

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

POSTMASTER GENERAL OF CANADA.

To His Excellency Sir EDMUND WALKER HEAD, Baronet, Governor General of British North America, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

In placing before Your Excellency, the accompanying Returns prepared according to law for the year ended 31st March, 1856, to be submitted to the Legislature at the approaching Session, I have the honor to offer the following observations, and also to supply information on several points of interest connected with the operations of the Department during the year, and up to the present date, which are not embraced in the Statutory Returns.

For the convenience of comparison, I have thought it expedient to notice the matters which appear to invite remark in nearly the same order which has been followed in the Reports of previous years.

On the 31st March, 1856,—1375 Post Offices were on the establishment, of which 82 had been added within the year.

There existed at that date 11,839 miles of Post Route, and the number of miles of annual Mail travel was 4,803,285 miles.

By the enumeration taken of the letters passing through the Canadian Posts in a week of March, 1856, the number was found to give a yearly rate of 7,044,648.

To shew the progressive growth of the Department from year to year, the following Table brought up to the year 1856 will be interesting.

Dates.	No. of Post Offices in operation.	No. of Miles of established Post Route.	No. of Miles of Annual Mail Travel.	Number of Letters passing by Pos	
				In a week.	Rate per annum.
April, 1851.....	601	7595	2,487,000	41 000	2,132,000
" 1852.....	840	8618	2,931,373	71,726	3,729,752
March, 1853.....	1016	9122	3,430,474	81,896	4,258,592
" 1854.....	1166	10,027	4,015,816	98,350	5,114,200
" 1855.....	1293	11,192	4,559,761	116,671	6,066,692
" 1856.....	1375	11,839	4,803,285	135,474	7,044,648

Annual growth of Department.

Of the 11,839 miles of Post Route, were supplied with a
 weekly mail, 1972 miles.
 With mails twice a week, 1953 do
 Do thrice do 3510 do
 Do daily, or more frequently, 4404 do

11,839 miles.