

Postage, yield a sufficient fund to defray the whole charge of keeping up the lines of Internal Communication as they existed in 1839. The new lines since authorized by this House may occasion a trifling deficiency; but in the year 1840, notwithstanding a new charge of £550 thrown upon us, and which ought, in whole or in part, to have been refunded by the Canadian Post Office, but £396 was required and drawn out of the Provincial Treasury.

This last year the sum of £881 has been drawn under the Resolution of 16th March 1840, and the Deputy Post Master makes a further demand of £1143. And as the same necessarily will recur every year, a permanent annual charge of about £2000 will be cast upon our Revenue, the greater part of which, in the view of this Committee, ought to be contributed from other sources.

The Committee disclaim any intention or desire to interfere with the Packet Postage, which could not be placed at the disposal of a local Legislature without the passage of an Act conformably to the 4 and 5 Will. 4, chap. 7. But they do claim the right of having the expense of the Post Office Establishment at Halifax defrayed out of the Packet Postage; because First,—it has been so charged in all the abstracts prepared by the Committees of this House since 1836, and sanctioned by the Home Government; and Secondly,—because it seems not unreasonable that it should be so, as the Establishment is kept up for the benefit of our Sister Colonies as well as our own, and the charge of carrying the English Letters throughout the Province has been borne by our funds.

Were we to grant the balance of £1143, asked by the Deputy Post Master General, we would, in fact, be assuming the charge of the Establishment, which has risen from the sum of £625 currency, for annual salaries, to the sum of £1637. The Establishment until last year having consisted of Mr. Howe, himself, at a salary of £500 Currency, and his Assistant at a salary of £125 Currency, but consisting at the present time, in consequence of the large increase of duty brought by the English Steamers, of the Deputy Post Master General, at the same salary of

£500 0 0

Three Assistants at £187 10s. each, viz: a Deputy Postmaster,

Surveyor, and Accountant,

562 10 0

Four Clerks at £125 each,

500 0 0

A Messenger, at £75 a year,

75 0 0

Making,

£1637 10 0

To which the charge for Office Rent, Fuel and Stationery is to be added, being as yet only the sum of

55 10 0

And the result is, no less a sum than
Currency, per annum, equal to £1355 Sterling.

£1693 0 0

An Establishment of this character is an Imperial not a Provincial Office, and the Committee cannot recommend any action of this House which might be construed into a recognition of their liability for it as a charge on the Colonial Revenue.

The House will perceive that the sum of £1143 9s. is stated in the accounts sent in as due to the Post Office Department, being the net amount of Packet Postage without deduction, and this is the amount which the Deputy Post Master General has stated to the Committee, through their Chairman, that he desires to be granted; but the