

COPIES of the MEMORIALS from the BOARDS of TRADE at TORONTO, QUEBEC and MONTREAL, to the BRITISH GOVERNMENT regarding cheap POSTAGE, and the ANSWER of the LORDS of the TREASURY to that Memorial:—Also, a COPY of the MEMORIAL to Her Majesty respecting differential DUTIES on GOODS imported into CANADA, and of the ANSWER to that Memorial.

(No. 255.)

— No. 1. —

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lord *Metcalfe*, G.C.B., to Lord *Stanley*.

Government House, Montreal,
22 April 1845.

My Lord,

At the request of the Boards of Trade of Toronto, Quebec and Montreal, I beg leave to transmit herewith petitions from those bodies to Her Majesty, praying that a uniform low rate of postage should be substituted for the rates now levied in the British North American Provinces; and I venture to recommend the subject to your Lordship's favourable consideration.

No. 1.
Lord Metcalfe to
Lord Stanley,
22 April 1845.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Metcalfe*.

Enclosure 1, in No. 1.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please Your Majesty,

The Petition of the Board of Trade of the City of Toronto,

Most humbly sheweth,

THAT Your Petitioners, as well as Your Majesty's other Canadian subjects, have long felt that our provincial rates of letter postage are injuriously high; so much so as to cause a large proportion of the letter correspondence of the province to be carried on by other means than that of the post-office, to the prejudice of the post-office revenue, and inconvenience of trade. Encl. 1, in No. 1.

That experience has shown Your Petitioners, that the lower the rate of postage is in any country, commerce, agriculture and the social relations of life will be proportionally benefited by it.

That Your Petitioners have watched with heartfelt pleasure the successful working out of that greatest and most benevolent of modern reforms, the uniform penny rate of letter postage, as carried into effect by Your Majesty within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; and observe that the neighbouring republic, benefiting by the wisdom of Your Majesty, has recently passed a law regulating the rate of postage within the United States, and approximating it to that given by Your Majesty to Great Britain and Ireland.

That Your Petitioners respectfully beg Your Majesty's attention to the following anomaly in rating Canadian postage.

The postage of a single letter—

From Amherstburgh to Montreal, 645 miles, is 1s. 8d., Halifax currency.

From Amherstburgh to Quebec, 825 miles, is 1s. 10½d., Halifax currency.

From Toronto to Halifax, 1,256 miles, is 2s. 9d., Halifax currency.

From Amherstburgh to Halifax, 1,525 miles, is 3s. 4d., Halifax currency.

From Amherstburgh *via* Quebec and Halifax to England, 4,525 miles, is 1s. 4d., Halifax currency.

That Your Petitioners, therefore, pray that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to extend to Your faithful Canadian subjects a participation in the benefits of a uniform low rate of letter postage.