

For which purpose Your Petitioners humbly beg that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct the Postmaster-General to issue instructions to the Deputy Postmaster-General in this province, to the purport that instead of the several rates of letter postage now charged in Canada, under authority of Treasury warrant, dated Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, 11th October 1843,—

There shall be charged and taken a uniform rate of Two-pence halfpenny sterling, or Three-pence, Halifax currency, postage, on every letter not exceeding half an ounce weight, sent by mail within the province.

On every letter exceeding half an ounce and not exceeding one ounce in weight, two such single rates of Two-pence halfpenny sterling, or Three-pence, Halifax currency.

And for every half-ounce in weight above the weight of one ounce, there shall be charged and taken progressively an additional single rate of Two-pence halfpenny sterling, or Three-pence, Halifax currency.

And on every letter dropped in the post-office for delivery only, and not intended to be sent by mail, there shall be charged and taken a rate of One penny, Halifax currency.

In the general benefits of this measure to commerce, to agriculture and to civilization, Your Petitioners entertain the utmost confidence.

And Your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(signed) G. P. Ridout, President,
and 44 others.

Office of the Board of Trade,
of the City of Toronto,
18 March 1845.

Enclosure 2, in No. 1.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please Your Majesty,

The Petition of the Council of the Board of Trade of Quebec,

Humbly sheweth,

Encl. 2, in No. 1.

THAT Your Petitioners, in common with Your Majesty's other Canadian people, have long been and are now subjected to very high provincial rates of postage, which in the opinion of Your Petitioners are injurious to trade, and prejudicial rather than advantageous to the post-office revenue.

That Your Petitioners would most respectfully call Your Majesty's attention to the fact, that whilst the postage on a single letter from Quebec to Montreal, a distance of 180 miles, is Nine-pence currency; from Quebec to Kingston, a distance of 379 miles, is One shilling and one penny halfpenny currency; from Quebec to Toronto, a distance of 570 miles, is One shilling and sixpence currency; from Quebec to Amherstburgh, a distance of 825 miles, is Two shillings and one halfpenny currency; that on a single letter from England to Amherstburgh, a distance of 4,525 miles, *via* Halifax and Quebec, is only One shilling and four-pence currency.

That Your Petitioners conceive that the introduction of a moderate rate of postage into the province would be advantageous to its commerce and agriculture, advance its civilization, and increase the revenue of the post-office.

Wherefore Your Petitioners humbly pray that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to extend to this province a reduced rate of postage, and to direct that instead of the several rates of letter postage now charged in Canada, the following scale be substituted:—

On every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, sent by mail within the province, a distance of not more than 300 miles, Three-pence currency.

On every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, sent by mail within the province, a distance exceeding 300 miles, and not more than 600 miles, Sixpence currency.

And so to increase according to distance.

On every letter exceeding half an ounce and not more than an ounce in weight, two single rates.

On every letter exceeding an ounce and not more than an ounce and a half in weight, three single rates.

And so to increase according to weight.

On every letter posted for delivery, not having been carried by mail, One penny currency.

And Your Petitioners will ever pray.

(By order.)

Quebec, 4 April 1845.

(signed) W. Walker,
President of the Council.

(signed) W. Stevenson,
Honorary Secretary.

Enclosure