

Thus giving the Department £495 5 a year from Newspaper postage. The proportion we have taken may not hold good in regard to every paper, but there cannot be a doubt that the income arising from the source in question, is at least £450 a year. The circulation of papers in *Upper-Canada* we consider to be fully as great, probably greater than in *Lower-Canada*.

Has the circulation of Newspapers been affected by the charge made by the Post-Office Department?— This charge and the want of convenient post routes, has undoubtedly much affected the circulation of Newspapers, particularly in the District of *Quebec*, and in *Lower-Canada* generally, which has been more neglected than *Upper-Canada*. What we pay annually on our papers sent by post, is exactly $\frac{1}{4}$ of what we receive from our subscribers. This is paid by us in advance, before receiving it from the subscribers, and allowing one twentieth for bad debts, this sum is lost entirely, and received by the Post-Office, while in all other cases, but that followed in regard to Newspapers, the Post-Office holds the individual to whom letters or parcels are transmitted responsible. The Printers are therefore upon a more disadvantageous footing than other individuals using the Post-Office Department. The charge on papers is further of doubtful authority; letters are regulated by Law or the Department in *England*; newspapers appears to be governed by mere will, and the charge, so far as we have been able to learn, is a perquisite to the head of the Department here; in 1790, one shilling was paid for weekly, now 4s. is paid each year: yet in 1790 the revenue of the Department cannot at all have been proportionally what it now is. The charge was increased to 1s. 3d., 1s. 8d., 2s., 2s. 6d., and so on. On papers being issued twice a week, it was raised to 5s., all this was done without shewing any legal authority for it: at 5s. it is nearly equal to the tax of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. paid in *England*, where the object is to raise a revenue for the State, and not to give a perquisite. A tax on the circulation of information in a country so often charged with needing it, for the advantage of an