

That finding the Postal Service between British America and the West Indies irregular and insufficient, the Commissioners obtained from the same authorities a conditional agreement to aid, by a subvention or otherwise, in the establishment of improved postal communication.

That the Commissioners assented to these propositions, subject to the approval of their respective governments.

That the nature of the inquiries made, the variety of subjects investigated, and the diversity in the laws, customs, tariffs, &c., of the countries visited, would seem to invite, and would probably justify, a voluminous report. The Commissioners, however, have endeavoured to avoid needless repetition, and have therefore digested and arranged the mass of materials collected by the different members of the Commission in the form of an Appendix to their Report, embracing:—

- 1st. A narrative of their proceedings at each colony and country visited.
- 2nd. A brief description of each, under a separate head, with statistical tables and statements showing the population, revenue and expenditure, tariffs, productions, imports, exports, prices of commodities, harbor dues, tonnage dues, and trade generally, with suggestions for the information of producers, manufacturers, merchants and shippers, &c.
- 3rd. General observations upon the respective productions of British North America, and the countries visited, and the reasons which induce the Commissioners to believe that commercial intercourse between them may be greatly extended.

That the “suggestions” which the Commissioners are enabled to offer for removing “obstructions to direct trade” between British North America and the British and Foreign West Indies, Brazil and Mexico, will be found under each of the heads above mentioned, but may be briefly stated as follows:—

- 1st.—To establish promptly a line of steamers suitable for the carriage of mails, passengers and freight, between Halifax, Nova Scotia, and St. Thomas, in the West Indies, touching (until the completion of the Intercolonial Railway) at Portland, in the United States, so as to ensure regular semi-monthly communication between the ports mentioned.
- 2nd.—To make a convention or agreement with the Postal authorities of the United States for the prompt transmission of letters, &c., from Canada and the Maritime Provinces, by every United States mail which leaves the ports of Boston or New York for the West Indies, Brazil, Mexico, &c., and also for the transmission through United States mails of correspondence originating in those countries.
- 3rd.—To establish a weekly line of steamers between Montreal and Halifax, and to complete as soon as possible the Intercolonial Railway.
- 4th.—To procure, by reciprocal treaties or otherwise, a reduction of the duties now levied on flour, fish, lumber, pork, butter, and other staple productions of British North America, in the West Indies, and especially with Brazil and the Colonies of Spain.
- 5th.—To obtain, if possible, from the Spanish and Brazilian authorities a remission of the heavy dues now chargeable on the transfer of vessels from the British to the Spanish and Brazilian flags.