

No. 3.

The SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Washington, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Post Office Department, Second Assistant Postmaster-General, Division of Foreign
SIR,— Mails, Washington, 26th April, 1913.

By direction of the Postmaster-General, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter [of 7th April] * * * renewing your proposal that the letter rate from the United States to New Zealand be reduced to two cents an ounce.

In reply, I am directed to inform you that this Department is not yet prepared to extend to New Zealand or any other country the two-cent rate for letters.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH STEWART,
Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington, New Zealand.

No. 4.

[Extract from the Report of the Postmaster-General of the United Kingdom for the
Year 1911-12.]

PENNY POSTAGE.

THE Imperial penny-postage system now embraces the whole of the British Empire, with the exception of Pitcairn Island.

Following the reduction to 1d. per half-ounce of the postage-rate on letters from Australia for the rest of the Empire, there was an increase of about 33 per cent. in the amount of correspondence sent by letter-post to the United Kingdom.

The rates of increase for the first three years after the establishment of penny postage were 32 per cent., 15·4 per cent., and 6·3 per cent. respectively in the case of correspondence sent to the United States, and 29 per cent., 12·5 per cent., and 3·6 per cent. in the reverse direction. The average rate of increase for the ten years preceding the introduction of penny postage was about 5 per cent.

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