5 5 0	Minchinhampton—	Mrs. Frith	5 0 0	
Messrs. David Sassoon and Co.	5 5 0	Rutlin—	Mrs. Owen	5 0 0	
William Carter, Esq., M.D.	5 0 0	Sunderland—	C. M. Webster, Esq.	10 10 0	
Messrs. Robert Alexander and Co.	5 0 0	Swansea—	The Echo	5 0 0	
		E. H. Oakden, Esq.	5 0 0		
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The Most Hon. the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G.

The Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P.

The Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P.

And the following ex-Postmasters-General:—

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| His Grace the Duke of Argyll, K.G., K.T. | The Marquis of Ripon, K.G. |
| His Grace the Duke of Rutland, G.C.B. | The Marquis of Breadalbane |
| The Right Hon. Lord Emsay | The Earl of Ashburnham |
| The Right Hon. the Marquis of Hertington, M.P. | The Earl of Bradford |
| The Right Hon. G. J. Shaw-Lefevre, M.P. | The Earl of Clarendon |
| The Right Hon. Sir Lyon Playfair, K.C.B., M.P. | The Earl of Derby, K.G. |
| | The Earl of Gainsborough |
| | The Earl Grey, K.G. |
| | The Earl of Jersey |
| | The Earl Spencer, K.G. |
| | The Earl Stanhope |
| | The Earl of Strafford |
| | The Earl of Warwick |
| | The Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham |
| | Sir James Whitehead, Bart., D.L. |
| | Sir Arthur Blackwood, K.C.B. |
| | Pearson Hill, Esq. |

FIRST LIST of VICE-PATRONS.

- The Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G.
 The Right Rev. the Bishop of London
 The Lord Tweedmouth
 The Viscount Weymouth
 The Very Rev. the Dean of Peterborough
 Lord Alfred Churchill
 The Lady Lyveden
 Lady Broke-Middleton
 The Hon. Mr. Fellowes

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Edw. Anderton, Esq. | Henry Grey, Esq. |
| Usher Bach, Esq. | Henry Harben, Esq. |
| Rev. Wm. Baker, B.D. | Wm. Harrison, Esq., J.P. |
| W. M. Bell, Esq. | Messrs. Hurst and Son |
| Albert Baunster, Esq. | Donald W. C. Hood, Esq., M.D. |
| Wm. Botley, Esq., R.A.S.E. | Mrs. Thompson Jackson |
| Mrs. A. C. Bryson | Colonel Kingston |
| Geo. Burt, Esq. | T. Hayter Lewis, Esq. |
| Dr. Albert J. Bernays | Sir C. R. McGregor, Bart., and Co. |
| Thos. B. Calard, Esq. | The Mayor of Andover |
| Amos Cave, Esq., F.R.G.S. | The Mayor of Eastbourne |
| Saml. Cawston, Esq. | The Mayor of Oxford |
| James Chadburn, Esq. | The Mayor of Stratford-on-Avon |
| Alexr. Christie, Esq. | The Rev. Mother of Homerton |
| Mrs. Richard Cockerton | Convent |
| John Collett, Esq. | S. Hope Morley, Esq. |
| Messrs. Cox and Co. | Messrs. Paterson, Laing, and Bruce |
| J. Markham Dean, Esq. | Miss Ridley |
| Miss Tyrwhitt Drake | Mrs. Edward Smith |
| Thomas Drew, Esq. | G. Mence Smith, Esq. |
| Mrs. Frances E. Drew | Mrs. H. A. Smith |
| Eustace Eriebach, Esq. | Mrs. C. Southgate |
| Miss New | Philip F. Walker, Esq. |
| Freeland Ffilliter, Esq. | Fred. A. White, Esq. |
| Samuel French, Esq. | |
| Alexr. Fraser, Esq. | |

Preliminary List of Donations.

Her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen	£25
The Lord Rothschild	£100 0 0
The Philatelic Society	50 0 0
M. Berkeley Hill, Esq., M.D.	5 5 0
Messrs. De La Rue and Co.	200 0 0
The Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington	5 0 0
The Misses Davenport Hill	2 2 0
C. Parsons, Esq., Dorchester (collected by)	13 0 0
Alexander Fraser, Esq.	5 5 0
J. M. Lloyd, Esq.	1 1 0
The Earl Waldegrave	£1 0 0
E. H. Garbutt, Esq.	1 1 0
Messrs. Brown, Shipley, and Co.	25 0 0
H. Rawlinson, Esq.	3 3 0
Wm. List, Esq.	2 2 0
D. M.	1 0 0
Augustus A. Stenger, Esq.	5 5 0
J. Thelma Johnson, Esq., Manchester	5 5 0
Mrs. A. C. Bryant	2 2 0
Miss Ann F. Fowler	2 0 0
Messrs. Cox and Co.	50 0 0

Cheques in aid of the fund (crossed London and Westminster Bank) may be sent to Sir James Whitehead, Bart., D.L., or to F. E. Baines, Esq., C.B., General Post Office, who will be happy to receive them on behalf of the promoters of the fund. Messrs. Cox and Co., of Charing-cross, and Sir C. R. McGregor, Bart., and Co., of Charles-street, S.W., have kindly offered to receive subscriptions.

THE ROWLAND HILL MEMORIAL AND BENEVOLENT FUND,
 FOR THE RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE OF
 POST OFFICE SERVANTS AND THEIR WIDOWS & CHILDREN.

The Trustees beg the favour of your attendance at the EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING to be held at the Egyptian Hall, Mansion House, on Tuesday, November 11th, 1890, at 3.30 p.m., when a report of the proceedings of the Trustees and of the Executive Committee of the Penny Postage Jubilee Celebration will be submitted.

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor will Preside.



The relatives of Rowland Hill, author of Penny Postage, in commemoration of its Jubilee, request the pleasure of Miss Baines company at the Drill Hall, Hampstead, on Monday, April 7th, 1890, at 7 p.m. An answer will oblige, addressed "Hon. Sec., 101, South Hill Park, Hampstead."

POSTAGE ONE PENNY.

The memorial stone of the new General Post Office North, which is to be erected on an extensive site between Angel-street and St. Martin's-le-Grand, was laid yesterday by Mr. Raikes, M.P., the Postmaster-General. Among those present were Sir S. A. Blackwood, C.B. (the secretary), Mr. A. Turnor, C.B. (the financial secretary), Mr. H. Joyce, C.B., Mr. J. S. Purcell, C.B. (Inland Revenue), Mr. F. E. Baines, C.B., Mr. E. H. Rea, Mr. J. C. Lamb, Mr. W. H. Preece, Mr. R. Hunter, Mr. Percy James, Mr. Pearson Hill, Mr. G. W. Smyth, and Mr. H. Tanner (architect and surveyor to her Majesty's Office of Works). A detachment of the 24th Middlesex (Post Office) Rifles, under the command of Captain Holland, formed a guard of honour.

A jar containing a set of the postage-stamps, post-cards, &c., of the United Kingdom, the Jubilee post-card and envelope, a copy of the Postmaster-General's last report, and the principal newspapers was placed in a cavity beneath the stone, which bore the following inscription:—"This stone was laid by the Right Hon. Henry Cecil Raikes, M.P., her Majesty's Postmaster-General, on the 20th of November, 1890, the Jubilee Year of Uniform Penny Postage." The stone having been laid with the customary ceremonial,

Mr. RAIKES observed that the interesting occasion which had brought them together was very suitably commemorated by the inscription on the memorial stone. In that inscription reference was fitly made to the fact that the great work of erecting the new Post Office was thus auspiciously begun in the year of the jubilee of the penny postage, that great discovery which had revolutionized the communications of the United Kingdom and the British Empire, and of the whole civilized world, and which had conferred, perhaps, greater blessings on the human race than any other institution—at least of modern times. (Cheers.) Having referred with satisfaction to the presence and to the long and distinguished service in the Post Office of Mr. Pearson Hill, son of the great Sir Rowland Hill, the right hon. gentleman congratulated the department on the honours which her Majesty had graciously conferred on some of its eminent officers, to signalize the 50th anniversary of the penny post. He thought they might further justly congratulate themselves on the fact that the jubilee year of the penny postage had also been the first year of the establishment of what he trusted would very soon be a universal postage rate between the United Kingdom and her great colonies and dependencies. (Cheers.) When the late Mr. Ayrton, 20 years ago, laid the memorial stone of the General Post Office West, it was supposed that this building would suffice for a very long time—for a century, perhaps—to meet the growing requirements of the service, but it had already become almost obsolete in its entire insufficiency to cope with the work which had to be transacted. He knew that the British public had a special attachment to figures as illustrative of progress, and therefore he had provided himself with a few statistics, which he thought could not fail to impress them. In 1869 the number of postal packets, including letters and all other articles transmitted through the Post Office, was 940,000,000, or 30 per head of the population, while in 1889 the total number of packets posted was 2,511,000,000, or 66 per head of the population. In 1871 the number of telegrams was nearly 10,000,000, while in 1889 the number had increased to 62,500,000, the telegrams in the United Kingdom in these 18 years having increased by between 500 and 600 per cent. In 1869 the amount of money orders despatched represented £19,500,000, while in 1889 the amount was £42,000,000. With reference to the savings bank deposits, they had risen between 1869 and 1889 from £13,500,000 to £63,000,000. The gross receipts of the Department from all sources fell short of £5,000,000 in 1869, whereas in 1889 they had exceeded £12,000,000. He did not suppose that any other institution which had ever existed could point to such a record of progress in every branch. (Cheers.) Having referred to the changes in the General Post Office West which had been caused by the Government's acquisition of the telegraphs, and to the enormous increase in the staff of the Department since this building was designed, the right hon. gentleman observed that the new structure which came to meet their obvious necessities was to be called the General Post Office North, which would cover a site one acre 821 square yards in extent. He was glad to be able to compliment Mr. Tanner for having designed a structure which would group very harmoniously with the General Post Office West. He was satisfied that when the new building raised its head in the City of London it would be considered worthy of its position, even in a City which perhaps contained a greater number of really beautiful buildings than any city in Europe. (Cheers.) The General Post Office North was not intended to accommodate the whole of the persons now in the General Post Office West, but several of the offices at present in that building would be accommodated hereafter in the new structure, where no fewer than 1,650 persons would be engaged. He feared that he had already detained them too long ("No, no"), but in the present day everything concerning the Post Office was read with interest, not only in London or in the United Kingdom, but also in even our remotest colonies and dependencies. It was usually the custom with every one when a letter was detained or a parcel had gone astray to enlist in the discussion of his wrongs half the Press of the United Kingdom (laughter), and therefore it was well, when fitting opportunity served, to remind the public—and he hoped he had done so with proper modesty—of the enormous work which the Post Office did and of the continually increasing responsibilities and cares of those who were in charge of it, to whose services he warmly testified. After expressing great regret at the absence of so many of those who witnessed the laying of the foundation stone of the General Post Office West only 20 years ago, the right hon. gentleman said he was happy to think that the Postmaster-General of that day, Lord Hartington, still lived and flourished. (Cheers.) Mr. Walker, the Postmaster of Birmingham, who attended the ceremony of 20 years ago, was present that day, and he hoped that gentleman might be spared to see the day when his (the speaker's) successor came to lay the memorial stone of the General Post Office South, which he had no doubt would be called for very early in the next century. (Cheers.)

At the invitation of Sir A. Blackwood three hearty cheers were given for Mr. Raikes, and the proceedings then terminated.

The eighth annual meeting in connexion with the Rowland Hill Memorial and Benevolent Fund, for the relief and assistance of Post Office servants and their widows and children, was held yesterday at the Mansion-house, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. In opening the meeting the chairman expressed great satisfaction that the first charitable meeting over which he had been called upon to preside at the Mansion-house was in aid of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund, which he felt quite persuaded was doing a most excellent work, and in which one of his much respected predecessors, Alderman Sir James Whitehead, had shown such great interest. Sir Henry W. Peck moved the adoption of the trustees' report, which he read. It stated that the year 1890, as being that in which had been commemorated the jubilee of the penny postage, would long be remembered as one of exceptional interest in the history of the fund, particularly on account of the special efforts which were being made on its behalf by the Jubilee Celebration Committee. Including the balance of £928 brought forward, the receipts for the past year had been £2,710. The grants had amounted to £1,051, and the investments had been increased by £610. He hoped they would agree with him that the report was very satisfactory. As one of the trustees he had attended the meetings during the year, and he could testify that the grants had all been in respect of deserving cases. The administration expenses were extremely small. From no part of the United Kingdom were they free from applications for assistance. The trustees had much pleasure in announcing that the Queen had condescended to become patron of the fund. Mr. Causton, M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. F. E. Baines, C.B., assistant secretary, General Post Office, and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Uniform Penny Postage Jubilee Celebration, then made a statement relative to the results attending the work of the committee. They had, he said, been greatly helped by the way in which the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Mr. Lidderdale, and Alderman Sir James Whitehead had put the case before the public, who had supported them handsomely. Altogether the fund had benefited to the extent of £17,000, and he had much pleasure in asking the Lord Mayor to accept on behalf of the trustees of the fund a cheque for £16,000 on account. The committee would continue in office until the end of the jubilee year of the penny postage, and they hoped to receive still further subscriptions for the benefit of the fund. Alderman Sir James Whitehead proposed the next resolution, acknowledging the liberal donations which had been received from the public, and expressing the hope that there would be a still further augmentation of the resources of the fund. The public were now, the speaker observed, handsomely supporting the fund, which was intended for the relief of distress among a class of public servants to whom they were all greatly indebted. The resolution was seconded by Mr. R. Gravatt, and was carried unanimously. On the motion of Mr. J. C. Lamb, seconded by Mr. J. J. Cardin, the trustees were thanked for their services in the past year. Sir Arthur Blackwood afterwards proposed a vote of thanks to the Executive Committee of the Uniform Penny Postage Jubilee Celebration for their untiring and devoted efforts on behalf of the fund. After acknowledging the deep gratitude of the Post Office to the Corporation of London for their cordial co-operation on behalf of the fund, he stated that the unparalleled success of the *conversations* at the Guildhall gave them a start which showed them that half their battle was won. The labours of the committee had been really arduous, but they had the satisfaction of knowing that they had been the means of bringing comfort and consolation to many an aching and breaking heart, and that they had placed the fund not only on an enlarged but on a firm and permanent basis. Mr. D. R. Harvest seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. On the motion of Mr. Harvest, seconded by Mr. H. Rokeby Price, a vote of thanks to the chairman was passed, and the proceedings then terminated.

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ROWLAND HILL BENEVOLENT FUND.—The Lord Mayor (Alderman and Colonel Davies, M.P.) presided yesterday at the Mansion-house over the 15th annual meeting of the Rowland Hill Memorial and Benevolent Fund, of which her Majesty is the patron. According to the report, which was adopted on the motion of Sir Henry Peck (one of the trustees of the fund), seconded by Mr. W. H. Collingridge (also a trustee), the total income of the fund during the year ended June 30, 1897, amounted to £2,557. In the same period grants were made to needy Post Office servants and their widows and families aggregating £1,973 in 373 cases, as compared with a total sum of £1,952 granted in 1895-96 in 392 cases. Steps had been taken to bring the objects of the fund more prominently before the Post Office staff throughout the country, and the encouraging fact that the Post Office contributions during 1896-97 had considerably increased was no doubt due to such action. The Duke of Norfolk (Postmaster-General), in moving a vote of thanks to the trustees, said he knew how great a boon the fund had been to large numbers of Post Office employees. In a great army of workers such as they had in the postal service it must often happen that cases arose calling for sympathy and help, but which, for certain reasons, could not be given from official sources. It was in such cases that the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund had been of so much value. Mr. Spencer Walpole seconded the motion, and in doing so said that in his official capacity, both as a member of the Tweedmouth Committee and as secretary to the Postmaster-General, he was afraid that at times he had to give advice to the Government which was not acceptable to the staff. Therefore he regarded it as a great privilege to have the opportunity of expressing publicly the deep sympathy he felt with all the members of the department, and particularly with those who, from time to time, became disabled. The motion was carried, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor. Among those present, in addition to the speakers, were Sir Robert Hunter, Alderman Sir Stuart Knill, Mr. Lewin Hill, C.B., Mr. Buxton Forman, C.B., Mr. J. J. Cardin, C.B. (Comptroller and Accountant-General to the Post Office), Mr. H. C. Fischer, C.M.G., Mr. J. C. Badcock (Controller of the London Postal Service), Mr. A. H. Wilson (medical officer in chief to the Post Office), Mr. F. A. R. Layton, and Mr. J. Downes. "11-97"

The annual meeting of the Rowland Hill Memorial and Benevolent Fund—which seeks to relieve Post Office servants who, through no fault of their own, have fallen into necessitous circumstances—was held yesterday at the Mansion-house, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor (Mr. Alderman Faudel-Phillips), one of the trustees of the fund. Many of the leading officials of the Post Office were present, including Mr. Spencer Walpole, the Secretary; Mr. J. C. Lamb and Mr. Lewin Hill, Assistant Secretaries; Sir Robert Hunter, solicitor; Mr. J. C. Badcock, Controller of the London Postal Service; Mr. Cardin, Receiver and Accountant-General; Mr. H. C. Fischer, Controller of the Central Telegraph Department; Mr. Pearson Hill, Mr. J. Philips, Mr. J. Ardron, and Mr. F. R. Langton, private secretary to the Postmaster-General.

The 14th annual report, which was taken as read, stated that the income of the fund during the year ended June 30 last was £2,471 6s. 2d., which included £744 18s. 6d. contributed by servants of the Post Office. In the course of the year grants amounting in the aggregate to £1,952 had been made in 392 cases, nearly one-third of the persons assisted being subscribers to the fund. The trustees noticed with satisfaction that during the past year, as compared with the preceding year, the amount of Post Office contributions had slightly increased, and they hoped that as the benefits which the fund conferred became more widely known this increase might at least be maintained.

The LORD MAYOR, who was warmly greeted on rising, said it afforded him great pleasure to take the chair for the first time in the Mansion-house at such a meeting. He was able to bear testimony to the admirable manner in which the charity was conducted, and it had one feature which should commend it to the public generally—namely, that those engaged in postal work so largely contributed to its funds. (Hear, hear.) Speaking from a large experience of associations of every kind, he observed that the weak point usually was that those who received the benefit of charities did not support them as they might, and left too much to support from outside. That, at any rate, was not the case here, for the Post Office servants, very much to their credit, supported their own charity thoroughly and well. (Hear, hear.) The income enabled the trustees to dispense something like £5 3s. 6d. per head to relieve each applicant, but if the trustees had more money at their disposal they could with great advantage dispense £6 3s. 6d. per head. The Post Office was a very admirable institution, and he did not mean to say that it did not treat its employees fairly and liberally; but it made no provision for certain of its servants who were beyond the radius of its operations—in other words, it relieved only those who devoted their whole time to the work of the Department. For instance, an assistant postman, who was engaged only from week to week, but who might go on working from week to week for 20 years, not being on the regular staff, was not in case of necessity entitled to relief from the Post Office. Such men were left to the Rowland Hill Fund, and with a good deal of judgment and care their necessities were very much relieved. Though he had not been able to take an active share in the management of the fund, he felt deep interest in its work, and would be only too glad to contribute in any way he could to its continued usefulness. (Hear, hear.)

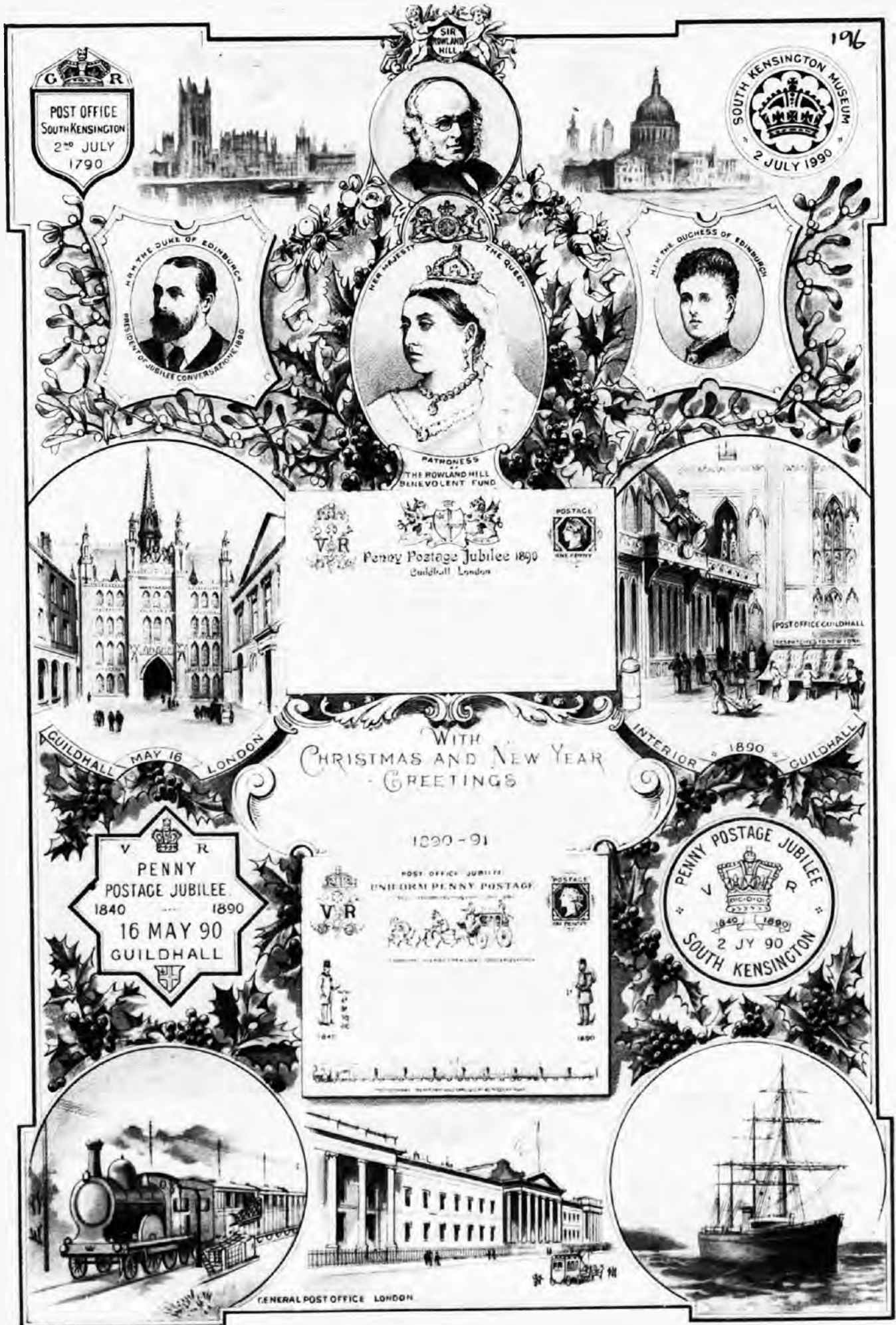
Mr. CAUSTON, M.P., in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, offered to the Lord Mayor, on behalf of all associated with the fund, hearty congratulations on his accession to office, and wished him a very pleasant and very useful year of office. (Hear, hear.) He called attention to the sorry condition of the Rowland Hill statue at the Royal Exchange, and expressed the hope that the Corporation of London, which did all its work so well, would consider whether it could not undertake the watchful care of all the public memorials in its midst. (Hear, hear.)

SIR HENRY PECK seconded the motion, and said the position of the fund rebounded to the credit of the servants of the Post Office.

The motion was adopted, and the thanks of the meeting were conveyed to the trustees of the fund for their services, Mr. J. Fox and Mr. G. Jeffrey, respectively the mover and seconder of the latter proposal, giving several striking instances of the beneficent operation of the fund.

Mr. SPENCER WALPOLE, in the absence of the Postmaster-General, moved a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, and remarked that his Lordship had that day followed the excellent example of his predecessors in inaugurating his year of office by presiding over a meeting of that fund, in which act he had done well. (Hear, hear.) The fund discharged two objects. It helped them to commemorate the services of a great man, whose services required no eulogy, even if his statue required washing (laughter), and it ministered to the necessities of the more unfortunate of the great army of workers in the Post Office.

Mr. H. C. FISCHER seconded the motion, which, on being carried, was briefly acknowledged by the LORD MAYOR.



Twenty-fifth Anniversary
 OF THE
 † PHILATELIC SOCIETY, † LONDON. †



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON,
 EFFINGHAM HOUSE,
 ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, W.C.

Exhibitions Committee :

E. D. BACON.	MAJOR EVANS.	T. WICKHAM JONES.	R. PEARCE.
M. P. CASTLE.	DOUGLAS GARTH.	E. J. NANKIVELL.	J. A. TILLEARD.

DEAR SIR,

The Philatelic Society, London, having been founded in 1869, it has been decided to celebrate its Twenty-fifth Anniversary by holding an Exhibition of Postage Stamps.

The last two Exhibitions held by the Society were for the purpose of illustrating its publications, and, although most successful, were necessarily limited in their scope.

On the present occasion it is felt that as the object is one in which every member of the Society will take a lively interest, the field of the Exhibition should be enlarged so that a much greater number may participate in it, while the exhibits should be of a specially interesting character.

It has consequently been decided that the Postage Stamps portion of the Exhibition shall consist of *rare stamps only*, of any country or countries. It is hoped that with the co-operation of the members generally, which is earnestly solicited, a display of stamps may be made which shall worthily illustrate the aims of philatelists and maintain the reputation of the Society.

You are invited to place at the disposal of the Exhibitions Committee a selection of your best stamps, and to send particulars of the Exhibit you can offer, on the form enclosed, to the undersigned, at Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C. A reply *at your earliest convenience* is desired, but the form should be returned not later than Wednesday the 18th April.

Exhibits from foreign members will be heartily welcomed.

The Exhibition will be held at the Society's Rooms, and will be open from Tuesday the 8th May, to Thursday the 10th May next, inclusive, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. on each day.

No charge will be made for admission, and all members will be at liberty to attend. Non-members will be admitted on presentation of the visiting card of any member, endorsed with the name of the person in whose favour it has been given.

Attention is called to the annexed Rules and Regulations, and particularly to the precautions which will be taken to ensure the safety of all Exhibits.

Please also note that, for the purposes of the Exhibition, the Society's Rooms will be closed, so far as their ordinary use by members is concerned, from the 5th to the 11th May, inclusive.

On the evening of Monday, the 7th May, it is proposed to hold at the Rooms a *Conversazione* of members and their friends, when the Exhibits will be on view. Special cards of invitation will be issued for *this evening*, for which early application should be made to the Committee, addressed to the undersigned.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

M. P. CASTLE.

10th March, 1894.

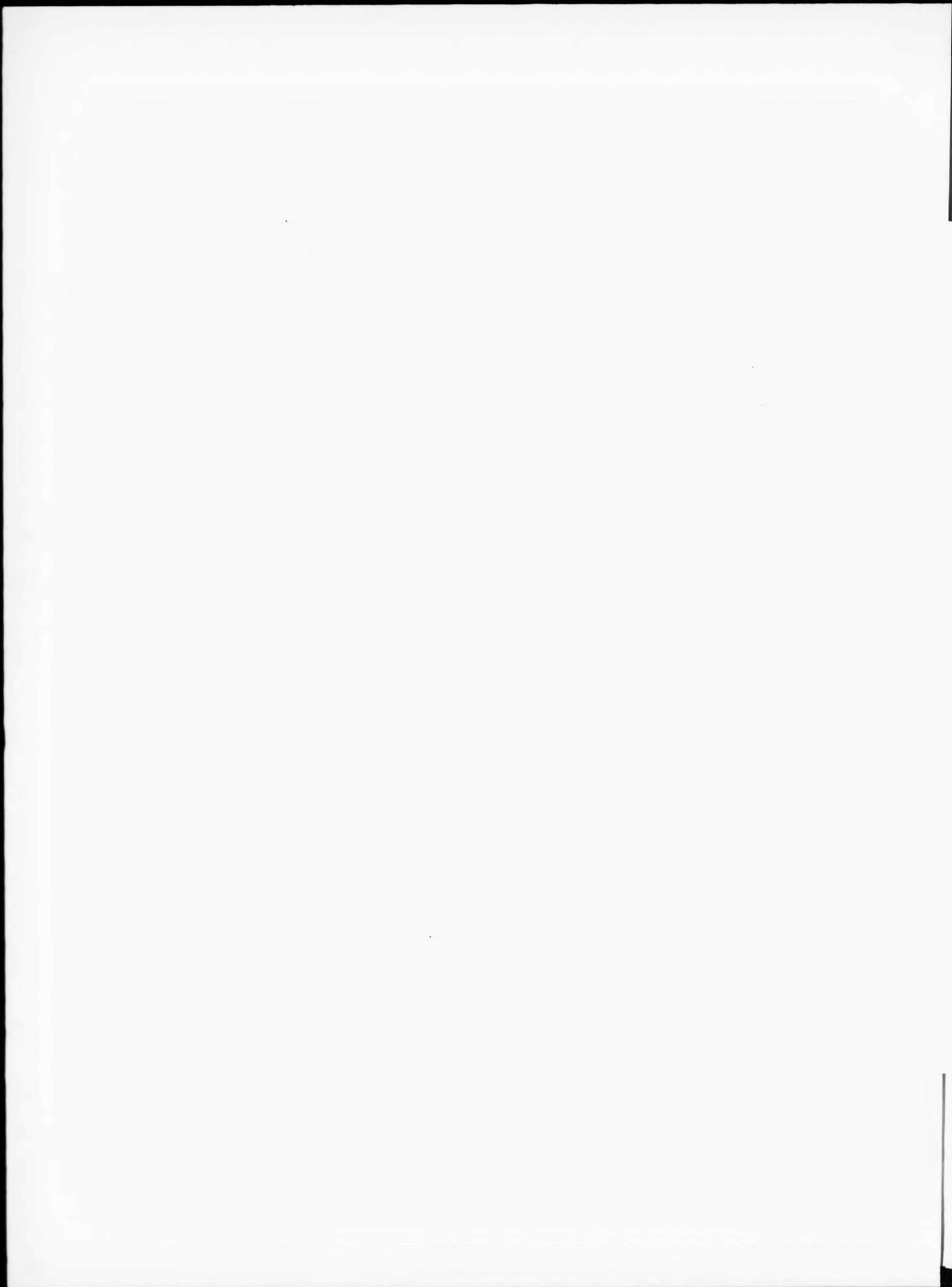
P.S. All communications should be marked "Exhibitions Committee."



Rules and Regulations

1. The stamps to be exhibited must be *bonâ fide* the property of members of the Society.
2. The Exhibitions Committee reserve the right of making such a selection from the exhibits offered as the space at their disposal or other circumstances may render desirable.
3. All stamps will be exhibited under glass, and in locked or sealed cases. A night watchman will be employed, and every reasonable precaution taken to ensure the safety of exhibits, which will not be allowed to be handled except by the Committee; but no personal responsibility in case of loss or damage will be taken by the Society or Committee.
4. The Exhibitions Committee will arrange for an insurance *against the risks of fire and theft* while the exhibits are in the hands of the Society by effecting a policy or policies at Lloyd's to cover such risks. The amount of the value placed by the Exhibitor upon his stamps, for the purpose of such insurance, must be given in sending particulars of exhibits.
5. No charge will be made for space, and Exhibitors will not be asked to incur any expense in connection with the Exhibition.
6. All stamps must be delivered to the Exhibitions Committee at the Society's Rooms, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C., free of expense, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday the 4th May, or before 12 noon on Saturday the 5th May.
7. All stamps should be mounted upon sheets or cards, and on one side only. The size of these is left to the discretion of Exhibitors; the most convenient sizes for cards will be 10 inches, 12 inches, or 15 inches square.
8. All exhibits must be cleared between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Friday, the 11th May. The Committee will, if desired, return exhibits to their owners at the risk of the latter by Registered Parcel Post.







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Wrappers for Newspapers and other Printed matter.

Regulations under which Sheets of paper for Wrappers for Newspapers, &c., are received at the Inland Revenue Office, Somerset House, London, to be impressed with Halfpenny or Penny Postage Stamps.

1—The Paper must be white, or the colour of the Official Wrapper and free from knots and irregularities, and must be neither folded nor creased.

2—The size of the sheets must be that of Crown, Double Crown, Demy, Double Demy, or Double Royal.

3—Crown paper can be impressed with 8 stamps; Demy with 6 or 8; Double Crown, Double Demy, and Double Royal Sheets with 8, 12, or 16 stamps; no other numbers can be impressed upon the Sheets. The stamps can be impressed only in the positions and at the distances apart indicated upon pattern sheets, which may be seen at the Head Offices at London, Edinburgh and Dublin, and at the Stamp Offices at Belfast, Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Southampton, Wolverhampton, and York,

4—The Stamp will be impressed immediately above the place for the address, and near the right-hand edge of the Wrapper. To give space for the stamp, any printing upon the sheets should be kept fully $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches clear of what is intended to be the right-hand edge of the Wrapper. A fee of 2/- will be charged for Stamping when the value of the stamps does not amount to £10.

5—Each lot sent in must be accompanied by a sheet marked, to show in accordance with which of the official patterns it is desired that the Stamps should be placed. The outside of the parcel should be marked also with the name that appears upon the Warrant. A small addition for spoilage should be enclosed.

6—When the paper is brought to Somerset House for Stamping, a person must attend at the Accountant and Comptroller General's Department (Room 26) to fill up the necessary 'Warrant' and to pay for the Stamps. Paper cannot be received for Stamping (Room 19) before this payment is made.

7—Persons in the country should not send Wrappers to be Stamped through the Post or by carriers, but must employ an agent in London; with the exception, however, that in Belfast, Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Southampton, Wolverhampton, and York, the duty may be paid to the Collector of Inland Revenue, the material being thereupon forwarded by the owner, securely packed, direct to London, addressed to the Inspector of Stamping, Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London, W. C., **CARRIAGE PREPAID**. The material, when Stamped, will be sent back direct to the owner, who will have to pay the return carriage on delivery.—**MATERIAL WHICH DOES NOT, IN EVERY PARTICULAR, COMPLY WITH THESE REGULATIONS WILL BE RETURNED UNSTAMPED AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.**

8—It must be clearly understood that all risk in transmission to and fro, both as to Stamps and material, is with the owner of the material. The Board of Inland Revenue will not accept responsibility of any kind in the matter.

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON.

October, 1897.

By order of the Board,
T. N. CRAFER.

Secretary.

POST CARDS.

REGULATIONS under which SHEETS of CARDBOARD are received at the Inland Revenue Office, Somerset House, London, to be impressed with Halfpenny Post Card Stamps.

- 1.—Forty-Two stamps will be impressed on each sheet for the ordinary size Cards ($4\frac{3}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ in.).
- 2.—Thirty-Six stamps will be impressed on each sheet for the "Court" size Cards ($4\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.).
- 3.—Thirty stamps will be impressed on each sheet for the "Court" size Cards with a margin between them for binding purposes.
- 4.—The sheets must in no case exceed in thickness the "Stout" Official Post Card, and they must be of a quality suitable for proper printing.
- 5.—The sheets must be white, *i. e.*, not tinted in any way; and of the size of 30 in. by 22 in. or 30 in. by $22\frac{1}{2}$ in. All the edges must be trimmed.
- 6.—The sheets must be sent in quite blank on both sides. The Royal Arms, as well as the words "Post Card" will be printed at this Office on the face simultaneously with the stamp.
- 7.—A fee of Two Shillings and Sixpence per 1008 stamps or part of that number will be charged for Stamping.
- 8.—When the sheets are brought to Somerset House for stamping, a person must attend at the Accountant and Comptroller General's Department (Room 26) to fill up the necessary 'Warrant,' and to pay the amount of the stamps required and the Stamping Fees, and the goods must not be left (Room 19) before this payment is made. A few extra sheets for spoilage should be included.
- 9.—Persons in the Country should not send the sheets to be stamped through the Post or by Carrier, but must employ an agent in London; with the exception, however, that in Belfast, Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Southampton, Wolverhampton, and York, the Duty and Fees may be paid to the Collector of Inland Revenue, the material being thereupon forwarded by the owner, securely packed, direct to London, addressed to the Inspector of Stamping, Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London, W. C., **CARRIAGE PREPAID**. The material, when Stamped, will be sent back direct to the owner, who will have to pay the return carriage on delivery.—**MATERIAL WHICH DOES NOT, IN EVERY PARTICULAR, COMPLY WITH THESE REGULATIONS, WILL BE RETURNED UNSTAMPED, AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.**
- 10.—It must be clearly understood that all risk in transmission to and fro, both as to Stamps and material, is with the owner of the material. The Board of Inland Revenue will not accept responsibility of any kind in the matter.

By order of the Board,

T. N. CRAFER.

Secretary

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON.
January, 1898.

N. B.—The outside wrapper of each separate quantity of Cardboard should be clearly marked so as to indicate whether **42, 36** or **30** stamps are to be printed on each sheet.

REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH PAPER, UNFOLDED POUCHES, ENVELOPES, AND LETTER CARDS are received at the Inland Revenue Office, Somerset House, London, to be impressed with Stamps to denote the Halfpenny or higher rates of Postage.

- 1—A fee of 2/- will be charged for Stamping when the value of the Stamps to be impressed does not amount to £10.
- 2—All paper, whether intended for envelopes, letter cards or covers,* must be sent **UNFOLDED** and **UNCREASED**.
- 3—Each distinct size or form of envelope, card or paper, must be marked so as to indicate the place where the Stamp is required, which must be such as to ensure that when the envelope, or paper, is folded and made up, the Stamp shall appear in the proper position in accordance with the rules of the Post Office.
- 4—**COLOURED** paper will not be received for Stamping, nor any paper which is of **TOO POOR A QUALITY** to bear the impression of the dies or **TOO LARGE** to be dealt with at the machines. If any print be put on the paper, ample space for the Stamp must be left free from such print, both on the face and underside.
- 5—A small quantity of paper should be sent in excess of the actual quantity required to be Stamped in order to provide for spoilage. If this be not done, Stamped Government Envelopes will be substituted for any which may be spoiled in the operation of Stamping.
- 6—When the paper or envelopes are brought for Stamping, a person must attend at the Department of the Accountant and Comptroller General (Room 26) at this Office, to fill up the necessary 'Warrant' and to pay the amount thereof. Paper cannot be received for Stamping (Room 31) before this payment is made.
- 7—Persons in the Country must not forward direct to this Office material to be Stamped, but must employ an agent in London; with the exception, however, that in Belfast, Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Southampton, Wolverhampton, and York, the amount of the Stamps required (and fees if any) may be paid to the Collector of Inland Revenue, the material being thereupon forwarded by the owner, securely packed, direct to London, addressed to the Inspector of Stamping, Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London, W. C., **CARRIAGE PREPAID**. The material, when Stamped, will be sent back direct to the owner, who will have to pay the return carriage on delivery.—**MATERIAL WHICH DOES NOT, IN EVERY PARTICULAR, COMPLY WITH THESE REGULATIONS, WILL BE RETURNED UNSTAMPED, AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.**
- 8—It must be clearly understood that all risk in transmission to and fro, both as to Stamps and material, is with the owner of the material. The Board of Inland Revenue will not accept responsibility of any kind in the matter.

By order of the Board,

T. N. CRAFER.

Secretary.

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON.
October, 1897.

*Halfpenny Wrappers and Post Cards are printed only in sheets. See separate Regulations.

PROPOSED REDUCTION OF LOCAL AND OTHER INLAND RATES OF POSTAGE.

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,

50, BELSIZE PARK, N.W., 27th March, 1883.

In the January number of the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*, to which my attention has recently been called, the Report of the Postal Committee appointed by the London Chamber of Commerce appears, in which certain alterations in the inland rates of postage on letters and printed matter are recommended. These alterations, doubtless, seem simple and advantageous to your Committee, but if adopted they would, I fear, be attended with results so prejudicial to the well-working of the Postal system, that I venture, very respectfully, to ask permission to lay before you, in this letter, reasons which may, I hope, convince the Chamber of Commerce that to attempt to obtain these changes would be unwise.

My apology for thus troubling you, is that one of the suggestions—that of a halfpenny rate of postage for local letters in large towns—would, if adopted, be so serious a departure from the system of uniform rates of postage, founded by my father, the late Sir ROWLAND HILL, that anxiety to preserve unimpaired the true principle of his Postal Reforms, renders it almost incumbent upon me to point out the evil before it is too late, or indeed before much time has been spent unprofitably in seeking to make such a change.

As it is now more than forty-six years since Sir ROWLAND HILL brought forward his plan of Postal Reform, it is perhaps hardly surprising that many persons have forgotten, and many others of the present generation have never known, the reasons which led him to recommend the adoption of a *uniform* rate of postage, in place of one depending upon the distance a letter had to be conveyed; and as a statement of those reasons will probably be the best answer to the suggestion of your Postal Committee virtually to abandon their teaching, I venture, as concisely as possible, to explain them.

At the time Sir ROWLAND HILL took up the question of Postal Reform (in 1836), the following was the general condition of things:—Every post town in the United Kingdom, except London, had its local rate of one penny, for letters posted for delivery in the town itself or in its surrounding villages—such local posts bearing the technical name of “Penny Posts.” In London, owing to the great size of the Metropolis, the penny local rate had, in the first year of this century, been raised to 2d. for the town limits, and 3d. for the suburban or outlying delivery, which latter extended to all places within twelve miles of St. Martins-le-Grand.

As regards letters passing from one post town to another, the minimum rate of postage was fourpence, advancing, step by step, to a maximum of about 1s. 8d. for each “single” letter. These varying rates of postage having, of course, been adopted under the belief, then practically universal, that the greater cost to the Post Office of carrying letters long distances, justified a greater charge to the public—an idea which the Report of your Postal Committee shows to be not quite so extinct as I had supposed.

Sir ROWLAND HILL, starting merely with the strong conviction that the then existing rates of postage were too high, and might advantageously be largely reduced, carefully analysed the various items of postal expenditure, to see what simplifications and reductions in each were possible. He soon saw that the service the Post Office performed for each letter, was divisible into three distinct portions :

- 1st. The service of COLLECTION, in which were included all duties connected with receiving, taxing and sorting the letter in the post offices of the town in which it originated.
- 2nd. The service of CONVEYANCE, in which was included the cost of getting the letter from the town of origin to the town of destination, and,
- 3rd. The service of DELIVERY, in which all duties connected with preparing the letter for the letter-carrier, and dispatching it to its recipient, were included.

The expenditure of the Post Office under the 1st and 3rd services, was obviously common to all letters, whether local or other, the cost of *conveyance* being the only variable quantity.

This cost of conveyance, however, when carefully examined, proved to be infinitesimal—only the ninth part of a farthing *per letter*, even for so long a distance as from London to Edinburgh.

If, therefore, argued Sir ROWLAND HILL. two letters be posted in London, one for delivery therein, and the other for delivery in Edinburgh, the Edinburgh letter should be charged only the ninth part of a farthing more than the local letter, to cover the cost of conveyance. *In other words, the postage on the two letters should be the same, unless it could be shown how so small a sum as the ninth part of a farthing could be collected.*

The injustice of making any distinction between the postage charged on local letters, and on letters going longer distances, having thus been demonstrated, the adoption of a uniform rate of postage became practicable ; and this, as I need not stop to explain, so greatly simplified the work of the Post Office, that it became possible to adopt as the unit of charge for all letters, the then lowest local rate of letter postage, namely one penny.

The advantages of this simplicity, the Report of your Postal Committee—doubtless unintentionally—proposes to sacrifice, and the adoption of their suggestion would, in effect, re-impose the unnecessary and unwise distinction between local and other letters, which Sir ROWLAND HILL'S discovery abolished forty-three years ago.

That the adoption of a halfpenny local rate of postage for letters in large towns, would introduce into the postal service endless complications, and be productive of great public inconvenience, will I think be obvious if I give an illustration of its effect.

The halfpenny rate could not be confined to the towns themselves, but would have to be extended, as were the old "penny posts," to all places within the free delivery of the particular office. For instance, in London the halfpenny rate would have to be applied, not only to letters posted in London for delivery in places like Brixton, Camden Town, Holloway or Kensington, but also to those for outlying sub-offices, like Norwood, Hampstead, Walthamstow and Fulham—places which receive probably three-fourths of all their letters from London itself. But it frequently happens, from the opening of a new railway, or from the place increasing in population, that public convenience is greatly promoted by raising a particular sub-office to the position of an independent post town. Richmond, for instance, was a few years ago so detached from the London district.

Under the present system of uniform postage, these changes can readily be made when required, and the public obtains an unqualified advantage ; but had the scheme for a local halfpenny rate, now proposed, existed when Richmond was made a post town, either the postage on

all letters between Richmond and London (which then ceased to be local letters) must have been doubled—a change sure to have led to public outcry—or, in that and all similar cases, exceptions would have to be made in favour of the inhabitants of those localities; unless, indeed, to avoid these continually increasing exceptional arrangements, all similar postal improvements were withheld.

It would be almost a lesser evil, to adopt, at once, a uniform halfpenny rate of postage throughout the United Kingdom, as has sometimes been suggested, than to re-impose a system so antiquated, irrational and full of inconvenience.

As regards the further reductions which your Postal Committee advises, in the present rates of postage on printed circulars (which rates are already as low as a halfpenny for two ounces), it may perhaps be sufficient to state, that every document passing through the post at the halfpenny rate, is already carried at a dead loss to the public—the mere expenses of collection, conveyance and delivery exceeding that sum; while I need not point out that where, as in this case, the charge for the service rendered has been reduced below prime cost, any augmentation in the number of articles conveyed, increases rather than diminishes the deficiency.

Thus, as regards every trade circular distributed through the post, on which a postage of only one halfpenny is paid, the community at large is already called upon to bear part of the expense, for the benefit of advertisers—an arrangement the existence of which might have been intelligible, while the old ideas in favour of Protection or Bounties prevailed, but which is, manifestly, so contrary to the teachings of political economy, that any aggravation of the mischief, by adopting a rate of postage even less remunerative than that now in force, should, I submit, be carefully avoided.

The fact advanced by your Postal Committee, that other countries now charge a lower postal rate on printed circulars, is, I submit, scarcely of itself a sufficient reason for our following in their footsteps. The English Post Office, like many other of our public institutions, perhaps owes much of its excellence to its having avoided, rather than followed, foreign example.

The pecuniary loss now sustained by the public in the conveyance of Newspapers through the post at the halfpenny rate, may perhaps fairly be regarded as an additional, but indirect vote in favour of popular education—but I presume it would hardly be contended, that a similar argument can be used in favour of advertising circulars.

It is important to bear in mind that the recommendation of your Postal Committee is one of simple reduction of charge, and (unlike the case of the Uniform Penny Postage system) is unaccompanied by any suggestion of simplifications in the working of the existing postal arrangements, which might counterbalance the diminished productiveness of the proposed charge.

As regards the proposals which have sometimes been made, and to which I have alluded above, for reducing the postage on all letters in the United Kingdom to a halfpenny rate—a step to which the suggestions of your Postal Committee, as regards local letters, would inevitably tend—I may as well here point out, that such a change would have the effect not merely of sweeping away altogether the net revenue of the Post Office (now producing more than three millions annually, in relief of taxation), but would change the Post Office from a profitable concern, into a mere spending Department of the State.

So long as the penny is retained as the unit of charge for letters, the Department, being well-to-do, can readily and promptly grant additional facilities, and at once adapt itself to the constantly growing necessities of the public; but if it became a starved Department, as it would under a uniform halfpenny rate, its powers of expansion would be practically destroyed, and the present postal service would become almost crystallised.

Few people, I would point out, have complained of the penny (which now carries a letter of an ounce weight) as an excessive postal charge, and if, as is sometimes urged, the Post Office ought not to be a source of revenue, there are other and far better means of disposing of the present earnings of the Department, than in simple reductions in the rates of postage.

By granting additional dispatches of mails between large towns, more frequent and more rapid deliveries, the net revenue can be reduced almost to any extent desired, but under these additional facilities, further profitable postal business will eventually be created, which will, in its turn, supply the means for yet further extensions and improvements in the service.

It is sometimes asserted that the net revenue of the Post Office is, in effect, a tax on social and commercial intercourse, and as such should be abolished. I need not point out that if the present earnings of the Post Office (£3,000,000 annually) be swept away, some other tax must be imposed upon the public, to make up the deficiency which the withdrawal of that sum from the Exchequer would create. It is not, of course, necessary here to consider what that other tax should or could be, but I would venture to point out that, if the earnings of the Post Office be a tax, it would be difficult to find one which (whether more or less expedient) was, at all events, more just. No one pays postage who is unwilling to do so. Every one who pays it gets an immediate benefit, proportionate to his contribution; while it is collected in such small sums that its impost is hardly felt, even by the poor.

But I venture to suggest whether the earnings of the Post Office, under the present system, are really of the nature of a tax. If the Post Office, by virtue of its monopoly of letter conveyance, now charged—as it did prior to 1840—rates of postage higher than those which would be demanded by any private company, doing the work equally well, such excess of charge would, undoubtedly, be a tax on the public; but if, as I think is the case, the Post Office performs its work cheaper and better than any one else would do it, the net revenue of the Department seems to me to be rather in the nature of a profit on a well-conducted business, and, being paid into the public Exchequer, is, instead of a tax, a most valuable and rapidly increasing aid in relief of taxation—somewhat similar, indeed, to that obtained by the Australian Colonies, through their sales of Crown lands, but differing therefrom, fortunately for us, in being a source of profit practically inexhaustible.

To show the possibilities of the Post Office, as a source of relief, in years to come, to the taxation of the country, I would point out that from mere expansion and improvement of business, the postal net revenue now doubles itself every twenty years. If therefore the Postal system can be protected from unwise interference, the net revenue (now £3,000,000 sterling) would in another sixty years amount to no less than £24,000,000 per annum—an amount sufficient to relieve the taxpayers from all charges now made to meet the interest on the National Debt.

Improbable as such a result may at first sight appear, it may not seem so extraordinary when I point out, that it requires for its attainment little more than that each person in the United Kingdom should write, on the average, about five letters per week—an amount of correspondence not greater than that of my own household.

With every apology for troubling you with so long a letter, for which the great importance of the question at issue will, I trust, be deemed a sufficient justification.

I remain,

Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
PEARSON HILL.

4²



x. 31. *Fist die without plug holes.*

Sixpence. paper sold by Mr Parcell. to Mayer & Co. 3 March 1849.

203 310

Die. No.	Registered.	First used.	Last	Used.		
1.	11. 1. 54.	30. 1. 54.	8.	1. 57.		
2.	"	11. 55.	16.	8. 87.		
3.	"	31. 8. 85.	14.	9. 86.		
4.	"	{ 31. 8. 85. 16. 8. 87 }	{ 2. 2. 87. 18. 10. 87 }			
5.	13. 11. 85.	14. 9. 86.	28.	1. 88.		
6.	"	2. 2. 87.	25.	7. 87.		
7.	25. 4. 87	25. 7. 87	28.	1. 88.		
8.	"	18. 10. 87.	23.	8. 88.		
9.	"	28. 1. 88.	17.	10. 88.		
10.	"	28. 1. 88.	17.	10. 88.		
11.	"	23. 8. 88.	15.	3. 89.		
12.	"	17. 10. 88.	15.	3. 89.		
13.	4. 5. 88	17. 10. 88.	15.	7. 89.		
14.	"	15. 3. 89.	27.	8. 87.		
15.	"	15. 3. 89.	13.	8. 90.		
16.	"	15. 7. 89.	27.	9. 90.		
17.	"	27. 8. 89.	6.	1. 90.		
18.	"	6. 1. 90.	27.	10. 90.		
19.	3. 1. 90.	13. 8. 90.	23.	3. 91.		
20.	"	27. 9. 90.	24.	4. 91.		
21.	"	23. 3. 91.	26.	1. 92.		
22.	"	24. 4. 91.	27.	11. 91.		
23.	"	27. 11. 91.	16.	12. 92.		
24.	"	26. 1. 92.	22.	6. 93.		
25.	21. 7. 91.	16. 12. 92.	13.	2. 94.		
26.	"	22. 6. 93.	9.	3. 94.		
27.	"	13. 2. 94.	28.	4. 94.		
28.	"	9. 3. 94.	28.	4. 94.		
29.	"	28. 4. 94.	13.	8. 94.		
30.	"	28. 4. 94.	14.	11. 94.		
x 31.	13. 8. 94.	{ 13. 8. 94. 8. 7. 97 }	{ 27. 7. 95. 14. 2. 99 }			Re-entered.
32.	"	14. 11. 94.	27.	7. 95.		
33.	"	{ 12. 11. 94. 4. 10. 95 }	{ 20. 4. 95. 18. 8. 96 }			
34.	"	{ 12. 11. 94. 4. 10. 95 }	{ 10. 7. 96. 29. 3. 98 }			Re-entered.
35.	"	27. 7. 95.	4.	10. 95.		
36.	"	15. 10. 95.	18.	8. 96.		
37.	22. 11. 95.	10. 7. 96.	8.	7. 97.		
38.		18. 8. 96.	15.	10. 96.		
39.		18. 8. 96.	10.	8. 97.		
40.		15. 10. 96.	8.	7. 97.		
41.		10. 8. 97.	29.	11. 98.		
42.		29. 3. 98.	26.	10. 98.		

Sixpence. (continued from p. 310.)

204 312

Die No.	Registered.	First used.	Last used.			
43.	29. 1. 98.	26. 10. 98.	working	still working.	3. 2. 99.	
44.	"	29. 11. 98.	14. 2. 99.	1		
45.	"	14. 2. 99.	working			
46.	"	14. 2. 99.	working			
47.	"	In stock.				
48.	"	In stock 3 3 99.				

Latest Register of Current Stamps which Mr Westoby had, and he desired all subsequent registrations to be added.

Postage & Incl Rev

Halfpenny 1887. Plates 9 & 10. Reg. 10.5.89.

Penny 1887. " 79 & 80. 4.1.89. J.

1/2d. 1887. " 4. 9.10.88.
Head Plate 6

2d. 1887. " 5. ² 22.7.89.

2 1/2d. 1887. " 3 & 4. 18.8.86.

3d 1887. " 4 & 5. 28.9.86.

4d. 1887. " 2. 24.10.88.

4 1/2d. 1892. " 1. ¹⁵ 16.8.92.

5d. 1887. ^{Head Plate} 3. 10.8.88.

6. 1887. 3 & 4. 18.11.86.

Postage & Int. Rev

9d 1887. plate 2. Reg. 10.4.88.

None later

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15

10d. 1890. 1. 8.2.90.

None later

1s. 1887. 3+4. 18.8.86

None later

~~15.8.89.~~

2/6. 1+2. 19.6.83.

None later

5/- 6. 6.9.83.

None later

10/- 3. 1.8.83.

None later

£ 1. 3 for change of colour. 26.11.90

None later

£ 5. 1. 9.3.82.

None later

I.R. Official

2 1/2d - purple on blue

15 Feb 1891

£ 1 .. green.

27 Feb 1892

Govt Parcels

1d. purple

16 June 1897

2d green & red.

5 Oct 1891

4 1/2 red & green.

27 Sept 1892

O.W. Official

1/2d vermilion

9 Feb 1896

1d purple.

7 Feb 1896

Army Official

1/2d vermilion

17 June 1891

1d purple.

17 June 1891

2 1/2d purple on blue.

17 June 1891

Army Telegraphs.

all since 1887.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d	21 Aug 1896.	3 ^o	8 Oct 1896	$\frac{1}{2}$	21 Nov 1895	10/	21 Nov 1895
1 d	21 Nov 1895	6 ^o	21 Nov 1895	$\frac{2}{6}$	21 Nov 1895	2/1	21 Nov 1895
2 d	21 Nov 1895	8 ^o	21 Aug 1896	5/	21 Nov 1895	2/5	21 Nov 1895

Wrappers

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. block letters on whitey brown. 9.7.88.

1d. 1.9.78. ✓

Post Cards.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. Proog w black on card. 23 Mch 1891. ~~26.1.91.~~ Every. any size.

single Feb 1895 - one stout - one thin
~~24 Aug 1899~~ thick - 6 Sep 1899 thin.
 Reply Feb 1895 - one stout one thin.
 24 Aug 1899 thick - 18 Sep 1899 thin.

1d. Current set.

single 22 Sep 1899 thin
 reply. 21 Sep 1899 thin

Embossed ~~at~~ slips.

For Bunchell Row.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	7 th H.	8.3.94	$\frac{1}{2}$	4.5.95	27-38	Bunchell Row
				13.7.98	39-44	
1d.	67-78	13.11.91.	1 ^o	27.7.98	45-50	d. H. not
				7.9.92	265-276	destroyed
				5.3.94	277-288	in the...
$\frac{2}{2}$ d.	1-3	30.12.91.	$\frac{2}{2}$	7.9.92	5.6	

S.H. All since 6.9.98.

Registration 2d.

37-48 - 24.7.93.

WILLIAM URIDGE,
15, WIDMORE ROAD,
BROMLEY.

THE HOUSE FOR THE
CELEBRATED 2/- TEA,
Now 1/10 per lb.

PROVISIONS OF FINEST QUALITY.

AGENT FOR
W. & A. GILBEY'S Wines and Spirits.

SOLE AGENT FOR
RAGGETT'S NOURISHING STOUT.

As supplied to

Her Majesty
THE QUEEN.



TRADE MARK.

CAUTION.

NONE GENUINE
without this mark in
red upon every label.

Supplied in Screw-stoppered Bottles.

IMPERIAL PINTS 4/- PER DOZEN

GEORGE RAGGETT & SONS' 206

REGISTERED TRADE LABEL.



Medical Opinions. District Agency, Terms, &c.
Pages 2 & 3. Page 4.

WILLIAM URIDGE,
15, WIDMORE ROAD,
BROMLEY.

Also at CHISLEHURST and BLACKHEATH.

RAGGETT'S NOURISHING STOUT.

RECENT REPORT BY DR. HASSALL, 1887.

"I find Raggett's Nourishing Stout, taken from the present season's brewing, to be as fine in quality as any beer that has of late years come under my notice, combining the flavour and fragrance of the best Malt and Hops, and corroborating in every important particular the Analyses of 1860, 1870, and 1879.

This uniform standard of excellence, which I have observed FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, enables me again to report most highly as to its dietetic value.

"ARTHUR HILL HASSALL, M.D., LOND.,

"Analyst to the Royal Sanitary Commission."

Extract from a letter from the Purveyors to

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN,

BALMORAL,

May 12th, 1879.

"HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN wishes for RAGGETT'S NOURISHING STOUT; may we ask you to send us a Case by Steamer leaving London for Aberdeen on Wednesday next."

MEDICAL OPINIONS (SELECTED)

FROM THE LATE

SIR WILLIAM FERGUSSON, Bart.,

Serjeant-Surgeon to Her Majesty the QUEEN.

SIR W.

November 3rd, 1873.

"I have always used Raggett's Nourishing Stout in my own house, and can confidently recommend it."

Dr. F. SYDNEY SMYTH, Brockley.

"I consider Raggett's Nourishing Stout as *the very best Stout*, and for several years I have recommended *no other*."

Dr. MORRIS, Spalding.

"During the past twenty years your Nourishing Stout has been extensively used by my patients with the best effect. I have very great pleasure in bearing my testimony to its value."

Dr. LIONEL WEATHERLEY, Portishead.

"I have for some years past ordered my patients this admirable beverage, and from my own practical experience it has become in my practice quite a therapeutic agent during convalescence."

Dr. LAMMIMAN, Tunbridge Wells.

"Just a line to bear testimony to the excellence of your *Nourishing Stout*. For some years I have ordered no other for my patients—it is so digestible."

Dr. KENNARD, Lambourn

"I Have used in my own house for some years your *Nourishing Stout*, and have also advised it being given to many of my patients, all of whom, I may say with confidence, have been able to digest it, and derive great benefit from its use."

207

The One Shilling Embossed Die: Octagon.
 first used in 1847 for adhesive stamps.
 afterwards for Envelopes to orders: & Telegraph forms.

Die No.	Registered.	Put to press.	Withdrawn.	When pierced for date plugs.	When issued to Stampers for Envelopes & Telegraphs.
1.	25. 6. 47.	21. 6. 47.	28. 4. 55. <i>as used for from [unclear]</i>	Specimen not pinned	
2.	8. 2. 53.	23. 2. 54.	8. 1. 57.	- Do -	
3.			28. Sep 1875		9. Nov 1855
4.	29. 6. 69.		31. 7. 74	Pierced when registered	29. 9. 69
5.					
6.	2. 7. 74.		7. 1. 82	When registered apparently but	31. 7. 74
7.			31. 8. 75	no dates on registered	31. 7. 74
8.			13. 3. 82	impressions - only very faint	8. 11. 81
9.			13. 6. 82		8. 11. 81
10.	9. 2. 82.		3. 12. 83		13. 3. 82
11.			21. 10. 84	Specimen is dated	13. 6. 82
12.			14. 3. 85		3. 12. 83
13.			29. 10. 90		21. 10. 84
14.	17. 12. 84.		still in use	- Do -	14. 3. 85
15.					In stock
16.	29. 1. 98.			Specimen is not pinned	"
17.					"
18.					"
19.					"

? any later dies - kindly see overleaf
 no!

To be returned to
Judge Philbrick,
Barwick House,
Yeovil.

