

to the difference of currency in Canada, the fourpence sterling and threepence currency is secured by an imposition in Canada of sevenpence half-penny. Thus a difference of charge as between unpaid letters received and sent at the post offices in Canada and Halifax, to the extent of one half-penny, exists; and the same disparity exists as respects paid letters at the different post offices. Considering the difference of currency, the disparity will amount to nearly a penny; the sixpence sterling is in Canada but sevenpence, whilst in Nova Scotia it is sevenpence half-penny. Thus a letter posted in Halifax, and charged eightpence, to be paid for in Canada, costs within a fraction of sevenpence sterling, whilst a letter posted in Canada and charged sevenpence half-penny, to be paid in Halifax, costs but sixpence sterling, Halifax. Your committee believe, independent of these and other considerations, that the difference to the revenue in the Halifax office by the change suggested would be hardly appreciable, and they therefore recommend that the view of the postmaster general in Canada be carried out.

In the scheme for the conveyance of the mails eastward of Halifax, there is a change of the days of the departure of the Canada and New Brunswick mails from Halifax, which your committee believe will suggest itself to favorable consideration from the fact that it abolishes the practice of opening and despatching mails at Amherst on the Lord's day—all which is respectfully submitted.

W. A. HENRY, chairman.
JAMES McLEOD,
HUGH MUNRO,
JOHN HOLMES,

BENJAMIN WIER,
STEWART CAMPBELL,
STEPHEN FULTON,*
SAMUEL CHIPMAN.

Committee room, November 27, 1851.

* Except as regards any change which would prevent the inhabitants of Amherst from answering their letters by return mail.

Halifax, 25th November, 1851.

Sir—

I will convey four mails per week each way between Halifax and Pictou, leaving Pictou at three o'clock on the mornings of Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and Halifax at six o'clock on the mornings of Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, for the sum of four hundred and seventy pounds currency per annum. The contract to date back, and to be paid me from the 6th of October, 1851, and to terminate five years from 5th July, 1851.

Time for travel between Halifax and Truro, *nine hours*, and an allowance of one hour for changing mails and detention of ferry. Time between Truro and Pictou, *six hours*, and half an hour for changing mails. On this plan mails would be despatched from Halifax, Mondays and Thursdays, at 6, a. m., and arrive at Sydney, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 7, a. m. Leave Sydney, Wednesdays and Saturdays, at 5, p. m., and arrive at Halifax, Tuesdays and Fridays, at 7 30, p. m.

Despatch from Halifax for New Brunswick, Tuesdays and Fridays, at 6 o'clock, a. m. Return from New Brunswick, to arrive at Truro at 8 o'clock, Wednesday and Saturday mornings, and at Halifax, 7 30, same day.

So soon as the railroad is ready to carry any portion of these mails, I will throw up that portion of the contract over which the road may be running, deducting from the amount to be paid me the sum of four pounds and ten shillings for each mile my route to Pictou is shortened.

The mails to be conveyed in covered carriages, (when roads will permit) drawn by not less than two horses for every 15 miles.

Terms of payment, quarterly, as usual.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. HYDE.

W. A. HENRY, esquire, chairman post office committee.