

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR.

Post Office Department, Canada,

Ottawa, 2nd December, 1898.

Introduction of New 2c. Postage Stamp.

Postmasters are informed that, in connection with the reduction of the postage on letters passing between Canada, Great Britain, and certain British Possessions, of which they were notified in the November Supplement to the Postal Guide, a new 2c. postage stamp has been prepared, which will be supplied direct from the Department to all accounting offices, and which non-accounting offices can obtain on requisition in the usual manner.

The stamp in question may be applied for as the "2c. Imperial Stamp," this term being used simply to enable Postmasters in their requisitions to make known to the Department which of the 2c. stamps in use—the Imperial or the ordinary—they require. The new stamp will be available, forthwith, to the extent of its value, for the prepayment of postage on all classes of mail matter to all destinations, whether Domestic, British or foreign.

Postmasters are also informed that, in this case, the new stamp may be sold to the public as soon as supplies of it are received.

The countries which, in addition to Canada, have given their adhesion to the scheme for reduced inter-Imperial postage up to the present date, and to which, consequently, letters may be sent from Canada prepaid at the rate of 2c. per half-ounce, are :

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,
British India,
Newfoundland,
British East Africa,
Uganda,
British Central Africa,
The Niger Coast Protectorate,
The Niger Company's Territory,
Jamaica,
Bahama Islands,

Parcel Post Packages.

The attention of Postmasters is further called to the fact that no parcel can be sent from Canada to any other country by Parcel Post unless it bear a Customs Declaration setting forth the nature of its contents and its value. As the acceptance by a Postmaster of a parcel addressed to any other country, and not provided with a Customs Declaration, will result in its being sent to the Dead Letter Office, Postmasters are specially directed not to accept such parcels without the Customs Declaration.

Dutiable Articles Received by Mail.

In order to prevent the delivery of dutiable parcels and packages through the mails without payment of Customs Duty, Postmasters are instructed to forward to the nearest Custom House all Postal Packages or Parcels (Letters and newspapers excepted) arriving from any place outside of Canada when not marked with the proper Customs Stamp and the words "Duty Paid" or "Duty Free."

Letters supposed to contain dutiable articles are also to be submitted by Postmasters to Customs Officers for examination as to liability to duty.



Deputy Postmaster General.