

## SUPPLY OF COTTON: FUTURE PROSPECTS.

“The world's demand for cotton goods increases about as rapidly, perhaps, as the supply of raw cotton; but our cotton-spinning machinery increases faster than either.” This is the text on which much speculation and much controversy have been recently founded. There is in some quarters a belief that the demand would equal even the present powers of machinery to supply, were the raw material furnished more abundantly and more cheaply; but it is agreed on all hands, that if we were not so much dependent on the United States for our supply of this important material—if we could derive a larger supply than we now do from our own colonies, equally good and cheap with that from the United States—it would be nationally beneficial in many ways. This happens to be one of the phases of the question on which there is not much disagreement between Protectionists and Free-traders. We will collect together a few details illustrative of the present state of this inquiry.

### CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN GREAT BRITAIN.

London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, are the three great places of import for cotton into this country, especially Liverpool; and the amount of this import is truly marvellous. Liverpool and Manchester often take opposite views of the cotton trade; they stand to each other in the relation of seller and buyer in respect to this commodity; and their interests frequently lead in opposite directions; but no such difference can affect the real magnitude of the trade. When we consider that Lancashire now contains nearly two millions of souls, that the Glasgow district contains seven hundred thousand, that the manufacture is the chief source of industry in both these districts, and that Cheshire and Yorkshire, together with other counties, also contain their hundreds of thousands of cotton-workers—we can hardly fail to see how extremely important the regular supply of cotton must be to Great Britain.

The supply of cotton for the manufactures of this country is conveniently grouped in periods of five years each, as this period allows for a kind of balance of fluctuations. Taking the dates from 1830 to 1849, both inclusive; and arranging the imports in five classes, according as they came, 1st from the United States, 2nd from Brazil, 3rd from Egypt, 4th from the East Indies, and 5th from the West Indies and various miscellaneous sources, we have the following results;—

		Bales imported.	Yearly average.
United States	{ 1830-34	.. 3,241,958	.. 648,391
	{ 1835-39	.. 4,308,610	.. 861,722
	{ 1840-44	.. 5,802,829	.. 1,160,566
	{ 1845-49	.. 6,188,144	.. 1,237,619

C. F. B. A. 1854

Grawford 1224(7)



St-Bonain  
(Post-office)

## POST OFFICE

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# CHANGES in the System of Registering Letters and in the Scale of Charges for Inland Money Orders.

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ON and from the 1st of January, 1878 the following changes will be made in the system of Registering Letters:—

1. The Registration fee will be reduced from 4d. to 2d.

2. For the convenience of persons living in country places, where no Post Office is near, Letters will be Registered by Rural Post Messengers, who will receive Letters for Registration on their outward and on their inward walks, whenever it is practicable for them to do so.

3. In the event of a Registered Letter containing an enclosure of intrinsic value, or its contents, being lost while passing through the post, the department will, under certain regulations, make good the value of the

contents

contents up to £2. These regulations will be published shortly; but the following are some of the principal conditions:—

(a) That the sender of the Letter duly observed all the conditions of Registration required;

(b) That the Letter was securely enclosed in a reasonably strong envelope; and, if it contained money, that it was enclosed in one of the special Registered-Letter envelopes which will be sold by the Post Office for the purpose;

(c) That application was made to the Secretary of the Post Office immediately the loss was discovered.

(When the complaint is that the contents of a Letter have been abstracted, the envelope must accompany the application; otherwise the question will not be entertained);

(d) That the Postmaster-General, whose decision shall be final, is satisfied that the loss occurred while the Letter was in the custody of the British Post Office, and was not caused by any fault on the part of the sender.

4. Registered-Letter envelopes, bearing a 2d. stamp for the payment of the Registration fee, will be sold at all Post Offices and by Rural Messengers. To begin with, envelopes of the following dimensions will be supplied:— $5\frac{1}{4}$  ins.  $\times$   $3\frac{1}{4}$  ins., and 6 ins.  $\times$   $3\frac{3}{4}$  ins.; these will be sold for  $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. each, or 2s.  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. for a packet of 12:—the Registration fee being included in the prices. Three larger sizes will be sold hereafter, and due notice will be given of their dimensions and prices.

5. The Postage must be prepaid by affixing the necessary stamps; the impressed stamp, which the envelope bears, represents the Registration fee only.

6. A Letter intended to be registered must not be dropped into a Letter Box, but must be given to an agent of the Post Office to be registered.

7. Inland Letters containing Coin, Jewellery, or Watches, cannot be sent Unregistered. If dropped into a Letter Box, they will, as heretofore, be registered by the Post Office, and charged on delivery with a Registration fee of 8d.; a similar fee of 8d. will be charged on Letters (without regard to their contents) marked "Registered," but posted Unregistered instead of being given to a Post Office servant.

No Letter containing Coin, Jewellery, or Watches, can be sent, even if registered, to any Foreign Country.

8. The Postmaster-General hopes that when Registration is made so cheap and so easy, the Public will altogether abstain from sending Letters containing enclosures of value through the Post Unregistered.

9. Concurrently with these changes the scale of charges for Inland Money Orders will be altered by raising the rate now charged for Orders under 10s. from 1d. to 2d., and the rate for Orders of 10s. and under £1 from 2d. to 3d. Consequently, on and after the 1st of January next, the scale of charges for Inland Money Orders will be as follows:—

For sums under 10s.	..	..	..	..	..	2d.
„ of 10s. and under £2	..	..	£2	..	..	3d.
„ „ £2	„	£3	..	..	4d.	
„ „ £3	„	£4	..	..	5d.	
„ „ £4	„	£5	..	..	6d.	
„ „ £5	„	£6	..	..	7d.	
„ „ £6	„	£7	..	..	8d.	
„ „ £7	„	£8	..	..	9d.	
„ „ £8	„	£9	..	..	10d.	
„ „ £9	„	£10	..	..	11d.	
„ „ £10	.....					1s.

GENERAL POST OFFICE  
November 1877.

On Her Majesty's Service



# CHANGES

IN THE SYSTEM OF

# REGISTERING LETTERS

AND IN THE SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

# INLAND MONEY ORDER

## NOTICE

FROM THE

## POSTMASTER-GENERAL



